



Age Requirement and Rationale

The Classical Academy

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, all incoming students must meet strict age requirements.

Students must turn 5 years of age on or before June 1st of the intended enrollment year to start kindergarten. For example, if a student's birthday is June 12th, that child misses the cutoff for the fall and will start kindergarten a year later in the enrollment year that the child turns 6. All cut-off dates will be upheld with no exceptions. In addition, students must also meet the age cut-off requirements to enter 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 apply to both the Traditional Elementary and the Cottage School Program.

Rational for Age Requirements for Starting Kindergarten at TCA

1. Enrollment in Kindergarten is one of the most important events in a young person's life and impacts the entire family dynamic. Although children vary widely in their social and intellectual readiness for this big step, most children benefit from waiting.
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 and gain valuable life skills when given more time to play and explore.
3. Students develop a better sense of security as they grow, which eases their introduction into a classroom community.
4. The kindergarten program at TCA is academically rigorous and on par with many 1st grade classes across the district, with students engaging in real reading and math instruction as well as history, science, and beginning writing, spelling, and grammar.
5. A study from Stanford University found that delaying kindergarten for a year can provide mental health benefits that last later into childhood. The study found that children who wait show significantly lower levels of inattention, hyperactivity, and social anxiety. These benefits persisted into late elementary school and early junior high.
6. As students progress through school, being younger affects how peers perceive them as they continue to develop behind their classmates physically, socially, and academically.

Charlotte Mason believed that "regular time in nature to observe for himself would help a child build up that important mental storehouse of images and experiences. Such a storehouse will help that child springboard into learning about things he has never seen too." Be on the lookout for our monthly newsletters that provide ideas and activities to help you prepare your child for a successful kindergarten year. Enjoy the extra time to learn with your child, you will never regret the investment of time.