

# Transitional Kindergarten



## Coronado Unified School District 2017-18

### Frequently Asked Questions

**1. Who will be admitted to Transitional Kindergarten (TK) for SY 2017-18?**

All children who will have their 5th birthday between September 2 and December 2, 2017 (inclusive) **must** be admitted to Coronado Unified School District's Transitional Kindergarten for the 2017-18 school year. This new grade began in the state of California in fall 2012, and provides a two-year kindergarten experience using a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate, preparing students for the *traditional* kindergarten curriculum the following year. This is based on a 2010 CA law which phased back the admission date for traditional kindergarten providing a two-year kindergarten experience for the youngest five year olds. **September 1 is the cutoff date for students to enroll in traditional kindergarten.**

**2. Though my child's fifth birthday falls on or before September 1, 2017, I feel my child would benefit from this two-year kindergarten experience. Will I be able to enroll my child in Transitional Kindergarten?**

Parents of children who turn five on or before September 1, 2017 *may* be able to opt for *Early Admission to Transitional Kindergarten* if enrollment is available at Silver Strand Elementary and Village School's Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC). *Early Admission to Transitional Kindergarten* requires parents to complete a required form indicating agreement to a two-year kindergarten program, if such an option becomes available. Silver Strand and Village Elementary will maintain a waiting list for this option and inform parents by the start of the 2017-18 school year.

**3. Are Transitional Kindergarten programs offered at Silver Strand and Village (ECDC) Elementary Schools? What is the TK program like?**

TK programs exist at both Silver Strand Elementary and at Village Elementary School's Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC). Classroom composition depends on enrollment.

Transitional Kindergarten (TK) provides the early foundations for school success for those children turning five years of age early in the school year. During the first year of the two-year kindergarten experience, the TK program creates a bridge between early learning and kindergarten for those "young fives". The program uses a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate and completely aligns with the instructional program in preschool-grade 12. It includes all components of the traditional kindergarten curriculum which incorporates CA State Standards in English language arts and mathematics. The instructional program for TK also includes technology, visual and performing arts, science, physical education, and library. Services provided to students in K-12 are also provided to Transitional Kindergarten such as special education and English Learner services. The TK staff includes trained credentialed teachers who are early childhood specialists and understand the unique needs of our youngest kindergarten students. Our general observations show that when TK students enter their kindergarten year, they often perform at or near the top of their class.

**4. Will the daily schedule be the same CUSD's full day traditional kindergarten?**

The TK daily schedule is different than our full day traditional kindergarten. Transitional Kindergarten students attend school daily during the morning only during the first third of the school year (fall). During the second third of the year (winter), TK students attend school the morning of each day and will also attend during the afternoon two days per week. All TK students attend a full day of school in the spring in preparation for full day traditional kindergarten. Though state law mandates that TK and kindergarten receive identical instructional minutes, many schools apply for and receive a waiver when kindergarten instructional minutes exceed state requirements. CUSD falls within this category and received a waiver from the State Board of Education in March 2017 to have differing instructional minutes for TK and traditional kindergarten. CUSD's Please also contact each school for specific school hours.

**5. My child's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday falls before September 1, and I am unsure if I should request *Early Admission to Transitional Kindergarten*. I hear that CUSD offers a pre-assessment for TK and K students. Will that still occur this year?**

If your child attended preschool, information from your child's preschool teacher should assist parents in making a decision. Also, CUSD offers a voluntary before-school kindergarten assessment opportunity for incoming TK and traditional kindergarten students. CUSD will invite parents to bring their TK and kindergarten-eligible student to be assessed on readiness skills before school begins. This assessment opportunity will be offered in mid-August 2017 (dates TBD; please contact schools for more information). Students will be assessed by a credentialed teacher for approximately 30 minutes. See your child's school for details on the registration process and for assessment appointments. Parents and school administration may need to confer to ensure the child's appropriate placement. See also # 2 above.

**6. That sounds great, but we won't be able to attend a before-school assessment appointment? What should we do?**

If a child is not able to be assessed before school starts, please contact the school principal for assistance with placement if you are unsure whether to place your child in TK or traditional kindergarten. See below for contact information.

**7. When will parents and students be notified as to which teacher a student is assigned?**

TK and Kindergarten Orientation will be held for the 2017-18 school year at 10:30am on Wednesday, 8/23/17 at both Silver Strand School and the ECDC. This is the day before the first day of school; parents and students will learn of class placement at that time.

**For more information regarding Transitional Kindergarten and traditional kindergarten, please contact your child's school:**

Village Elementary School <i>and</i> Early Childhood Development Center	522-8915  522-8923	Whitney DeSantis, Principal Tanya White, Assistant Principal
Silver Strand Elementary	522-8934	Tammy Marble, Principal
<a href="http://www.coronadousd.net">www.coronadousd.net</a>		

