



TK / K Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Welcome to Harding Elementary School! We have prepared the following FAQ sheet based on questions that we hear from parents about enrolling at Harding and about the Harding school community. Please contact the school office at 231-1413 if you have and further questions.

REGISTRATION & ENROLLMENT QUESTIONS

Q: Should I register my child for Kindergarten (K) or Transitional Kindergarten (TK)?

A: Per state rules, if your child turns 5 on or before September 1 of this year, they may register for Kindergarten. Children who turn 5 September 2- December 2, 2018 may register for TK.

Q: What do I need to bring to register my child for school?

A: The district requirements are here: <http://www.wccusd.net/site/default.aspx?PageID=555>

Q: I heard that registration is online, do I need to get a registration packet?

A: Our district has moved to online registration only. Please bring a printed copy of your child registration to turn in during the in-person enrollment verification appointment. .

Q: When does K/TK registration begin? Do I need a registration appointment if I completed the registration packet online?

A: Registration for the Fall of 2018 will most likely open on January 8, 2018 at 9AM. Updated information will be posted at <http://www.wccusd.net/site/default.aspx?PageID=555>

All families who want to register at Harding need an in-person registration appointment. In-person drop ins are welcome on the first day online registration opens from 9-12PM. Appointments will be given to TK parents starting on Wednesday and K starting on Friday of the same week. During the appointment we will review your child's eligibility to enroll at Harding and ensure all your registration materials are in order. It is very important to bring all required documents to your appointment. We will not take incomplete documentation and cannot save any spots. Submission of ALL registration materials completes the process and confirms your child's enrollment at Harding.

Open Enrollment for transfers within the WCCUSD for the 2018-2019 school year will be in February. Please check <https://www.wccusd.net/Page/552> for more the exact dates, as the window for applications is only two weeks.

Q: How would I know if my child gets selected to attend TK at Harding?

A: Harding is the only school that offers TK for residents of Harding, Fairmont, Madera, Mira Vista and Kensington. Spaces for TK will be given to online registrations on a first- come first-serve basis with consideration for providing space for student attendance from all schools.

Q: What are the TK / K school hours?

A: TK meets from 9:00am - 1:45pm, M-F. WCCUSD will confirm in spring 2018 whether Kindergarten will move to an all-day schedule (8:30am-2:40pm M/Tu/Th/F and 8:30-2:05 on Wednesdays). Kindergarten currently meets from 8:30am-1:45pm.

Q: How many K classrooms will there be at Harding in 2018-2019? TK?

A: We are anticipating having one TK class and three K classes next year.

Q: How many students will be in Harding classrooms next year?

A: In 2018-2019 Harding will follow district standards for classroom size: TK-3rd grades will have 24 students per class; 4th-6th grades will have 33 students per class.

Q: How are classroom assignments made at Harding?

A: We follow District Policy: The principal monitors and regulates class assignments considering the balance of academic needs, gender, ethnic background, and teacher contract.

Q: Does Harding offer before and after school care childcare on site?

A: Harding's before and after school child care is run through the City of El Cerrito in the multi-purpose room and at the Harding Park clubhouse on the south side of the school campus from 7:00am-6:00pm. Space is limited for before and after school care. Please contact Program Coordinator Lila Banuelos at lbanelos@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us for more information about this program, (510) 559-7000. You can find most information on this City of El Cerrito web page: <https://www.el-cerrito.org/435/School-Aged-Childcare> .

Q: If my child attends TK at Harding but we are zoned for a different school, how does Harding assist the families in the transition process to the school of residence for Kindergarten?

A: Kindergarten registration dates will be publicized. Families must register for kindergarten at their school of residence and then apply for a transfer at the open enrollment time. Please also inform the office of your interest in remaining at Harding so we can work with the transfer office.

Q: What does a typical day look like? For K? For TK? How is the TK program different than the K program?

A: Harding is shifting to workshop model instruction schoolwide. TK and K have reading, writing, and math workshop (about 10 minutes of direct instruction with up to 30 minutes of student activity/work time. This model allows for hands-on, inquiry style of learning with differentiated teacher feedback and support from small group instruction and individual conferencing. All students have daily PE, recesses, and weekly library and arts instruction. The TK academic program does not go as deep as K. TK students are introduced to all the same academics, school routines, and expectations but mastery is not expected. As younger students, we find that TKs need this time to be ready, confident, and successful kinders.

Q: How does Harding assign homework?

A: Teachers at Harding have been looking at the latest research and our student reading, writing, and math data to inform their expectations and practice. In general, you should expect daily reading. Writing, math, and special projects will be assigned to extend classroom instruction if it benefits student learning and family involvement. We value family time and recognize the benefits of a variety of enhancement and family activities outside of the school day.

Q: What enrichment curriculum is available at Harding?

A: The Harding PTA, through ongoing fundraising efforts, supports gardening, visual art, music, theater, and dance education at the school. Individual offerings vary per year and by grade level, but currently, lower grades (TK-3) receive weekly vocal music instruction and one trimester each of visual art, dance, and gardening. Upper grades (4-6) receive 2 trimesters of theater, dance, or visual art and one trimester of gardening. They can also participate in the district-sponsored weekly instrumental band program.

Q: What after-school enrichment classes are available?

A: The Harding After School Enrichment Program (HASEP) offers classes during three 8-week sessions per school year on a wide variety of topics including sports, arts, science, and more. Separate fees apply and PTA-funded scholarships are available as needed. Look for enrollment information in your Wednesday folder. Enrollment is managed through the city's recreation department. You may find information on their web site at: <http://ca-elcerrito.civicplus.com/>

Q: What lunch options are available?

A: Hot lunch with a salad bar is served daily on site for \$2.50. The monthly menu is sent home and also available online on the district web site under Food Services. You may apply for a reduced-price or free lunch at applyforlunch.com, or request a form at the school office.

Q: What is the school's nut or other food allergy policy?

A: Nut and food allergies are determined on a per-class basis. If a classroom has a child with a nut allergy, there is a pink sign on the door that lets everyone (staff, students, and volunteers) know that no nuts are allowed in the classroom. At lunchtime, students may sit at a specially marked table designated as a nut-free zone to avoid cross-contamination.

Q: What are the start and end dates of the school year?

A: You may view the district calendar for the current and upcoming years on the district web site (www.wccusd.net), then under "Resources for..." > Parents > Academic Calendar.