

#### **What is Bridge Kindergarten (also known as Bridge Kinder)?**

Bridge Kindergarten is a full school-year program in FBA Lower School between grades PreK4 and Kindergarten. At FBA, we consider Bridge Kindergarten a gift of time. Students who spend the year in Bridge Kinder leave very prepared for Kindergarten the following year, and often become leaders in their Kindergarten classroom. Our current PreK4 students have first preference for enrolling in Bridge Kindergarten.

The Bridge Kindergarten program follows its own curriculum; it is not a repeat of PreK4 content. Bridge Kinder curriculum focuses on foundational Kindergarten skills such as number fluency through ten as well as letter/sound correspondence, and then sound blending so that students are ready to begin reading. Bridge Kinder students interact with Kindergarten students by participating in some events together, however, each program is unique and students will not feel like they are repeating content once they promote into Kindergarten.

#### **How do I know if I should choose Bridge Kindergarten is right path for my child?**

Bridge Kindergarten can benefit a five, turning six-year-old child for a variety of reasons. Some children just need a little extra time in a smaller classroom environment before entering Kindergarten, or they may need a little extra support in academic content, social and emotional skills, or self-confidence before entering Kindergarten. The smaller class size gives the teacher a chance to focus on these individualized needs for each student.

#### **What is the size of a Bridge Kindergarten class?**

Our Bridge Kinder class is kept small at eight to ten students with one teacher. In PreK4, students have a lead teacher and an assistant with fourteen students. In Kindergarten, students have one teacher with sixteen students. The smaller Bridge Kindergarten class size helps some students adjust to moving from a classroom environment with two teachers to a classroom environment with one teacher.

#### **What is the process of enrolling my child in Bridge Kindergarten?**

The first step is to have a conversation with your child's teacher. You are welcome to initiate this conversation or your child's teacher may reach out to you during his/her PreK4 year to ask if Bridge Kindergarten is something you are considering.

If you decide that Bridge Kindergarten is right for your child, then please reach out to Mrs. Carrie Bowden, Principal for PreK3-Second Grades, to share your intent.

If it is your decision to stay at FBA beyond PreK4 (and we hope that it is!), all students are automatically enrolled in Kindergarten, and there is no formal notification needed.

What is the deadline for deciding if I want my child in Bridge Kindergarten? And can I change my mind? We ask that you make your intent known by March 22. Around this time of year is when we will need to know how many spots our current students will take and how many will be open to new families. If you have previously chosen Kindergarten and would then like to switch to Bridge Kindergarten, after this March deadline, it is likely you will be placed on a waitlist.

**Once I decide Bridge Kinder or Kinder, what happens next?**

In early January, you will receive in your Parent Portal account the Tuition Statement for either Bridge Kindergarten or Kindergarten. For all PreK 4 students, the default statement is Kindergarten. This does not mean you are locked into Kindergarten, especially if you have been having discussions with your child's teacher about possibly enrolling in Bridge Kindergarten. To receive the Bridge Kinder Tuition Statement in January, you will already have needed to make your intent known by the end of this semester.