

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding North Metro's Transitional Class and Kindergarten Program

What are the hours for the transitional and kindergarten classes?

Both of these classes meet Monday through Friday, 9:00-1:00. The kindergarten will begin August 21 and the transitional class will begin September 6.

What is the difference between the two classes?

Transition: Children in the transitional class are not ready for kindergarten. It is usually recommended by their four year old teacher because the student has not mastered four year old skills necessary for kindergarten success. Transition can also be beneficial to a younger or immature child. Sometimes their motor skills and social interaction need time to mature. This class gives your child another year to master language and math skills as well as perfected fine motor skills. Children will attend kindergarten the year after the transition school year. Teacher has a degree in Early Childhood Education.

Kindergarten: Learning objectives are based on the CCGPS, Common Core Georgia Performance Standards, as well as Gwinnett County's AKS, Academic Knowledge and Skills. Children in the kindergarten program advance to first grade, whether it is public, private, or home school. The class is set up for independent work and lots of small group attention. There is a strong emphasis on reading at the child's own level. The lead teacher is state certified with a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education, K-5.

How do I know which class would be most beneficial for my child?

Is your child overly shy? Are they easily frustrated with new concepts? Are they still unsure of all the letters and their sounds? Are they having trouble with the concept of numbers? Do they have a hard time with sitting during a story? Do they have difficulty in listening and following directions? If you answered yes, your child may do better in the transitional class. Studies have shown children who are "held back" a year have much more success in their later school years. For a detailed list of expectations for our starting kindergarten class, please refer to our website and go to Kindergarten and then proceed to Readiness for Kindergarten.

What is the curriculum used?

Transition: In transition, the class uses Saxon Reading/Phonics and Math materials. The Phonics is an intense, systematic program. It presents information in small, easily understandable bits and reviews each day. New learning gradually builds upon old learning and regular practice reinforces both. Math is taught in large groups with hand on experience, discussion and exploration. Skills are reinforced during morning work.

Kindergarten: The foundation of our reading and math curriculum is Saxon Phonics and Kindergarten Math as well. We take it a step further by incorporating decodable readers and precise handwriting instruction. We also focus on mastering the first 200 Fry Sight Words. Our goal is to form complete thoughts and to be able to put them into sentences on paper by the end of the year. We incorporate a word wall in the room to help us achieve this goal. Weekly written homework and reading homework will be assigned to keep parents informed of skills reviewed in class.

What is the difference between North Metro's kindergarten and public kindergarten?

North Metro offers a half day kindergarten program where skills and academics match those of the public school. There are no naps, long transitions, or waits for the school bus. There are no supply lists, or book fees. The class size is at a maximum of 16 students to 2 teachers which enables the student to have more one on one time with the teacher. There is a strong Christian emphasis where the children learn about different Bible stories, learn to memorize scripture, and have a daily prayer time. Our kindergartners are treated as the upper classmen or seniors of the school. They are given extra privileges and responsibilities. Our kindergartners have a formal graduation ceremony at the end of the year, complete with cap and gown.

For a detailed list of goals and objectives for the kindergarten class, please refer to our website, www.northmetroweekday.com and go to Kindergarten.

Referral Letters:

Transitional kindergarten has been a wonderful bridge for our boys. The small class size environment and dedicated teachers have both nurtured and challenged them. The curriculum has given them a deeper foundation that has prepared them to gain confidence and excel in the future school years. Transitional kindergarten has helped our children get the best start possible so they are kindergarten ready.

Laura

The Transition class has been a wonderful option for Baret. Having a July birthday, my husband and I felt Baret would benefit from an additional year to mature socially and emotionally in a smaller class environment. We felt he would do fine academically in kindergarten but were definitely concerned about other challenges he would face as one of the younger students. This year in Transition has prepared him well for kindergarten and this, we believe, will benefit him for years to come.

Kelly

All three of our children attended North Metro during their preschool years and continued on through kindergarten. We loved the idea of the half day program and the fact that they would continue to get to go to chapel and be in a Christian setting. We also loved the small class size and the fact that there would be a teacher and a teacher's assistant with them all day. Each of our children left kindergarten well prepared to enter first grade in a public school setting. Not only were they prepared academically, but their hearts were filled with the many Bible stories and verses they had memorized which helped them to know that God loved them and helped them to make better choices in their daily lives.

Our middle son had an August 31st birthday, so he was the very youngest in his class. Because of this, we put him in the transition kindergarten class. It was definitely the right decision for him. He had that extra year to work on his social, emotional, academic and those fine motor skills that he was lacking because of that late birthday. This made his transition into kindergarten very smooth. He also then had the benefit of becoming the oldest in the class, rather than the youngest... which he thought was pretty cool. We highly recommend the transition class especially for boys with summer birthdays. The program is excellent. Kim

For more information about our kindergarten and/or transitional classes, please contact the school office.