

Welcome to TK! We will be in touch soon about our Transitional Kindergarten Welcome, where you can drop by, meet the team and view the classrooms in August, before the children start. Until then, here are some tidbits to help your child transition to TK!

♥ TK hours are 8:30-1:00 M-Th and 8:30-12:00 on Fridays. The TK yard opens at 8:00 with our assistants out there for supervision and support of the children (unless it rains, then the TK classrooms will open at 8:00). TK classroom doors will open at 8:20 for a soft start and morning activities at the tables. This is a quiet, calm time for the children to transition from home to school. Please make an extra effort to be at school **BEFORE 8:30**. It takes a few moments to park and walk in, so please allow for that time and to still get your child to school on time. We do take attendance at 8:30 everyday. On a typical school morning, please have all the goodbyes and hugs complete by 8:30. If you come after 8:30, drop off is at the door. After that, the children will come to the carpet and we will begin our morning meeting.

For the 1st week of TK, drop off and pick-up are in the TK yard. We like TK to begin the school year as a whole group, meaning your child will not be assigned a specific teacher/classroom until after the first week of school. Your child will spend time in each classroom and interact with a wide range of playmates during the week. As teachers, we will be trying out different groupings and closely observing student interactions which will allow us to find the right balance for each class. Starting off the year like this is beneficial for each individual child and the whole group in the long run - it also sets the tone for a cohesive cohort as they move forward. You will receive your assigned class by the end of the day Friday, August 22, 2025.

♥ On the topic of goodbyes... they can be hard. Not discussing upsets or tears beforehand usually helps your child. Keeping it light and positive sets the tone for a successful day. If your child is struggling with a goodbye, please make it meaningful and swift. The longer the goodbye lingers, the longer the child is living in the anxiousness of that time arriving. From time to time, there can be tears on the first day of Transitional Kindergarten, and we will receive your child with love and compassion. Please do not let this doubt your goodbye. All will be well. We will contact you if any distress continues during the morning!

♥ Pick up at 1:00 will be directly from the classrooms. You are welcome to wait in front of the classrooms, and we will dismiss your child to you, when we see you. Please do not enter the classroom- we will be in our closing circle. At 1:10, all remaining students will walk to RavenWolf. If you are running late, please make sure to call the school or message us directly through ParentSquare so we can reassure your child.

♥ Please leave all toys and stuffies at home. They cause distraction and fairness issues. Be sure to prepare your child for this before school starts. If they bring something with them in the car, please leave it in the car and do not have your child bring it all the way to the classroom. Please be reassured that we have other special stuffies to help with their transition if it is needed.

♥ Once the students have adjusted to the routines and procedures, which is usually about 6 weeks, parents are welcome to volunteer in the classroom! Feel free to be in contact with your teacher when the time comes. Let us know if you have a particular interest, skill or talent that you would like to share.

♥ If you are supplying food from home. It is important that your child has a hearty snack and lunch. We encourage healthy foods that your child will eat. Please, no candy, soda, or treats at school. If you need ideas, please let us know! Out of an abundance of caution, we do not share food in TK. Please do your best to send food in packaging that your child can open.

♥ Celebrating your birthday in TK is so much fun! Due to the variety of food sensitivities and family food choices, if you would like to send in a "treat" for your child's birthday, it should be non food based. Stickers! Balloons! Flowers! The list goes on! Let's work together so your child feels special and no one is left out.

♥ Please bring a water bottle to school! Our goal is to train the children to keep their water bottles in their cubbies, so they always have access to water. If you have not yet found one, please look for sport tops or flip straw tops. That way, if/when they spill, we do not have an entire water bottle's worth of water to clean.

♥ A note about shoes/clothing: Please make sure your child has closed toed shoes to wear to school. We want them to participate in every fun recess activity and it helps them if we go for an adventure hike around campus. If your child is wearing a skirt or dress, please have them wear leggings or shorts underneath. There are times when they are playing/climbing and we want everyone to respect their privacy.

♥ Please let us know anything that you feel pertinent regarding bathrooming for your child. It is important that you help build their independence in this area. For example, they should be able to put on and take off their clothing to use the restroom. They should be able to verbalize when they need to go. They should be able to wipe and clean themselves. If your child is prone to accidents, please let us know and also provide a few extra pairs of clothing.

♥ Each child has a cubby space to keep their change of clothes and snack/lunch in. Please hang backpacks in the classroom on the designated hooks. Children will need helpful reminders of which items to put in their cubbies, reminding them before they start their day is helpful to them.

♥ If your child is going to our after school program, RavenWolf, please let us know! We encourage you to not rely on your child to relay that information to us. If someone other than a parent is picking up, please let us know, as well. We want to be sure all the children get where they need to be and feel safe doing so- it can sometimes be hectic at pickup, so the more we know, the better.

Thank you for reading and we are looking forward to meeting our TK students and families!

Warmly,
The Little Bears and Honey Bees TK Teachers