

# <u>Kindergarten 2025 – 2026!</u> Gilbert Campus

**Hello!** You are receiving this document in response to the application that you submitted for kindergarten for the 2025 – 2026 school year at **EDUPRIZE Gilbert**. Thank you so much for your interest in our school! It is greatly appreciated.

Finding the right kindergarten is an exciting task! It can also be overwhelming, especially if this is your first time enrolling a child in school. I have put together some initial information to help answer common questions you may have about the enrollment process and our school.

#### What makes EDUPRIZE different?

- We believe in **differentiated learning!** We teach each child to his or her level and use various methods to achieve this goal.
- We are **science-based**! Each year, your child will have four science-based cottages, which are thematic units designed for applied learning. We believe in 100% engagement through **hands-on learning**.
- We offer a **variety of schedules** to meet everyone's needs! Our 2025 2026 Kindergarten Program Options are detailed on a separate attachment.
- We run on a **modified year-round calendar**! We love our schedule and think you will too! Please be sure to take a look at our calendar, as we start in July.

#### How do I register?

First, please know that you have added your child to the interest list. The next step will be to register:

- ALL incoming kindergartners need to go through the registration process, including our pre-k students and siblings of currently enrolled students.
- Registration will be accepted **online via the Infinite Campus Parent Portal** (see schedule on next page). You will electronically submit registration forms, upload required documentation, select from the available programs, and pay any applicable fees. Once this process is complete, **your child will be registered and his/her spot will be secured** for the 2025 2026 school year!
- You will need to submit the following:
  - o Student and parent demographic information
  - Child's **proof of age and identity** (birth certificate or any other document recognized under Arizona law that verifies identity and age per A.R.S. § 15-828)
  - A current copy of the child's **Immunization Record** or a completed <u>exemption form</u>
  - A copy of the parent's **proof of AZ residency** (driver's license or utility bill are the most common items). If proof of AZ residency is not available, you may complete an Affidavit of Shared Residency with a person who is an Arizona resident
  - If applicable, a copy of any **legal guardianship/custody documents** that you wish for us to have on file

- If applicable, any Special Education documents (IEP, MET report, etc.) or Section 504 documents
- **Payment** to cover the LIFE Fund fee (see below) and any applicable program option fees will be due <u>prior</u> to the start of the school year

## When does registration begin?

- We start the registration process **early**! Registration windows will open as follows:
  - November 15: EDUPRIZE **pre-kindergarten** students
  - December 2: **Siblings** of currently-enrolled EDUPRIZE students
  - December 16: New families
- Our pre-kindergarten students and siblings of enrolled students have priority registration. They are guaranteed placement <u>if</u> they complete registration <u>prior</u> to public registration starting. If you fall into this category, please know that you will need to complete your child's registration <u>within the priority window</u> in order to secure placement in the program of your choice. Some programs fill quickly, so your preferred program could be full if you do not register at the first opportunity.
- Registration for **new families** will be processed in the order received please register promptly if you need a particular program schedule.

# Additional registration information:

- All communication concerning registration will be made via **email**. Please check your email for updates and do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.
- **Spots go quickly!** Class sizes are limited. For fee-based programs, payment of the fee is required <u>prior</u> to the start of the school year to secure placement. If payment is not made, students will be placed in free programs as space permits.
- As spaces fill up and programs close, you may be offered the opportunity to go **"on deck,"** which is to pre-enroll without payment, until a spot becomes available. You will be told if you are "on deck" and then notified if a spot opens up.
- All payments are non-refundable and non-transferable, so please decide thoughtfully!

#### LIFE Fund Fee:

- Every student at EDUPRIZE is charged a yearly LIFE (Lab Instruction/Field Experience) Fund fee that is used to pay for transportation and admission to two field trips during the school year.
- The LIFE Fund fee is **\$75 per child per year**.
- The LIFE Fund fee is **ECA-allowable and non-refundable**.
- This fee is optional. If you choose to not pay the LIFE Fund fee, your child will stay on campus for regular educational experiences at no cost.

#### Program Options for the 2025 – 2026 School Year

The kindergarten program options for the 2025 – 2026 school year are detailed on the 2025-2026 Kindergarten Program Options flyer. We will offer a Regular full day, AM TOPS, and PM TOPS program options.

## Campus Tours:

Tours are a great way to learn about all that EDUPRIZE has to offer. Parents are encouraged to attend! Tour dates and information are listed on our website here: <u>Gilbert Campus Tours</u>. Some additional information regarding tours:

- **Tours typically begin in Building 3**—it is in the center of our campus and has a B3 on the upper right hand corner of the building.
- Our tours begin promptly at the start time! Please arrive 10-15 minutes early to get settled.
- Tours are typically 60 to 90 minutes long.
- We welcome school-aged children at our nighttime tours so that they, too, can see the campus! Very young children may have difficulty sitting through the presentation and walking the campus. Please see our website for more information regarding children and our tours.
- If you are joining us for a daytime tour, please bring your photo ID, as you will need to exchange it for a visitor badge at the front desk of Building 1.
- Tour sizes are limited! Please see our website for the link to sign up. Thanks!

# For those with late Birthdays (9/1/2020 through 12/31/2020):

State Law requires that children be 5 years of age by 8/31/2025 in order to enroll in Kindergarten for the 2025 – 2026 school year. If your child's birthday falls between 9/1/2020 and 12/31/2020, you have the option of having the student evaluated for "**early entrance**" to kindergarten. Making the choice to test for early entrance to kindergarten is a big decision! It has long-term ramifications and requires careful consideration by both the parents and the school. We want every child to have a positive start to their school career!

#### Process:

- Register for kindergarten as discussed above in order to secure your child's spot.
- Attend the <u>mandatory</u> Early Entrance Meeting with the principal that will be held in the spring of 2025.
- Bring your child to Early Entrance testing in the spring of 2025. The <u>evaluation fee is \$100</u>, payable prior to testing, and is **non-refundable**.
- Your child's test results will be used to determine his or her likelihood for success in kindergarten. We will call you to discuss the results. Should it be determined that your child needs to wait a year, or even if you decide not to test at all, this is the one situation where any LIFE Fund or kindergarten program fees paid during registration would be refunded. The \$100 testing fee would not be refunded.
- If at any time you decide to hold off on kindergarten until the 2026 2027 school year, please email me to move your application to the following school year. This does not happen automatically.

# Additional Early Entrance information:

• **IMPORTANT** – Please note that state law does not allow for two years of publicly-funded kindergarten when the student enters early, should he or she need to repeat. This includes if you change schools. You could do a second year at a private school, or pay tuition at a public school, just please be aware of the risk.

- Due to these funding restrictions, we take early entrance testing very seriously and will only
  accept students early if the evaluation indicates that they are likely to succeed in our
  kindergarten program. Please realize that kindergarten is not what it used to be, and that the
  curriculum has become more academically rigorous in recent years in alignment with updated
  state standards.
- We do not reveal the contents of the test in advance. The testing revolves around standard academic and social/emotional maturity markers for a child approaching kindergarten. The majority of kids who do not enroll early are prepared academically, but need more time to mature socially and emotionally.
- Consider our pre-kindergarten class as an alternative to kindergarten early entrance. It is still an academic program, but it is more age-appropriate for students who do not meet the minimum age requirements for kindergarten.

## Should you wish to be removed from this waiting list:

- We realize that situations change; therefore, if you would like to be taken off our interest list for kindergarten for the 2025 – 2026 school year, please send an email to <u>gilbertenrollment@eduprizeschools.net</u> and provide the following:
  - Child's name
  - Your name
  - State the request to be taken off the interest list
- We appreciate you letting us know and wish you good luck in your search for kindergarten!

Thanks so much for taking the time to read this information and for reviewing the included attachments. Should you have any additional questions, you may contact me at the email/phone number listed below. I look forward to working with you!

Best regards,

Alea Perdue Enrollment Assistant Phone (480) 813-9537 x1160 <u>alea.perdue@eduprizeschools.net</u> Natalie Brunk Enrollment Coordinator Phone (480) 813-9537 x1030 natalie.brunk@eduprizeschools.net

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