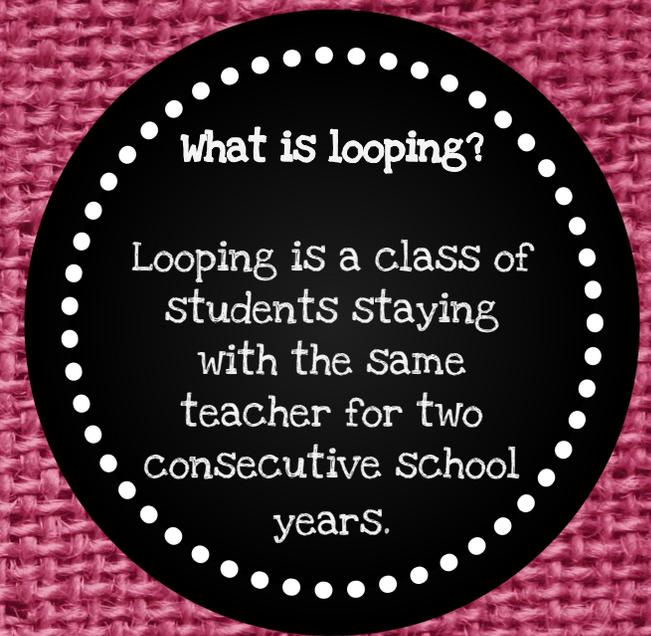


Bowman Primary is offering first grade students an educational option called looping. Looping students will be assigned to a first grade teacher. In looping classes, students and teachers all progress forward to the next grade in a seamless manner. Children in looping classes have the same teacher for two years.

Looping is not a new concept. It has been in practice in America since the early 1900's. It is popular in other countries too. Lebanon elementary schools have been looping for more than two decades.

At the heart of a successful looping classroom is the continuity of relationship and the learning environment. Looping allows teachers and students to get to know one another. Children learn the expectations of their teachers while the teachers get to know the needs and the strengths of individual students over this two-year period.



Looping: Students and Teachers Progressing Together

Advantages and Benefits:

- ★ **Teacher Insight About Students:** During the 2nd year of the "loop", the looping teacher will already be familiar with your child's academic, social and physical development. Such advanced knowledge of the students will allow the teacher to make a seamless transition to second grade skills and content. Looping teachers can plan for the strengths, deficits, optimal learning styles and even interests of students as a result of knowing students so well.
- ★ **Increased Instructional Time:** Students in looping gain instructional time because they come to the 2nd year with a knowledge of the routines and procedures other 2nd grade teachers will need to spend time teaching and practicing.
- ★ **Smooth Transition:** Students return with confidence to the 2nd year knowing their teacher, classmates, classroom and expectations. As such, looping can help alleviate stress and other transition struggles between the two grade levels.
- ★ **Building Community:** The class of "loopers" can build strong friendships and a classroom community which generally translates into a capacity to work on projects and activities cooperatively.
- ★ **Parent -Teacher Relationship:** The looping teacher also forms a relationship with parents throughout the 2-year loop that can be beneficial for the family and the school. Parents will know the teacher and her expectations. Likewise, the teacher will have a better understanding of each child and his/her family.
- ★ **Close Communication:** Communication pathways develop between looping teachers and parents to support strong academic performance.

What do Looping parents have to say about looping?

"We were very fortunate to have both of our children loop in First/Second grade at Bowman. We found the program to be extremely beneficial for our children and family. Their teachers were able to identify educational and emotional needs throughout the two years together. We appreciated the continuity that looping provided our young learners. The years blended together seamlessly. We were able to start second grade without the stress of the unknown. My kids were excited to go back to school to see their friends and teacher!"

--- Julie and Josh Carroll, parents

"The consistency between our child and their looping teacher, along with the students they go to school with everyday, helped provide a comfortable and optimized academic and social environment for our children to thrive."

---Tonia and Geoff Spash, parents

"Looping allows for more solid relationships, not only between student/teacher and teacher/parent, but also among classmates. This stability and consistency benefits all children. Our children had the opportunities for summer work and gatherings that aren't available to other students, and they were familiar with the classroom routine so there was no beginning of the year nervousness or ramp up into second grade. Since teachers aren't teaching the same thing every year, we felt that as they revisited subjects, the result was more engaging subject coverage. I cannot say enough good things about looping! We have had four looping teachers and feel they were of the highest caliber. We are looking forward to sending our younger children through looping classrooms and wish it were an option for the higher grades."

---Carissa Hensley, parent

"For my son, who was a struggling speller and writer, his looping teacher was able to learn his weaknesses and strengths, his likes and dislikes. She learned his personality. What a wonderful first grade year he had but what an even BETTER second grade year he had. His looping teacher picked up right where she left off with her class. My son knew what to expect from day one. He had no anxiety about starting over and no sadness saying goodbye to his first grade teacher. There wasn't one wasted day learning routines and classroom management. More importantly, his teacher knew what he didn't know from the first day of second grade. I watched his teacher circle back to skills he didn't quite master in first grade and fill in the learning gap. A new teacher would just be starting to get to know my son and figuring out missed skills which isn't an easy or quick job to do. It takes times to figure this out with 25 or more students to a class! I watched her change instruction to meet my son's needs and enhance his learning. Sometimes it was as simple as incorporating a shared experience they had the year before increasing his engagement. Would a new teacher to my son be able to do this the first week of school? My son also has a medical need that requires a teacher to be observant of symptoms. As a parent, I was comfortable from day one that his teacher could keep him safe. The community that developed was also one to be cherished. My son felt valued as a member of this community. My son knew his fellow classmates very well. The looping grade only enhanced this sense of community. My son became a confident learner not afraid to take educational risks. I can't speak highly enough of my family's looping experience!"

---Cheri Lemmerman, parent & Lebanon speech pathologist

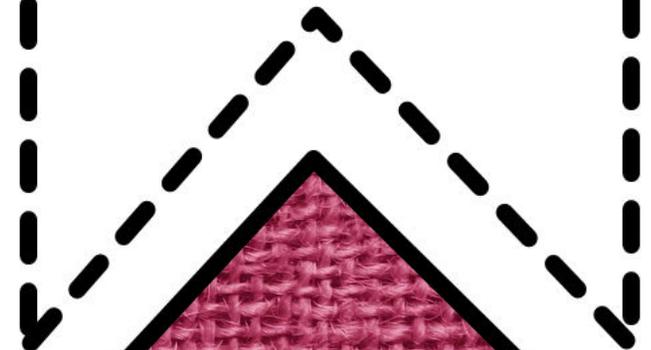
"Looping was such a great opportunity for my daughters. Not only do they have long term relationships with the friends they made in 1st grade (one now graduated and in college and the other a senior getting ready to graduate from LHS), but the transition between grades was so much smoother since the classroom, the expectations, the teacher and the students were familiar."

-- Cheryl Brun, parent



Who Should Choose looping for their child?

Looping is for any child who is enthusiastic, curious, and enjoys learning. Parents choose looping for all kinds of students including students who need consistent routines, enrichment in the curriculum, extra time to learn new concepts, or assistance with social skill development. Looping parents and teachers are long-term partners in the education of a child. Looping students will not only develop academic skills and concepts, but will also grow in their sense of responsibility and spirit of community.





Looping is not....

Looping is not a “different” first grade or “different” second grade. The same curriculum will be taught in traditional and looping classes. First grade loopers will participate in all first grade activities. Second grade loopers will participate in second grade activities.

Looping is not only for “at risk” students. Looping classes will be comprised of students from all ability levels. Students learn many things from peers. Collaboration benefits the very able students as well as the ones who may need additional support. Each child is unique and brings his/her own special skills and talents to the classroom.

Looping is not the elimination of student retention. If, at the end of the first grade, a student has not achieved sufficient skills, the teacher, parent and intervention team may decide that retention is a better option for a child.

Looping is not an unbreakable contract. If, at the end of the first grade year, the parent or teacher feels that the child will have more success in another environment, that option will be discussed at that time.

For More Information about Looping from Grade 1 to Grade 2:

Bowman Primary School

825 Hart Road

Lebanon , Ohio 45036

513-934-5800



Learning is not a
Spectator sport.

--D. Blocher

The art of teaching is the
art of assisting discovery.

--Mark Van Doren

The dream begins, most of
the time, with a teacher
who believes in you,
tugs and pushes and leads
you onto the next plateau.

--Dan Rather