

## **Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten** *Frequently Asked Questions*

1. What is the daily schedule? The daily schedule is on the Landels website under "Our School".
2. What is the Transitional Kindergarten (TK) program? A transitional kindergarten is the first year of a two-year kindergarten program that uses a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate. A child is eligible for transitional kindergarten if a child will have his or her fifth birthday: For the 2015–16 school year and thereafter, on or after Sept. 2 and on or before Dec 2.
3. When do we find out that our child has been assigned a teacher? Typically the Thursday before the first day of school. The Friday before school the students will have an opportunity to meet their teachers and classmates at the TK and Kindergarten Lemonade. Please keep an eye on our website for important school dates. <http://landels.mvwsd.org>
4. How many Kindergarten classes will there be next year? Kindergarten classes vary from year to year, depending upon the number of students who have registered for that year. Landels will have 4 classes this year.
5. What is the expected class size for Kindergarten? 20-27 max
6. How is it decided which Transitional Kindergarten group you child is in (early or late)? Parents are given the option of a time preference when you register.
7. Are parents allowed in class to settle kids? Each individual teacher will review their process and protocol for drop off and pick up. Our teachers are skilled at helping the students (and parents) feel safe and happy during these times.
8. How much time is spent on Science each day/ week/ month/ year? Three science kits- Animals 2x2, Trees, Wood and Paper
9. Do parents have to go on field trips? They do not have to go, but their presence is welcomed and appreciated.

10. What is the level of parent involvement and community building? **We welcome parents to help out in the classroom. PTA has many community building events throughout the school year.**
11. What is homework like (load and type) in Kindergarten? **The Board Policy recommends- "occasional projects"**
12. Will there be opportunities for foreign language immersion? **We do not offer foreign language within the school day. There is the possibility of offering language classes during our Landels Enrichment Activities Program.**
13. What is LEAP? **LEAP (Landels Enrichment Activities Program, formerly known as GATE) is a program designed to provide Landels students with challenging and inspiring activities that go beyond the standard curriculum. Activities are led by a combination of teachers and parents who volunteer their time. Join our Facebook group, under "Volunteers of LEAP (Landels Enrichment Activities Program)". Also, please keep an eye on the office window for upcoming class posters, then go to the office to sign up. We offer both free and fee based programs.**
14. How do yard supervisors ensure kids don't leave the campus? **There are at least five adults supervising the students during lunchtime. Also, the students know the boundaries during recess and lunch.**
15. How many students enroll in the YMCA after school program? **The YMCA provides a fee based after school care program. The number of students varies year to year, but typically they have a waiting list. Please contact the YMCA directly for more information.**
16. What percentage of the day are students on computers? **There are at least two 45 min. sessions per week.**
17. How do you deal with food allergies? **We teach the students not to share their food with others. We are not a nut-free school. Please make sure you include all known allergies on your registration form and bring any medication with necessary paperwork to the school office.**

18. Are there teacher aides? Transitional Kindergarten has one adult aide in the classroom for part of the day. Kindergarten does not have a dedicated aide.
19. How long are students required to sit? There is no required time. Teachers begin the year with shorter lessons and then increase as the year goes on. This allows the students to build their endurance over time.
20. How do you support English Language Learners? Students have ELD four days a week for 40 minutes each session.
21. Is art involved in different curriculum/ subjects? Yes
22. Are there community organizations providing music classes? CSMA (Community School of Music and Art)
23. Do you group students according to skill/ capability? Depending on the activity or lesson students can be grouped based on assessment or benchmark data.
24. What after hours programs are there? There are a wide variety of programs and services available to help you meet your student's and your family's needs -- from after school care, to academic support and enrichment activities. Landels also offers lots of great clubs, sports, art, and events throughout the year that further enhance classroom learning. Check out all of our programs, maybe you will find an exciting match for your child! Go to our website and look under "Student Programs" to find all of the current offerings.
25. How do you balance academics with teaching social skills, caring for others, etc? The teachers in TK and Kindergarten spend a lot of time at the beginning of the school year focusing on social skills. In addition, there is a school-wide program throughout all grades called Project Cornerstone, which uses parent volunteers to read selected books to the class on a monthly basis. These books form the basis for building developmental assets in all our students and creating a positive school culture. Teachers are trained to balance academics with teaching many of the other skills necessary to help develop our children into healthy, well-rounded adults.

26. Are the kids expected to be able to open their own lunchboxes or will adult help be available? Same with bathroom visits? It is helpful for snacks and lunches to be packed in containers that the students can open on their own. However, there is adult supervision provided at snack and lunchtime. Students will know that they can either ask another student or one of the adults for assistance with opening containers or food packages. Students are expected to be able to use the toilet and wash their hands without assistance. If they need help with stuck zippers or any problems arise, they should seek a trusted adult for help. Of course, students with special needs will have adult assistance for eating and bathroom activities as required.

27. What are your policies around bullying and other student-student conflicts? Bullying is not tolerated in the Mountain View Whisman School district. Landels is a safe place and incidents are identified and resolved before it becomes a bullying issue. All conflicts are first addressed with the classroom teacher. The teacher will then decide if the Principal needs to be informed.

28. Is it common for Transitional Kindergarten kids to skip ahead to Kindergarten during the year, or do they generally do a full year of TK then another year of Kindergarten? TK students generally complete a full year of TK before moving to Kindergarten.

29. Is there music and art classes on a weekly basis? The student will have music every week and art every other week.