2020 Kindergarten Transition Panel Summary

Overview
Two kindergarten transition panels were held during the week of December 7th, 2020. The panel served as an opportunity for parents to learn more about Kindergarten public school representatives from five Tulsa area school districts: Broken Arrow, Jenks, Sand Springs, Tulsa, and Union Public Schools. The event opened with an introduction of transitions as a topic, a review of how parents can prepare for Kindergarten, and concluded with a panel exchange framed by frequently asked questions and questions from the attendees.

The panelists were as follows:

**Broken Arrow Public Schools**
- Kay Long

**Union Public Schools**
- Kathy Quick

**Sand Springs Public Schools**
- Bonnie Larkin
- Karen Biggs
- Morgan Douglas

**Jenks Public Schools**
- Vickie Campbell
- Amy Ruiz
- Van Mung

**Tulsa Public Schools**
- Jordan Sheffield-Mix
- Divanny Perez-Gutierrez

Transitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>What is a Transition?</strong></th>
<th><strong>Transitions impact our emotional, physical, intellectual, and psychological development.</strong></th>
<th><strong>Transitions impact children and adults in the same way.</strong></th>
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<td>A transition is a psychological process that occurs in response to new situations and life events brought about by change.</td>
<td>Life transitions can be positive or negative and planned or unplanned (often occurring without warning).</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Why is Kindergarten Important?</strong></th>
<th><strong>Kindergarten transitions represent an end to what your child has grown accustomed to in pre-school. The first day of Kindergarten will mark the beginning of new expectations, routines, relationships with peers and teachers.</strong></th>
<th><strong>Your child has made progress towards kindergarten readiness but may still experience anxiety about starting school.</strong></th>
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<td>Kindergarten is one of the most significant transitions in a child’s life.</td>
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<th><strong>How can I prepare?</strong></th>
<th><strong>Parents can ease nervousness and uncertainty through strategy.</strong></th>
<th><strong>Enrollment processes vary between districts, so collect important information in advance of the school year.</strong></th>
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<td>- Implement bedtime routines</td>
<td>- Talk to your child about Kindergarten</td>
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<td>- Visit the new school or attend a virtual orientation</td>
<td>- Practice following directions</td>
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Questions asked during the panel discussions

- How do transitions affect children with special needs and developmental concerns?
- How is Kindergarten different from preschool?
- What does pick up and drop off look like?
- What does distance learning look like if my child’s class, school, or district, moves to distance learning?
- Will Kindergarten provide support for my child who does not speak English as their first language?
- What is the teacher-to-child ratio?
- What type of tests will my child be given during the school year? How will I be informed of my child’s progress?
- What is your district’s enrollment process?
- Will my child have homework?
- Can I volunteer in my child’s classroom?
- What is your district’s sick policy?
- What kinds of qualifications do Kindergarten teachers have?
- What kind of discipline do you use?

Additional resources:
For parents looking for specific information about Tulsa Public Schools nearest to them visit: https://findaschool.tulsaschools.org/