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## What is Transitional Kindergarten?

Many parents feel that their children may not be quite ready for the academic rigor of traditional kindergarten. These students often have birthdays in the Fall and may still be developing the skills they need for academic work. Just as children learn to walk and talk at various rates of developmental growth, academic readiness occurs at different times in different children.

**Transitional Kindergarten** is a new early childhood education program that builds a bridge between the preschool years and the traditional kindergarten curriculum.

**Transitional Kindergarten** is designed for (but not restricted to) students with birthdays between September 2 and December 2 who may not be socially and/or academically ready for entry into traditional kindergarten, although they are age-eligible. It understands that some students may need additional time before starting first grade.

This program gives children the “gift of time” to build the necessary social and academic skills for success throughout their school experience. **Transitional Kindergarten** is based on the California Kindergarten Standards, including focused instruction in literacy and numeracy and a strong emphasis on self-regulation and social engagement.



## How is the classroom program structured?

**Transitional Kindergarten** follows the full-day schedule of the daily traditional kindergarten program. A child enrolled in transitional kindergarten at Ferndale Elementary School will attend the same classes as the other students.

The daily schedule is also the same as the other kindergarten students, which includes whole group instruction and activities, small group instruction, and independent “hands-on” learning. Transitional kindergartners enjoy lunch and recess with their kindergarten friends and participate in all kindergarten activities throughout the year, including music, art, and motor skills development.

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## How can families be involved in Transitional Kindergarten?

Communication between home and school is essential in helping your child succeed. Parents are encouraged to actively participate in their child’s learning journey at home and at school. There are a variety of activities and workshops planned to support you and your child in **Transitional Kindergarten**.

Your child’s teacher will meet with you shortly after the first month of school and during the scheduled report card times to discuss your child’s progress and ways you can support your child at home.

Our school staff will use assessments and observations to guide instruction that’s individualized to meet your child’s needs throughout the school year. In the spring of the **Transitional Kindergarten** year, you and your child’s teacher will discuss recommendations for the following year to see which instructional setting is best for your child, kindergarten or first grade.

**Transitional Kindergarten** started the 2012-2013 school year and will be available to kindergartners who turn five years old September 2 through December 2 each year.

Working together will help you stay connected! We look forward to welcoming you and your child to **Transitional Kindergarten!**

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## Who benefits from Transitional Kindergarten?

**Transitional Kindergarten** benefits children who need time to develop socially, emotionally, physically, and/or intellectually. This developmental program acts as a bridge between a flexible environment and the more structured academic setting of kindergarten.



**Transitional Kindergarten** gives children the opportunity to learn and access curriculum in a classroom that implements small group and “hands-on” learning in a language-rich environment.

**Transitional Kindergarten** prepares students for the social and academic expectations of a traditional kindergarten the following year. It truly gives children the gift of time.

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## Will Transitional Kindergarten be the best option?

Since birth, you’ve watched your child grow and develop. You’ve noted your child’s height and weight and kept track of when he/she crawled, stood, walked, and spoke those first words. We know that every child develops at his/her own pace.

Think about your child in the areas of language, social, cognitive, and motor skills development and consider what program will best meet his/her needs.

You know your child best and will ultimately decide if **Transitional Kindergarten** makes sense for your child.



### Questions?

Contact  
Principal

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## Transitional Kindergarten

**Supporting  
Students  
with the  
Gift of Time**



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