



The Classical Academy

The Gift of Time

According to TCA's analysis younger Kindergarteners (*those beginning before or barely 5*) have a disproportionality higher rate of struggle throughout their school careers. Based on this review, past performance, and the additional thoughts below, incoming students must meet these age requirements:

Students must turn 5 years of age on or before June 1st of the intended enrollment year in order to start Kindergarten. For example, if a student's birthday is June 12, that child will start Kindergarten in the enrollment year that child turns 6. All cut-off dates will be upheld with no exceptions. In addition, students must also meet the age cut-off requirement for 1st grade. Accordingly, students must be 6 years of age on or before the June 1st deadline that precedes the academic year in which the student wishes to enroll in 1st grade. These deadlines and age requirements are applicable to both the Traditional and the Cottage School Programs.

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 academically rigorous, with students engaging in real reading and math activities as well as history, science, music, art and beginning writing and grammar activities. Academics in a TCA Kindergarten classroom compare to 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. 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.