



Junior Kindergarten – Ages 3 & 4

Junior Kindergarten (JK) is a welcoming environment for your child's first years at school. This is the place for students to learn about themselves and the world around them. The Junior Kindergarten program is designed with three and four year old students in mind. The classroom is high energy, lots of fun and lays down the foundation for school skills. All areas of learning will be explored in a fun and child friendly manner. Four year olds in Junior Kindergarten will experience an increased level of challenging activities meant to further nurture their growing young minds.

What Your Child Will Learn:

The goal of Junior Kindergarten is to create an environment where students are comfortable with the idea of going to school. In our integrated program students will learn and experience Science, Art, Writing, Literacy, Math Skills, Basic Hebrew Language, Exposure to Jewish Holidays and Customs, Technology and Smartboard Use, French, Art, Library, Music and Phys-Ed all while learning:

- How to treat others with respect
- How to co-operate and collaborate
- How to play with others
- How to share thoughts and opinions
- The building blocks of critical thinking
- The fundamentals of numeracy and literacy
- That learning is fun!

How We Teach:

Using a child friendly approach, students will experience: singing; dancing and movement; using imagination and play; art; science exploration; pen and paper practice; learning through props and toys and learning tools of self-discovery in a safe and caring environment. Students also experience mentorship with students in Grades 5 & 6. Resources used include the excellent program "Handwriting Without Tears" in order to promote literacy skills.

Highlights of the JK Year:

- Regular Mentoring by Older Students (Buddy Program)
- Weekly Kabbalat Shabbat and Havdallah
- Holiday Celebrations
- Family Chanukah Celebration
- Family Purim Celebration
- Family Pesach Seder
- End of Year Family Farewell

Your Connection to Your Child's Classroom:

In Junior Kindergarten, two features of "[The Portal](#)" ([Accessed through the Gray Academy Website](#)) are used:

- The **calendar** is updated each month and will inform parents about daily itinerant classes (phys-ed, music, library, art and technology), birthdays, book days and any other special events in the school.
- The **bulletin** is updated each week with an "Ask Me About" section. "Ask Me About" is a quick synopsis about what we did in Junior Kindergarten during the week. It is written in bullet form in order to give parents a general overview while allowing your child to relay the specifics of each activity. This is a great way to facilitate communication and increase dialogue at home between parent and child. The portal will also be regularly updated with pictures and videos. This is the parents' chance to take a peek into our classroom.

Important Junior Kindergarten Program Information

JK Programs Offered:

Full-Time Junior Kindergarten:

8:00 a.m. Before School JK Program

8:40 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Full Day JK Program

Part-Time Junior Kindergarten:

8:00 a.m. Before School JK Program

8:40 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Morning JK Program

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. JK Lunch Program

Morning Only Junior Kindergarten:

8:40 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Morning JK Program

JK Optional Programs (Options below require a minimum of 8 students):

Junior Kindergarten In-Service Program:

8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Up to 10 In-Service/PD Days

Junior Kindergarten After School Program:

3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Inclusive of In-Service/PD Days

JK Readiness:

Students entering JK must be toilet-trained prior to the start of the school year. We know that accidents do happen and for that reason families are asked to send a change of clothes to keep in the classroom at all times.

Daily Information:

Clothes – Students in JK are NOT required to wear the Gray Academy uniform. Students begin wearing uniforms in Kindergarten.

Food – Families are asked to send healthy snacks and lunch (except morning only students) keeping in mind a nut-safe environment. Juice and Challah is provided weekly on Fridays for classroom Kabbalat Shabbat. Families can choose to participate in the optional milk program (2/week) and hot lunch program (3/week). Information and fees for the milk program will be sent once a student is enrolled and hot lunch information is sent by the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) at the start of the school year.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up – Families will enter through the main elementary school doors to drop off and pick up their child in the pre-school wing.

Orientation Before First Day of School:

Prior to your child's first day in Junior Kindergarten, you will come with your child to meet the staff (teachers and educational assistants), have an orientation in the classroom and talk about your child.

Classroom Composition:

Classroom composition will be determined after the enrollment deadline on March 2nd, 2016 with a focus on maximizing the educational environment for all children. Factors included in classroom composition include age, gender, JK program selected and a 1:10 or better adult to student ratio.

For more information about Junior Kindergarten or to ask any clarifying questions about the JK program please contact Joyce Kerr, Elementary School Principal at jkerr@grayacademy.ca or 204-477-7409.

For inquiries about the Enrollment Process please contact Judi Price-Rosen, Director of Admissions at jrosen@grayacademy.ca or 204-477-7489.