What is Transitional Kindergarten?

Transitional kindergarten, or TK, is year one of a two year Kindergarten program offered at Holton Elementary. It serves as a bridge between Preschool and Kindergarten. It provides students with extra time to develop fundamental skills needed for success in school. The curriculum for TK is a perfect balance between “real school” and “preschool.”

- It is developmentally appropriate for the specific age group.
- It is basically a Kindergarten curriculum, but it is modified to fit the slightly younger student with focused instruction in literacy and numeracy along with strong emphasis on self-regulation and social engagement.
- The daily schedule includes whole group instruction and activities, small group instruction and independent and “hands-on” learning.
- TK students enjoy lunch and recess with their fellow Kindergarten friends and participate in all Kindergarten activities such as music, art, and P.E. throughout the year.

“This program is amazing! My daughter has learned so much and she is confident and ready for kindergarten next year.” (TK Parent)
The Gift of Time in TK

Children who participate in Transitional Kindergarten (TK) simply have more time to learn and grow in a school setting than those who go straight into a traditional Kindergarten classroom. This time allows children to develop social and emotional skills that are so necessary in the classroom. It also builds confidence and self-control and when children go into Kindergarten confident, they are ready to learn.

- Transitional Kindergarten students have the entire first year of their two-year Kindergarten program to gain their prerequisite skills.
- Many TK students are entering Kindergarten performing ahead of their peers and this added confidence helps students excel throughout their Kindergarten year.

Kindergarten Teacher Testimonials:

“Students who have had the TK experience tend to be more socially and emotionally prepared for Kindergarten. “

“As the birthdate cutoff has changed, so has kindergarten expectations. In TK, students can get the necessary skills needed to feel successful. “

“TK is an amazing opportunity that allows students the time to grow socially and emotionally as well as gain confidence in themselves.”
Parent Testimonials

“My husband and I appreciate that Holton decided to offer the Transitional kindergarten program this year because it has helped our son flourish immensely in many ways. This has included helping him prepare for the social aspects of school as well as a good foundation of basics not necessarily introduced in preschool but needed in traditional kindergarten. We have been so impressed with how much our oldest has acquired this extra year in transitional kindergarten that we were thrilled to learn that we would be able to enroll our youngest in the same program next year. We strongly encourage other parents to consider this option also because of how rewarding it truly is.”

“As soon as I found out that Holton offered a Transitional Kindergarten program, I knew exactly where I was going to send my child. He was ready for traditional Kindergarten academically but he wasn’t ready emotionally, so this program was an amazing help for him during the school year... Without the TK program, I don’t think my child would have been nearly as successful in the coming years. I can’t speak highly enough about the TK program that Holton has to offer. I would highly recommend it to any parent who has a four-year-old child or a "young five". Because of this program, the dedicated staff and paraprofessionals, my son will be successful in his coming years of school. I will forever be thankful for this program and the impact it had on his education. I'm thankful he had such a loving environment while he grew and learned all about how to navigate through school.”

“Was the best decision we could have made! TK helped my child gain the confidence and social skills she needed while being able to learn! She enjoyed the structure, students, and the experience of being in the larger school!”
If you have any questions or would like to sign your child up for Transitional Kindergarten, please contact us at Holton Elementary School and we will send you a registration packet.

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