

Invitation Hill Adventist School

Quality, Christian Education for Grades K-8



Invitation Hill Adventist School, started in 2015, is part of the second largest private educational system in the world with a long history of holistic education. By holistic, we mean that our focus is on educating the whole person. Mental, physical, social, and spiritual health, intellectual growth, and service to humanity form a core of values that are essential aspects of the Adventist education philosophy.

- The Adventist church has a total of 7,598 educational institutions (elementary through post-graduate level) in over 100 countries around the world with over 1.5 million students.
- North America has 1,049 Adventist schools with 65,000 students.
- Many of our elementary schools are composed of multi-grade classrooms. For a list of some of the benefits of this type of learning environment, please see the list on the back side of this flyer.

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Advantages of Multigrade Classroom Settings

- There are many opportunities because of the nature of the multigrade classroom for children to work and develop at their own level on a continuous basis.
- Flexibility of grouping is beyond the normal range of ages and abilities and can benefit those children who are working above or below grade-level in certain skills.
- Students are continuously exposed to *re-teaching*, as they listen in and benefit from lessons being given to younger students. This review of the basics reinforces and clarifies children's understanding, even when they may be working at a more advanced level. Students are also exposed to *pre-teaching* ("eaves-dropping" on teacher's lessons and discussions with older students). This both prepares and stimulates the younger children's thinking.
- Academic, physical, and social competition between peers is reduced, as is the anxiety and preoccupation of having to compete. Consequently, discipline measures are typically needed less frequently. The learning and social atmosphere is cooperative rather than competitive.
- Pro-social behaviors and expectations are modeled by the older students. The teacher plays a key role in modeling and intentionally teaching these skills, but in a multigrade classroom, many older models besides the teacher are available for younger students.
- Older students have opportunities to genuinely help younger students learn. Their teaching opportunities help them clarify their own learning. In single-grade classrooms, this is experienced in "buddy" activities, but in a multigrade classroom, this is happening on a much more frequent and regular basis.
- Multigrade classrooms are less homogenous than single-grade classrooms, therefore, differences are the norm and are more easily accepted.
- All children are expected to work independently at different times during the day. They receive more intentional training to be independent workers. Off-task behaviors diminish as self-discipline and accountability increases.
- More years spent with the same teacher can increase trust, understanding of expectations, and positive relationships between teacher, students, and parents. It is also possible that the students retain what they have learned better because so many of their learning memories are attached to the same classroom and the same teacher or due to the fact that the same teacher and students have a tendency to refer to and thus rehearse their shared memories.
 - Teachers continue to build upon their knowledge of each child's interests, strengths, and needs over the multiple years that they teach a child. Sometimes it takes more than one school year to find out how a particular child learns best. Often, especially with students with greater needs, it takes more than one year for a teacher to see the results of his/her efforts; having the same child for a number of years allows one to reap—and enjoy—the fruit of their labors. This is good for teacher morale and student success. This stability also tends to increase emotional security.
 - Children who need a few more months to mature have time to develop as they continue with the same teacher and carry on at their own level despite a new grade designation.

If you are interested in a school with a low student-teacher ratios, Bible-based teaching, and a Christ-centered environment, please check us out. IHAS was birthed with the hope of meeting the needs of families in the Dickinson community. Everyone is invited!