Yes, there is a difference!
Boy Strategies

• Allow boys the option of standing in class
• Seating Arrangement: shoulder to shoulder
• Boys enjoy learning with a Team mentality
• Moving object—if you are not moving, they are not paying attention to you!
• Give quick directions and go, then allow for questions
Girl Strategies

• Most girls learn best when they are sitting
• Seating Arrangement: grouped clusters
• Give full directions and answer questions before beginning work
• Break time for socializing
• Timed activities = stress
Here’s How It Looks

Boys Vs. Girls
Math For Boys

• Manipulatives may not be needed as long, if at all! (When they become projectiles, they don’t need them)
Math For Boys

• They want a faster pace
• Like more strategies
• Like competition/timed relays
Math For Boys

- Small increments of instruction
- Boys need fewer words to follow directions (So make it clear and to the point!)
Math For Boys

• Add movement activities (relays, ball toss)
Math For Girls

• Need more hands on, concrete objects (they need manipulatives longer)
Math For Girls

- They want more examples
- Let them talk out their answers/explain
Math For Girls

• Not too many strategies
• Slower pace
• Girls are not motivated by competition and time limits
• Girls need detailed instructions and plenty of time to complete work
And Then There Was Reading
Reading For Boys

• They enjoy reading: graphic novels, non-fiction, and comic books
• Boys need a longer amount of time to express feelings, point of view, or unresolved problems
Reading For Boys

• They prefer to wait with literacy questions for fear of being wrong
• They perform (wild with antics to gain attention)
Reading For Girls

- Girls like to read book series: fiction and non-fiction
- They enjoy role playing (Readers Theater)
- Need real life examples to relate to the text
- Can easily analyze a character's behavior
And Last BUT Not Least Writing

You have read two stories and watched a video on ants. You will use this information to respond to questions and write a story of your own.

In the story Two Red Ants, the author develops a detailed plot where we see that two ants stay behind in a strange place, and they must try to survive many scary events. Pretending this is a chapter book, write the last chapter in the ant's story. Be sure to include what you already know about the plot of the story when you discuss what happens next.

---

Emma Gale Allison

Boy

Chapter Two: Love Bugs

After a while, they set off in the deepest darkest part of the forest. "I haven't been outside before," brayed a brave voice. "It's all dark and scary."

"Yes, but we're here to explore it. We're not alone."

"I know."

They followed the path, the sunlight dancing on the leaves above them. They laughed, the sound echoing through the trees. It was a new adventure, one they would never forget.

---

Girl

Chapter Two: Lone Night

The darkness was all around them. They heard footsteps in the forest, but they didn't know who they belonged to. They were alone, and they were scared.

"We're not alone," said one of them. "We're just scared."

"Yes, but we're here together."

"I know."

They held hands, the darkness around them. They knew they were not alone, and they would never forget this night.
Writing For Boys

• Boys would rather use verbal skills, but are not as excited about writing it down.

• Blank pages and the art of holding pencils pose obstacles.
Writing For Boys

• Penmanship and spelling for the most is not their top priority
Writing For Boys

• No abstract ideas, need pictures
• Boys need quite a bit of modeling (step by step) for writing
• Short video snippets for a visual related to grammar and writing are a hit!
  – Youtube: Have Fun Teaching/The Verb Rap (boys like this rap!); The Electric Company/Comma and Quotation Marks
Writing For Girls

• Love to write and very comfortable doing so
Writing For Girls

- Can write alone or in pairs
- Enjoy reading aloud what they have written
- They ALWAYS want comments on their papers!

- Youtube: Disney Writing Prompt for Composition; Figurative Language in Movies
Outside the Core Subjects

• Art: Girls strive for perfection while boys tend to explore more.
• Art: Girls DO NOT like copy cats whereas boys like to share ideas.
• Art: Boys jump right into the project but the girls like to plan first.
• Art: Boys don’t use as many details as the girls usually do.
Roosters
Outside the Core Subjects

• Music: With the boys’ class, movement is necessary for engagement, but the girls are more creative in the movement.

• Music: Boys love time with the instruments while girls would rather sing and create a dance!

• Library: Boys have a tough time with the traditional library setting.
Special Education

• The boys’ class, in particular, rally around students with special needs whether it is academic or physical.

• Our students with special needs have excelled with single gender classrooms.
What the Parents are Saying!

• “My son seemed to excel in the all boys class setting, more than in the years before! He enjoyed the camaraderie with his classmates and it fostered a competitive learning environment.” – Boys Class Mom

• “It was amazing. My son liked going to school. He was able to be himself. Boys need to be able to be boys and this class allows that.” – Boys Class Mom
“As a parent of a child with special needs, it has always been important for me that my son feels accepted and equal. Having him in the boys room was an amazing experience. The level of camaraderie and support from the other boys was just what he needed to feel like he was an equal part of the team. I loved watching how competitive they were at times, it helped each of them stay on their toes and strive that much harder. They encouraged each other, challenged each other and really looked out for him. They treated him like a brother. I feel that he excelled because of their support. I’d recommend the all boys class to any parent who is looking to put their son in an environment to be pushed and have the support that these little men have given each other throughout their school year.” – Boys Class Mom
Parent Comments

• “I enjoyed her being able to have that experience. I loved that it was no drama and the girls were able to get along.” –Girls Class Mom

• “My daughter enjoyed the all girl classroom environment and formed several strong bonds with her classmates during the school year. I was a little hesitant about the set-up at first, but there ended up being nothing to worry about, and it was a positive experience.” –Girls Class Dad
Parent Comments

• “Although I really wanted my son to be in the boys class for reasons of my own, he really excelled in the mixed class. This was his choice. I am glad I stepped back and let him decide what turned out to be a very good social and emotional decision.” –Mixed Class Mom

• “I thought this was a great idea for her educationally. Her comfort level seemed to be greater with the girls for class discussions. I also feel she was able to learn with topics she had interest in. She was able to enjoy topics and books for girls so a lot of the class activities seemed to draw greater attention from her.” –Girls Class Dad
Parent Comments

• “The boys class allows them to be just that BOYS. Being a parent of 4 boys and 5 girls, I can see the difference everyday. The single gender classrooms are great, I love the fact that my boys can succeed but not have the pressures of some saying be still, turn around, etc. The guys can enjoy learning their way, while gaining confidence in their education. The girl’s class allows the girls to be just that GIRLS. They love routine, love to please, and the challenge of learning everyday. My daughter has done very well in the classroom.” Girls/Boys Class Mom
The funny thing is...
Boys and Girls Learn Differently

Celebrate THOSE differences!
Terri McCann
tmccann@wmsd.net