



*Successful Learners Strengthening Our Community*

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Thank you for your interest in Transitional Kindergarten. We wanted to provide what information we currently have regarding what we anticipate will be several frequently asked questions regarding Transitional Kindergarten this year.

- We are not able to commit 100% at this time to what our model will be in January. The Transitional Kindergarten program could begin fully on site, in a hybrid model, or fully remote.
- We will work with families who have applied and been accepted to Transitional Kindergarten when we are closer to our start date to make a plan for experiencing success in whatever model we are using.
- Some children in Transitional Kindergarten could also be served in the Plus Program, which is currently in place and has a small number of students receiving services at each of our school sites.



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Dear Mount Vernon Family-

Mount Vernon Schools is excited to offer a Transitional Kindergarten program for our youngest learners. We believe every child deserves equal access to a high-quality early learning program. We know this could look different for each child and each family. Options range from the love and support of a family caregiver to attendance at a community preschool or a home-based learning center. We are pleased to offer one such option with the implementation of our Transitional Kindergarten program. While high-quality early learning occurs in many settings, the commonality is that the experience provides a solid foundation which contributes to continued successes throughout a student's academic career.

Transitional Kindergarten is an extension of the traditional kindergarten year. The program is designed for children who would begin kindergarten in the subsequent fall and who have not yet had access to a structured early learning opportunity. The program will focus on early academic and social skills that will prepare students for a successful transition to kindergarten the following fall.

For the 2020-21 school year, Transitional Kindergarten classes are offered at Centennial, Little Mountain, and Madison elementary schools. The class at Madison will be dual language Spanish/English. Like all kindergarten classes, this program will be full day. Transitional Kindergarten will follow the school year calendar from when the program begins on January 26th through the last day of school.

To be eligible to apply, a student must meet to following criteria:

- 5 years of age prior to September 1st of 2021
- No prior access to a structured early learning program
- Live within the attendance boundary for Centennial or Little Mountain OR
- Live within MVSD and intend to apply for the dual language program at Madison
- Demonstrate the need and/or ability for an extended kindergarten experience

If your child meets the eligibility criteria, and you are interested in enrolling your student in one of our Transitional Kindergarten classrooms, please complete the attached *Early Entry to Kindergarten Application* and *Early Entry to Kindergarten Parent Questionnaire*. If based on your application materials your child is eligible, they will be invited to engage in a screening process to determine if they will be placed in a Transitional Kindergarten classroom. The screening process will begin after the 2nd Friday in December when applications are due and continue throughout the month of January. Following the screening, families will be informed of whether their child has qualified for enrollment in Transitional Kindergarten.

Applications may be returned to the school site where you are applying for your child to attend Transitional Kindergarten or to the District Office. If you need assistance completing your application, please contact Elizabet Puga at 360-428-6110 for support in English or Spanish. Applications are due no later than Friday, December 11th.

Thank you for considering Transitional Kindergarten as an early learning opportunity for your child!

(360) 4285-6110 fax (360) 428-6172 • 124 East Lawrence Street • Mount Vernon, WA 98273  
[www.MountVernonSchools.org](http://www.MountVernonSchools.org)



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Vernon  
Schools**

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**APPLICATION FOR EARLY ENTRY TO KINDERGARTEN**

As documented in policy 3110, to be admitted to a kindergarten program, a child must 5 years of age prior to September 1st of that school year. Pending available space and resources, special exemptions may be made for younger pupils who appear to have the ability or need, or both, to succeed in the educational program. To make determinations regarding early entry to kindergarten, Mount Vernon Schools has a professional screening processes in place to measure the following: mental ability, gross-motor skills, fine-motor skills, visual discrimination, auditory discrimination, social/emotional development, and language development.

I am applying for the following early entry program for my child:

- September Early Entry (continues to 1<sup>st</sup> grade in the subsequent year) – Application Due 4th Friday in July
- January Early Entry (continues in kindergarten in the subsequent year) – Application Due 2nd Friday in December

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Has your child attended preschool or childcare? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If yes, where did they attend? \_\_\_\_\_ Dates: From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

How Often: (days per week / hours per day) \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the language(s) spoken in your home—check all that apply:

English \_\_\_\_\_ Spanish \_\_\_\_\_ Mixteco \_\_\_\_\_ Russian \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

When the school contacts you, which language do you prefer?

English \_\_\_\_\_ Spanish \_\_\_\_\_ Mixteco \_\_\_\_\_ Russian \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) you are seeking early entry to kindergarten for your child:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I understand that as part of the early entry to kindergarten process my child will be assessed to determine if they meet the qualifications for the program. I give consent for my child to be assessed.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE FOR EARLY ENTRY TO KINDERGARTEN

*Please complete this questionnaire if you would like your child to be considered for Transitional Kindergarten.*

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's first language if different than English: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What are your child's interests?

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2. What types of activities does your child engage in at home?

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3. How long does your child maintain interest in a play activity or game at a given time?

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4. How does your child respond when he/she tries but cannot do something?

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5. How does your child interact with other children? Please explain and consider whether your child shares, takes turns, and cooperates with peers.

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6. How does your child respond to new situations and/or challenges?

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**Below is a list of statements that describe children. Please think about your child as you read each statement and circle your response.**

N- if behavior NEVER occurs                      R- if the behavior RARELY occurs  
 S- if the behavior SOMETIMES occurs        O- if the behavior OFTEN occurs

Child joins in group activities with other children for 15 minutes	N	R	S	O
Child initiates play with other children	N	R	S	O
Child demonstrates appropriate verbal language skills. (i.e. can form complete sentences, use specific language, express thinking)	N	R	S	O
Child listens, participates, and engages in conversations	N	R	S	O
Child can use their words to solve problems.	N	R	S	O
Child can play with toys independently	N	R	S	O
Child follows directions quickly	N	R	S	O
Child cuts with scissors	N	R	S	O
Child separates from parents with limited difficulty	N	R	S	O
Child knows how to ask for help appropriately	N	R	S	O
Child has positive strategies to seek attention from peers (not physical)	N	R	S	O
Child is patient when he/she is not first	N	R	S	O
Child gets along with other children	N	R	S	O
Child takes care of bathroom issues independently	N	R	S	O
Child follows three step directions (i.e.: clean up, brush your teeth, go to bed)	N	R	S	O
Child needs a nap during the day.	N	R	S	O

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your child to help us better understand your child in consideration for this program?

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