

A FOUNDATION FOR
*Academic Success
& A Love of
Learning
That Lasts.*



TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN & KINDERGARTEN
A Guide for Parents

WHY COLUMBIA ACADEMY?



With transitional kindergarten or kindergarten on the horizon, you have a lot on your mind. Whether your child is moving on from preschool or stepping into their first classroom experience, you know the years ahead will bring tremendous growth and change. We understand that nothing matters more to you than your child's ability to thrive — academically, socially, and emotionally. Finding the right learning environment can make all the difference.

At Columbia Academy, our transitional kindergarten and kindergarten classes are designed to give each student a solid foundation for their educational journey. We not only want our students to seamlessly move into elementary school, we also want them to develop an authentic love of learning that lasts a lifetime.

We accomplish this through:

Social-Emotional Learning: We honor students as individuals who grow at their own pace. By offering transitional kindergarten and kindergarten classes, we ensure students are met where they are developmentally, and provide them with the personalized support they need.

Parent Communication: Keeping parents informed and engaged in their child's learning process is a hallmark of the Columbia Academy experience. Your child's teachers will communicate with you regularly through newsletters and parent-teacher conferences.

Academic Excellence: Brain-based learning with an emphasis on social-emotional development motivates children to attain higher levels of cognition and interest.

Diversity & Inclusion: Columbia Academy is a diverse learning environment centered on mutual respect and a shared pursuit of excellence. Our students develop strong values as they are immersed in a close-knit community where they are celebrated and affirmed.

Safety & Quality: Your child's safety is our top priority. All Columbia Academy staff are background checked and meet high standards, and our facilities are designed for maximum security, with locked doors, PIN access, and a stringent drop-off and pick-up process.


We invite you to see for yourself why families choose Columbia Academy by [scheduling a tour](#). We look forward to meeting you soon!

Sincerely,

Tiffany Conroy

Tiffany Conroy
Head of School





WHY DO FAMILIES
CHOOSE COLUMBIA
ACADEMY FOR

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN or KINDERGARTEN?

Optimal Class Sizes

At Columbia Academy, transitional kindergarten classes have approximately 12 students, and kindergarten classes have approximately 16 students. This number allows for ample individualized attention and plenty of socialization and collaboration.

Brain-Based Learning

Our teaching is aligned with the way students naturally learn. Students are motivated through multisensory experiences, social-emotional learning, and creative problem solving.

Differentiated Teaching

Our teachers differentiate instruction, which means there is no blanket standard to which each child is held — students are viewed as individuals, and our teachers tailor instruction to meet each student's needs.

Two Unique Programs

By offering both Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten, we provide students who need the additional gift of time with the right-fit environment to prepare for school success.

Wondering if Your Child Should Complete TK Before Kindergarten?

Transitional Kindergarten is designed for students with birthdays that fall between September 2 and December 31, or any five-year-old who could benefit from an additional year of learning and growth prior to entering kindergarten.* This full-day program places greater emphasis on social-emotional development in addition to academics, and gently prepares students for the additional structure of a traditional kindergarten program. TK provides students with:

Preparation for Structured Learning

In TK, we meet students where they are in their skills development, encouraging independence and providing the proper scaffolding that leads to success in any future learning environment.

Enhanced Executive Functioning Skills

Students in TK master skills for successful learning, including self-control, organization, flexible thinking, and more.

Stronger Academic Readiness

TK students demonstrate better literacy, language, and math skills as they transition to kindergarten, first grade, and beyond.

Improved Social-Emotional Skills

Enriching peer-to-peer interactions, role-playing, and group discussion centered on social skill development are highlights of the TK experience.

WONDERING WHAT YOUR *Kindergartener's* DAY WILL LOOK LIKE?

While each day is a little different at Columbia Academy, the following sample schedule will help you understand the general flow of learning and activities in TK and Kindergarten.

8:15 - 8:30	Arrival & Reading Time — As students settle into the classroom, they grab a book of their choosing and spend time reading with their teacher and peers. We call this part of the day D.E.A.R. — drop everything and read!
8:30 - 9:00	Recess — Early outdoor time helps young learners get their wiggles out, intentionally preparing them for the academic day.
9:00 - 9:15	Snack — Provided by the school, a morning snack gives students the fuel they need to stay focused and retain information ahead of core academic lessons.
9:15 - 9:30	Morning Meeting — Part of our Responsive Classroom approach, morning meeting, builds social-emotional skills, fosters community, and sets a positive tone for the school day.
9:35 - 10:05	Math — Students work to develop strong numeracy skills — counting, measuring, adding, and subtracting. They also begin exploring geometry using manipulatives.
10:10 - 10:40	Language Arts — We make reading fun through a variety of engaging, hands-on activities. Throughout the year, students hone their reading, comprehension, Social Studies and speaking skills.
10:45 - 11:00	Handwriting — Students quickly progress from writing only their names to forming full sentences. It is an amazing transformation to watch as they proudly begin to convey their own ideas in writing.
11:00 - 11:30	Daily Specials — Students move to a different classroom for their first specials class of the day. This could be music, P.E., technology, library media, Spanish or art.
11:30 - 12:00	Recess — Ready for fresh air and free play, students head to our high-quality playgrounds for their second recess of the day.
12:00 - 12:30	Lunch — Kindergartners share a meal with their friends in our lunch room, taking in nutrition to finish the day strong while developing vital social skills.
12:30 - 1:00	Quiet Activities — During this time, students can read, color, or simply rest at their table to prepare their body and mind for the remainder of the day.
1:05 - 1:35	Daily Specials 2 — As students transition to another classroom for their second specials class, they develop important school readiness skills — what to do, where to go, and how to sound while moving through the campus.
1:40 - 2:10	Science — A favorite subject for kindergartners, science allows students to hypothesize, experiment, and get messy as they explore the world around them.
2:15 - 2:55	Learning Centers — As the academic day concludes, students are given free choice to explore our classroom learning centers, reinforcing what they've learned through hands-on exploration.
3:00 - 3:15	Afternoon Snack — Much needed after a fun and energy-filled day, students enjoy a healthy snack before packing up their belongings for dismissal.
3:25	Dismissal — Students not enrolled in After-Care will transition outside with their teacher to the carline where they are picked up by their parent/guardian.



THE COLUMBIA ACADEMY DIFFERENCE

We give students the whole-person support they need to thrive in the classroom and everyday life.

You not only want your child to become a good student; you want them to become a good person.

We want the same thing. In transitional kindergarten and kindergarten at Columbia Academy, we teach empathy, respect, and understanding, intentionally guiding students in their peer interactions to help them learn what it means to be a good friend and community member.

Every child has strengths and growing edges. You want them to see their missteps as opportunities.

Columbia Academy is an environment where students can take educational risks that result in meaningful growth. Our students become confident learners who embrace a growth mindset early on.

You know that loving school involves thriving socially, not just academically.

Transitional kindergarteners and kindergarteners need to feel a strong sense of belonging. Social-emotional learning is integrated into our curriculum to create an environment where students can genuinely embrace learning in a healthy social culture

Strong values are built in the early years.

Our Virtue of the Month assembly helps students build strong character traits such as responsibility, citizenship, gratitude, mindfulness, patience, respect, diligence, kindness and empathy, honesty, and fairness. This is also an opportunity for young learners to hone active listening skills as audience members, as well as speaking skills during presentations.



“My child has attended Columbia Academy for TK and is now in Kindergarten. We cannot begin to express the gratitude we have for the teachers as well as the administrative staff. She has grown immensely, but more importantly has a love for learning that has not faltered and grows each day. She is reading books fluently, practicing math well above her grade level, and has made friends that share in her joy of coming to school. Thank you, Columbia Academy!”

Columbia Academy Parent



Come Explore Our
**TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN &
KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOMS**

We know that choosing the right school for your child is a big decision. That's why we invite you to come see our classrooms and facilities firsthand, meet some of our staff, and learn why families choose Columbia Academy for their children.

Schedule your campus tour today:

410.312.5233 | columbiaacademy.com/admissions/visit-campus



**TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN, KINDERGARTEN,
ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL**

10350 Old Columbia Rd.

Columbia, MD 21046

410.312.7413

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ColumbiaAcademy.com