



The Gift of Time



An Introduction to Transitional Kindergarten
at Woodside Elementary



Our Philosophy: Nurturing the Whole Child



We respect the development of the whole child, recognizing that children learn through active involvement and purposeful play.

We aim to inspire a life-long love of learning and foster joy, wonder and imagination.



We provide a safe, nurturing environment to build trust so that learning can flourish.

We honor relationships with families as partners in a child's learning.



We provide developmentally appropriate pacing, instruction and challenges in an inclusive environment where compassion and kindness are most valued.

What is Transitional Kindergarten?

The Bridge to a Bright Future.



Transitional Kindergarten (TK), otherwise known as Universal Pre-K, bridges the path between preschool and Kindergarten and gives students the gift of time that will help them build a strong foundation for future school success.

It blends social and emotional experiences with academic learning, so that students not only learn essential pre-literacy, pre-math, and other cognitive skills, but also develop social and self-regulation skills needed to succeed in school and life.

The Building Blocks of Growth

Our TK curriculum is designed around five foundational pillars that support your child's holistic development. Each block builds upon the others, creating a strong foundation for future learning and life.



Building Block 1: The Social-Emotional Child

Self-Regulation



Increasing attention span and focusing in a group



Controlling impulses and following directions



Negotiating solutions and playing cooperatively

Social Thinking & Empathy



Recognizing and managing emotions



Expressing needs, wants, and empathy for others



Using quality literature (e.g., Slumberkins) and units of study like 'Thinking with Your Eyes' and 'The Group Plan' to understand social expectations.

Building Block 2: The Independent & Coordinated Child

Growing Independence (Self-Care)

- Performing basic self-help skills: using the bathroom, washing hands, getting dressed.
- Growing responsibility: cleaning up, organizing materials, packing up.






Developing Motor Skills

- **Fine Motor:** Pencil grip, scissor use, pincer grip for writing letters and numbers. We use the “Handwriting Without Tears” program.






Building Block 3: The Inquiring Mind – Language & Literacy

Foundations of Reading

-  • Letter recognition and phonics
-  • Phonemic awareness and recognizing rhyme
-  • Concepts of print and identifying some sight words

Comprehension & Expression

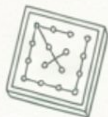
-  • Engaging with books through read-alouds and shared reading
-  • Developing vocabulary, listening, and speaking skills
-  • Learning to retell, sequence, and summarize stories



Building Block 4: The Inquiring Mind – Math & Discovery

Math

- Number Sense: Counting past 30, recognizing numbers 1-20, counting by 1s, 5s, and 10s.
- Concepts: Patterns, sorting, graphing, measurement, introduction to addition/subtraction up to 5.
- Tools: Math games, puzzles, shape blocks, geoboards.



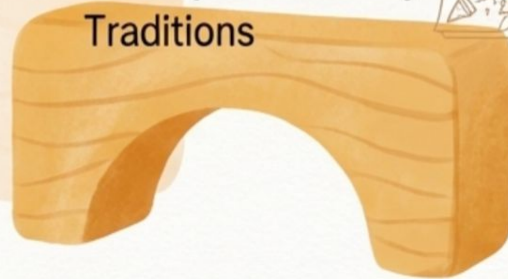
Science

- Exploring with our 5 senses
- Problem-solving through experimenting
- Thematic Units: Ocean, Farm, Life Cycles, Plants
- Hands-on learning in our garden with the Life Lab Science curriculum.



Social Studies

- Map Skills
- USA Symbols and Patriotic Songs
- Exploring National Holidays and Family Traditions



Building Block 5: The Joyful Learner – The Power of Purposeful Play

Play is the work of children. It allows them to make their own decisions, create, pretend, communicate, solve problems, and enjoy interactive play with peers.

During 'Choice Time', children make a plan and follow through, practicing patience, flexibility, and responsibility.



Bringing It All Together: A Day in the Life of a TK Student



8:10 – 8:45:

Welcome & Arrival Activities



9:30: Snack Time



10:30: Learning Centers (Art, Garden, Library, SEL, Small Groups)



1:00: Quiet Reading or Resting



2:15: Clean Up & Closing Circle

8:45: Circle Time

(Stories, Calendar, Phonics, Music)



9:50: Outside Recess



12:20: Lunch Time



1:30: Choice Time / Nature Walks



2:30: Dismissal



A World of Enrichment

Beyond the core curriculum, your child's week is enriched by dedicated specialists who bring passion and expertise to their subjects.



Music (2x week)
with Ms. Sokolova



P.E. (2x week)
with Kathy Jones



Library (1x week)
with Sharon
LaCrosse



Art (1x week)
with Amy Harmon



Garden
(1x week)



Yoga/Classroom
Exercise
(1x week)

Our Partnership in Learning

Supporting Learning at Home



- Provide healthy snacks and lunches, and a water bottle daily.



- Ensure 10-12 hours of sleep for your child.



- Send children in running shoes for active play.



- Encourage household chores to build responsibility.



- Leave personal toys at home.

Getting Involved at School

- Classroom Volunteers



- Garden Volunteers



- Field Trip Chaperones



- Friday Guest Readers



- Assisting with Class Celebrations



How We'll Stay Connected



Email: Best for direct communication.



Phone: Call the office for urgent messages.



Conferences: Scheduled in October and March, and as needed.



Seesaw: Our digital platform for classroom updates and student work.



School Website & Room Parent: For general information and class news.

A young child with short brown hair, wearing a light-colored shirt and dark overalls, stands with their back to the camera. They are looking up at a massive, ancient tree with thick, gnarled branches that spread out across the sky. The scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of a sunset or sunrise, with the sun low on the horizon, creating a soft glow and long shadows. The background shows a hazy landscape with more trees and hills under a sky filled with soft, wispy clouds.

Welcome to the Woodside TK Family

We aim to inspire a life-long
love of learning and foster joy,
wonder and imagination.