



Kindergarten: A Day in the Life

8:00 a.m. Arrival and Center Exploration

Students arrive on campus between 8:00 and 8:25 a.m. Guided by our expert teachers, our kindergartners use play to explore and make sense of their world, examine language, articulate their thinking, practice handwriting, gain basic math skills, learn to navigate the social world, develop strong spatial skills and begin to experiment with creative problem-solving.

8:30 a.m. Morning Meeting

Morning meetings in kindergarten help students ease into the day by going over their daily schedule, learning to read a calendar, and practicing their handwriting and phonics by answering a daily question.

9:15 a.m. Language Arts

Literacy in kindergarten focuses on reading, writing, and communication by developing phonetic awareness, learning how to generate ideas using Lucy Calkins Writer's Workshop, and developing the ability to express ideas orally and in written form. You may see kindergartners writing in their journal about an imaginary insect before they build the insect out of materials in their classroom recycling bin and then tell their classmates about the insect during an oral presentation.

10:30 a.m. Fruit/Break Recess

All of TCS takes a break for a nutritional snack and some fresh air. Our kindergartners walk across the street to Piedmont Park a few times each week to explore, play and learn to appreciate nature. Kindergartners are easily engaged in the park without having any toys with them. Instead, their toys become trees, leaves, rocks, and more!

10:45 a.m. Specialists

Kindergartners take art, Chinese (Mandarin), music, PE, library and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math). Students head to our STEAM lab where they use programs like Scratch Jr. to start learning to code, take on challenges that help build their problem-solving skills, and build self confidence. Teaching Chinese three times a week as a core competency helps students attain a higher level of language fluency while developing the cultural and global awareness we value so deeply at TCS.

11:30 a.m. Building Character and Community (BCC)

Our character education program - Building Character and Community (BCC) - is baked into everything we teach so our students learn to focus on caring and respecting themselves, their neighbors, their classroom, and the environment.

12:00 p.m. Lunch/Recess

1:00 p.m. Math

Starting in kindergarten, students transition to “Math in Focus” (Singapore Math), an authentic Singapore Math curriculum, based on the national standards used in Singapore that meets or exceeds all Curriculum Evaluation Standards for School Mathematics developed by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM). Kindergartners focus on numeration, operations (addition & subtraction), measurement, patterns, and geometry to build the foundational concepts that will best prepare them for higher math. This style of learning stimulates clarity of thought, communication skill in the language of mathematics, and adaptability to problem solving.

2:00 p.m. Immersive Project-based Learning (I-PBL)

Immersive project-based learning (I-PBL), is a teaching method in which students learn by actively engaging in real-world and personally meaningful projects. It teaches our kindergartners how to ask questions, investigate learning, and problem-solve. You might find kindergartners deep into an exploration of the green anaconda or designing an outdoor playspace using design thinking principles.

2:30 p.m. Big/Little Buddy

Kindergartners students are paired with an older student mentor through our Big/Little Buddy program. Older students regularly play, mentor, and model good behavior and citizenship for our younger students.

3:15 p.m. Extracurricular Activities

The school day ends at 3:15 p.m., but the TCS Extended Day program is just getting started! Our Extended Day program offers robust extracurricular activities like Enrichment classes that allow students to take a deep-dive into a specific interest and an after-school program that focuses on outside recreation, teambuilding, and small group STEAM activities. You might see kindergartners learning chess or getting ready to showcase their latest ballet and tap moves.