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THE U.S. GOVERNMENT REPORTS: “RESEARCH EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT MULTI-GRADE INSTRUCTION HAS A SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE IMPACT ON STUDENT ATTITUDES, AND TENDS TO ENHANCE ACHIEVEMENT OUTCOMES UNDER POSITIVE IMPLEMENTATION CONDITIONS.”<sup>8</sup>

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- Studies show that children in multi-age or family-grouped models score either similarly or better academically than their comparison peers in single-grade classes.<sup>9</sup>
- Multi-age classrooms, especially those that span four years, break down barriers of age and gender. The children learn to respect each other as individuals, not according to age or grade level.<sup>10</sup>
- Studies indicate that younger children actively use older children to develop skills and to acquire knowledge, while older children actively assert responsibility for younger ones and develop an increasingly sophisticated understanding of that responsibility.<sup>11</sup>
- Twenty-one separate measures used to assess student affect in studies reviewed found 81% favored the multi-grade classrooms.<sup>12</sup>

**Q:** If multi-grade classrooms are so beneficial, why are they not more common?

**A:** Most teachers are trained to work in single-grade classrooms; they do not have the skills needed to teach effectively in a multi-grade classroom. However, the Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Education System is different. Most SDA elementary classrooms have two or more grades.

Students in multi-grade classrooms are not at a disadvantage, an unfounded fear often felt by parents not familiar with multi-grade classrooms.

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## Preparing Your Child for the Era of Machine Intelligence



Seventh-day Adventist education is uniquely designed to fit the needs of this newly emerging society!

### Did You Know?

Multi-grade classrooms are common in New Zealand, the nation with the highest literacy rate in the world.<sup>1</sup>

The system of education God designed at the beginning of the world was a model for all times. The classroom was a garden and the students were a family--a perfect place to learn skills needed for 2020.<sup>2</sup>

In the US history, the Agricultural Revolution harnessed animals for farming, the Industrial Revolution adapted machines for factory production, and today the Computational Revolution is creating machine intelligence. Machine learning is beginning to disrupt institutions and economics in the world. As machine learning expands, a deep structural change is happening in the U.S. work force.<sup>3</sup>

Many scholars suggest a shift is moving advanced economies from mass production to cultural innovation.<sup>4</sup>

## Multi-grade Classroom

### Definition:

A classroom of students of different ages and grade levels.

### Skills Needed for 2020<sup>5</sup>

Complex Problem Solving	Creativity
Coordinating With Others	Negotiation
People Management	Critical Thinking
Emotional Intelligence	Cognitive Flexibility
Judgement/Decision Making	Service Orientation

### Birth of Single-grade Classrooms

- **1805**  
Factory owners need disciplined and obedient workers
- **1820-1860**  
Workforce ask for schools to provide docile, obedient worker
- **1848**  
Single-grade classrooms begin as a way to “educate more children for less money”
- Education of poor to make good workers
- **1914-1918**  
WWI begins
- Women enter workforce
- Children flood school system
- Schools organize as an industrial model
- Students grouped by age and subject<sup>6</sup>

## Preparing your child for the future workplace

Many of us today are accustomed to thinking single grade classrooms offer a better education than a classroom of students of different ages and grade levels. However, multi-grade classroom can offer benefits not easily replicated in single-grade classrooms.

- Students remain with the same teacher for multiple years, providing stability.
- Older students have the opportunity to serve as role models for younger students.
- There is no “apparent ceiling on the content taught, discussed, or overheard in the [class]room, which benefit[s] older students by design and younger students incidentally.” <sup>ibid.</sup>

