

The Classical Academy

The Gift of Time

The TCA Board has agreed that students who turn 5 after June 1st of a given year will wait to enroll in kindergarten the **following** year. For example, if a student's birthday is June 12, 2008, that child will begin kindergarten in 2014, the year the child turns 6.

Our TCA data show that younger kindergarteners (those beginning before or barely 5) have a disproportionality higher rate of struggle throughout their school careers.

Based on this review of past performance and additional thoughts below, we have decided to **uphold our cut-off date with no exceptions**. Therefore, effective the 2013-14 school year, for the traditional and cottage school programs, we will no longer admit children who are younger than the cut off age for the upcoming kindergarten year.

Rationale for the *Gift of Time*

1. Enrollment in kindergarten is one of the most important events in a young person's life. Children vary widely in their social and intellectual readiness for this big step.
2. Research indicates that most children, especially boys, are not developmentally ready for the academic and social demands of a classroom setting until closer to age 6.
3. Students develop a better sense of security as they grow which eases their introduction into a classroom community.
4. TCA's kindergarten program is challenging, with students engaging in real reading and math activities as well as history, science, music, art and beginning writing and grammar activities. TCA kindergarten is an academic classroom, more like a typical school's first grade. Giving students one more year will ease the transition from play to more formal academics.
5. A new study from Stanford University has found that delaying kindergarten for a year can provide mental health benefits that last later into childhood. In particular, children who wait show significantly lower levels of inattention and hyperactivity, the study found. The benefits persisted even at age 11.
6. As students progress through school, being younger affects how peers perceive them. They often continue to develop physically, socially and academically behind their classmates.

Please see table below for assistance in selecting the correct year in which to start your Kindergartner:

If Child's DOB is ON or BEFORE June 1st of:	List this Kinder Year	If Child's DOB is AFTER June 1st of:	List this Kinder Year
2012	2017-2018	2012	2018-2019
2013	2018-2019	2013	2019-2020
2014	2019-2020	2014	2020-2021
2015	2020-2021	2015	2021-2022
2016	2021-2022	2016	2022-2023
2017	2022-2023	2017	2023-2024
2018	2023-2024	2018	2024-2025
2019	2024-2025	2019	2025-2026
2020	2025-2026	2020	2026-2027
2021	2026-2027	2021	2027-2028
2022	2027-2028	2022	2028-2029