



## Kindergarten Program Information


### Program Structure and Enrollment

- Kindergarten is a full-day program held on Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday, and some Friday mornings. Fridays are half-days and do not alternate; instead, Friday mornings are scheduled to ensure both Kindergarten classes have the same number of programming hours.
- Each of the two Kindergarten classes (Monday/Wednesday and Tuesday/Thursday) enrolls approximately 30 children.
- In each class, two teachers and two teaching assistants support the children every day.
- Moving into Grade 1, the 60 Kindergarten children will be divided into three Grade 1 classes.

### Student Enrollment

- Because demand for our kindergarten program typically exceeds available placements, we consider the following factors.
  - **Sibling Priority:** Children with an older sibling currently attending our school receive priority consideration.
  - **Date of Application:** Families may apply to enroll their child in Master's Academy's Kindergarten program in January of the year their child turns four.
  - **Neighbourhood/Geographic Zone:** To serve our local community, we prioritize children residing in areas surrounding our school.
  - **Familiarity and Support** for the Master's Vision and Mission, as described on the website.
  - **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment:** Our goal is for every student to experience success and demonstrate mastery in our program. Therefore, applicants selected for a Kindergarten readiness assessment will participate in a small-group 1-hour assessment to determine their current developmental level in areas such as early literacy skills, number sense, attention span, and cooperation. The results help

identify children best prepared to participate in our fast-paced, accelerated Kindergarten program. The skills we will assess are listed in the linked document below.

 Kindergarten Readiness Indicators.pdf

- Readiness Assessments for January are booked in December. If you do not receive an email inviting your child to the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment, their application will remain on the waitlist, and we will notify you if a spot becomes available.

## Program Hours and Childcare

- At Master's Academy, there is a staggered entry from 8:15 to 8:30 am each day. This means your child can independently enter the school and go to their classroom, where we provide supervision from 8:15 to 8:30 am each day.
- Classes for all children start at 8:30 am. School ends at 3:30 pm on Monday through Thursday and at 12:05 pm on Friday.
- **Before-and-After School Care:** Master's offers a licensed before and after school childcare program (M.O.S.P.) that operates from 7:30 to 8:15 am and again from 3:30 to 5:30 pm Monday through Thursday, and from 12:05 to 5:30 pm on Friday. This is a fee-for-service program, and more information will be provided once a child is accepted into the school.
- **Childcare on Non-Kindergarten Days:** Kindergarten children may access the before-and after-school care program only on days they are scheduled to attend Kindergarten.

## Christian Education & Curriculum

- **Christian Education:** While children at Master's receive a highly academic program, they also learn to apply Biblical wisdom in their everyday lives. This integrated approach helps children make wise choices and face life's challenges with faith and integrity.

We will challenge Kindergarten children academically while also encouraging them to live in a way that pleases God, guided by the principles in God's Word—the Bible. Biblical principles are woven into every subject, from science and mathematics to literacy and the arts.

- **Academics:** The Kindergarten curriculum considers the development of all aspects of a child, including citizenship and identity, personal and social responsibility, environmental and community awareness, physical skills and well-being, and creative expression.

Alberta Education provides a list of objectives to be taught throughout the year. Our Kindergarten program extends this curriculum, ensuring that children at the end of the year can read simple texts and print at least three sentences on a single topic.

Mathematics is primarily taught through manipulatives and covers addition, subtraction, patterning, shapes, measurement, and other concepts. Infusing literacy and numeracy skills throughout the program in as many ways as possible creates engaging and meaningful experiences that help children become independent in reading, writing, and numeracy.

**The Arts:** The arts are incorporated into children's daily activities. Additionally, Physical Education classes are held daily during the school year, and music classes are held once a week.

- **Gifted Students:** Master's takes a holistic approach to nurturing all students—fostering not only their academic growth but also their social and emotional development. Our teachers are trained to recognize the specific needs of all learners and provide the appropriate guidance to help them succeed both inside and outside the classroom.

## Communication and Parent Support

- Effective communication between home and school is crucial. Teachers update **Master's Notes**, accessed through our Parent Portal, weekly to inform families about important learning opportunities and relevant dates.
- Your child will have a zippered bag that will carry their daily work, learning projects, essential papers and forms. We encourage parents to review their child's work daily.
- We schedule two parent-teacher conferences and issue two report cards each year.
- We encourage parents to book a meeting with their child's teacher if they have questions about their child's learning.

## How to Help Your Child Succeed

As your child transitions to Kindergarten, it is important to support them by fostering a positive home environment that connects home and school.

- Take time with your child to develop an awareness and interest in learning. Review and practice the Kindergarten readiness skills together. Provide many opportunities for your child to experience being separated from you for a time. Practice a range of independent tasks and provide ample encouragement when independence is demonstrated.
- Maintain regular routines for bedtime, meals, and hygiene.
- Encourage self-help skills, independence, and self-control.
- Read, read, read to your child every day.
- Expect your child to clean up after themselves after eating and playing.
- Expect your child to put on and take off their own coat, shoes/boots, snowpants, hat, mitts.
- Supervise and manage your child's screen time (TV, computer, & digital devices).

## Frequently Asked Questions

**When will we know which Fridays our child will attend Kindergarten?** Kindergarten families will receive a calendar in the Spring.

**Can we request either a Monday/Wednesday or a Tuesday/Thursday placement?** Yes, the option to request either Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday is available in our application. Although we cannot guarantee you will receive your first preference, we will try to accommodate your request.

**Is there bus transportation?** No, we do not offer bus transportation.

**Are there uniforms?** Students do not wear uniforms. However, there is a dress code for students that reflects a positive learning environment.

**Do you have a cafeteria?** Yes, students in Grades 3-6 use the cafeteria during lunchtime. Students in Kindergarten to Grade 2 eat in their classroom. Families may enroll in a hot lunch program from Kindergarten through Grade 6.

**How can I find more information about the activities and special events at Master's Academy once my child is enrolled?** In September, parents of a child enrolled at Master's will have access to our Parent Portal on our website. Information about many of the programs and services offered at our school is found there. In addition, each week we email a "Week In Review" to parents that provides information about upcoming events.