

## TK Frequently Asked Questions

### **Why should I enroll in TK?**

- Over 50 years of research supports the positive impact of a high-quality early learning experience. Research Findings:
- 90% of brain development occurs in first five years
- Children who attend quality preschool are better prepared for elementary school.
- Preschool (TK) has long term impacts on school success, graduation, and future life.
- Early education is particularly for important for children's language development
- TK is especially for language learners
- Can provide a boost in early

### **Am I required to enroll my child in TK?**

While all eligible four-year-olds, turning five by June 1, 2023, are encouraged to enroll, enrollment in TK is a parent choice.

### **Why are only certain birthdates being enrolled?**

The state has phased in implementation so that schools are prepared with additional teachers, and that schools can address any facility needs before accepting all four-year-olds. MPESD has accelerated enrollment to enroll students with birthdates as late as June 1, 2018 beginning with the 2022-23 school year.

### **Where will TK classes be located?**

TK classes will be available at each school site in MPESD, located near the kindergarten playground, with bathrooms within the classrooms.

### **What are the school hours?**

TK classes anticipated schedule for full-day will be from 8:00-1:30 with opportunities for before and after school care, for a total of nine hours of available programming. More information to come on expanded learning hours.

### **What do I need to enroll?**

The same documents, verification of birthdate, residency and health information, that are required for kindergarten are required for TK.

### **Is this just a first year of kindergarten?**

No, under the new California State UPK, TK is the stage between preschool for three-year olds and kindergarten. It is intended to provide a year quality early learning for all children. The TK program will contain many components found in a traditional preschool program as well as those found in early kindergarten.

### **What curriculum will the program follow?**

TK classes will use the California Preschool Early Learning Foundations, Volume 1-3 as well as different early learning curriculum to support exploration and skills development.

### **What is the adult to child ratio?**

The State requires a 1:12 ratio, MPESD will have a 1:10 ratio. Each classroom will have a TK Teacher and Instructional Assistant to support all students with additional support staff or specialists as needed.

### **Will TK students mingle with older students at the school?**

TK students will for the most part stay within the TK-Kinder complex at the site. Students will have breakfast and lunch in the classroom and play on the kindergarten playground.

### **How will TK students be supervised at school?**

Parents may access the before school program for early drop off. The plan is that TK will have a staggered schedule, starting before other grade levels

### **Can my child enroll if not fully potty-trained?**

All children with birthdates between September 1 and April 2nd may enroll. If your child has health issues or specific developmental needs be sure to inform the school secretary when enrolling so a support plan can be put in place.

### **What is my child still takes naps?**

There will be quiet time for children built into the daily schedule. In addition, the release of time of 1:30 should allow for an afternoon nap at home if needed.

### **How long is TK?**

TK is a one-year program for four-year-olds. At the end of TK, students automatically transition to kindergarten.

### **Who teaches the TK class?**

TK Teachers are teachers credentialed by the state of California, with a Bachelor's degree, a Teaching Credential and either ECE Units, classes in early childhood education, or experience in teaching children in this age group. TK Teachers must have specific credentials or authorizations to teach in a TK classroom.