

# Walnut Valley Unified School District

## Transitional Kindergarten

### 2019-2020



### What is Transitional Kindergarten (TK)?

Transitional Kindergarten (TK) is a bridge between preschool and Kindergarten for children turning 5 years old on September 2 through December 2. It gives young learners a head start while providing them with an opportunity to learn and grow in an environment that is tailored to meet their developmental, emotional, academic, and social needs.

Transitional Kindergarten is the first of a two year Kindergarten experience. In the first year, TK students are provided with a program that takes into account the age and developmental ability of the children. The second year of the program consists of a regular standards-based Kindergarten, utilizing the California state standards.

### Differences between Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten

#### **Transitional Kindergarten**

- Is a program that blends the California Common Core Standards for Kindergarten with the research findings on young children's developmental needs which place a high value on the arts, social skills, play, and integrated instruction
- Creates a bridge to success for Kindergarten
- Is the "gift of time" for children to be better prepared for Kindergarten and beyond
- Addresses the developmental, social, and emotional needs of young children in a hands-on learning environment
- Encourages oral language development which is the foundation for reading success

#### **Kindergarten**

- Is based on Common Core Standards for Kindergarten with high expectations of mastery

### Who attends Transitional Kindergarten?

- California SB1381 was passed in 2011, changing the age when children can begin Kindergarten. Under the law, a child must be five on or before September 1, 2014, to enroll in Kindergarten for the 2019-2020 school year.
- The law also created Transitional Kindergarten so children who are affected by this change, those with birthdays between September and December, will be given "the gift of time" to develop their developmental, social, and academic skills and abilities. The time in Transitional Kindergarten will help students to succeed in Kindergarten, become leaders in the classroom, and confidently navigate the school-day routine.
- A child whose birth date falls on September 2, 2014, through December 2, 2014, will be enrolled in Transitional Kindergarten for the 2019-2020 school year.

### What does Transitional Kindergarten look like in Walnut Valley?

#### **Curriculum**

- The Transitional Kindergarten curriculum is a hybrid that blends best practices from the pre-school learning environment with the best practices from the Kindergarten environment.
- Students will be introduced to age appropriate themes and literature through the Transitional Kindergarten curriculum.
- Math will be delivered using a hands-on approach.

## **What does the classroom look like?**

- **Classroom facility and teacher:** Transitional Kindergarteners have their own classroom with a fully credentialed Walnut Valley teacher.
- **Length of school day:** Students go to school every day the same hours as the Kindergarten classes at the school they are attending.
- **Learning environment:** Students learn by working with the teacher in small and large groups, participating in hands-on activities, interacting in centers, and learning through independent exploration.
- **Assessments**  
Age appropriate assessments will be used to monitor students' progress in early literacy readiness skills. In addition to parent conferences, students will receive report cards showing developmental, social, and academic progress.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How do I register my child for Transitional Kindergarten?**

Please visit the WVUSD website to see the schools that will offer Transitional Kindergarten classes for the 2019-20 school year. You must register at your school of residence. If you do not know what your school of residence is click the link and enter your address to find out.

<https://parents.wvusd.k12.ca.us/wvudschools/>. Enrollment forms are available on our website under registration. If your school of residence will not have a Transitional Kindergarten program for next year, you will be able to choose, in priority order, the school for your Transitional Kindergarten child. Once the form is filled out you need to **submit it to your home school** along with other required paperwork. Click link to find out what paperwork is required before you register: <https://www.wvusd.k12.ca.us/apps/news/article/976575>

### **Do all WVUSD elementary schools have Transitional Kindergarten?**

At this time, not all schools will be offering Transitional Kindergarten programs. Only selected sites will be offering the program, preparing for district wide implementation in upcoming years.

### **Does my child return to their home school for Kindergarten the following year?**

Yes, students will be returning to their home school for Kindergarten.

### **Current sites that offer TK:**

***Vejar Elementary – Walnut, CA***

***CJ Morris – Walnut, CA***

***Collegewood – Walnut, CA***

***Maple Hill – Diamond Bar, CA***

***Evergreen – Diamond Bar, CA***

***Castle Rock – Diamond Bar, CA***

***How Can I Learn More?***

To learn more about Transitional Kindergarten in your area call

**Dr. Resma Byrne, Director of Educational Projects & Assessments 909-595-1261**

**Ext. 31215**

For answers to some frequently asked questions on Transitional Kindergarten visit

[www.tkcalifornia.org](http://www.tkcalifornia.org)