

Our Lady of Mount Carmel is the only Catholic school in southern San Mateo County with a Transitional Kindergarten (TK) program. We are very proud to be able to offer this unique opportunity and help families choose the best academic path for their child. All Kindergarten applicants are assessed as part of the admission process and, in some cases, we may decide that TK provides the better path for long-term academic success for your child.

## What is Transitional Kindergarten or TK?

TK serves as a bridge between Preschool and Kindergarten to ensure Kindergarten readiness and provides children with an opportunity to learn in an enriching and academically stimulating environment that nurtures their overall growth. TK gives children an advanced preschool curriculum that keeps them challenged by blending Preschool and Kindergarten standards based on:

- Faith Formation
- Language and Literacy
- Math and Science
- Physical Fitness and Health (P.E.)
- Social and Emotional Development
- Creative Expression (visual, musical and kinesthetic)
- Spanish
- Technology



## How Does TK Differ From Kindergarten?

Kindergarten curriculum is based on Common Core Standards for Kindergarten with high expectations of mastery. TK blends the same standards with the research findings of young children's developmental needs, which place a high value on the arts, social skills, play, and integrated instruction. TK gives children the gift of a high-quality early learning experience while building their confidence as they move to the next level of academic success.

"Kindergarten used to be where a child learned to take turns, share, and interact with other children in a positive manner, now it's much more academic. TK is what Kindergarten used to be. Children in transitional kindergarten are getting a jump start on the social aspects of being in school."

- Mary Anderson, Early Childhood Education Program Director and Children's College Coordinator at Bryant and Stratton College

## TK May Be The Right Choice For Your Child If:

*Your child's birthday falls near the end of the school year, or in the summer, making him or her among the youngest in the class.*

Recent research from Harvard University finds that the youngest children (August birthdays) in a grade cohort are 34% more likely to be diagnosed with ADHD than the oldest students who are potentially 11 months older (September birthdays). The impact of a one-year delay has potential benefits lasting well

into your child's academic career. A study from Stanford University shows that delaying kindergarten reduced inattention and hyperactivity by 73% for an average 11 year old.

Here at OLMC, it is our opinion that the age and maturity gap is a big influence on outcome. We may recommend giving your child the gift of time with a year in TK to prevent him or her from perpetually struggling to keep up with classmates.

*Your child would benefit from more time in a play-based learning environment for additional social and emotional development.*

Separate studies published by The Society for Research in Child Development and Columbia University indicate the powerful link between social and emotional skills and school success. Their findings indicate it is a greater predictor of children's academic performance in the first grade than their familial background and their cognitive abilities. Increasing social maturity and the ability to pay attention, follow directions, and persist through difficulty fosters confidence and enables your child to become a leader in the Kindergarten classroom and for years beyond.



## OLMC TK Provides Your Child With:

- A lead teacher and full time instructional aide; both certified as Early Childhood Educators.
- A smaller class size and lower student-to-teacher ratio.
- Curriculum that encourages oral language development, which is the foundation for reading success.
- An advantage in a range of literacy, mathematical, and social-emotional skills.
- The confidence to succeed in Kindergarten, become leaders in the classroom, and successfully navigate the school-day routine.

"Our son was age-eligible and academically ready for Kindergarten, but he lagged in social maturity and self-regulation. We struggled with the recommended placement of TK, but it turned out to be the very best choice for him. He entered Kindergarten confident, able to meet the academic demands of the school day, and is thriving in ways we never imagined."  
- OLMC Parent

## We Are Partners With a Shared Goal: Your Child's Long-Term Success

Unlike TK in the local public school system, which is only available to children turning five between September 2 and December 2, OLMC is able to offer TK to a wider age range, giving more children the opportunity to excel socially and academically. We are confident this program offers tremendous benefit and appreciate your trust and confidence in our assessment and recommended placement.