

Key Dates for the 2025-2026 School Year

March TBD UTK-5 Residential Enrollment Begins*
*as soon as online portal is open for new year
November 17 Deadline to Submit On Time
Non-Residential Application for Lottery
February 3 Late Application Window Opens for Lottery

August TBD – UTK/K Social
August TBD – First Day of School*
*tentative on Board Approval
Visit westwoodces.lausd.org
for updates and other important events

Residential Enrollment Online at enroll.lausd.net

Non-Residential Lottery Application at apply.lausd.net

Enrollment:

Our residential boundaries are between Santa Monica Blvd. and Pico Blvd., Sepulveda Blvd., and Century Park East. Enrollment packets will only be given to resident families.

Residential Enrollment can be started on the LAUSD pre-enrollment website enroll.lausd.net. However, the portal is only accepting applications for the current school year. *Families who reside within our residential boundaries can begin enrollment for new students in any grade online at enroll.lausd.net in late March or April.* Please register early to help us plan accordingly. Please complete the online enrollment packet before June 5th.

Kindergarten Enrollment Requirements

- Your child must be 5 on or before 09/01/2025.

Universal Transitional Kindergarten (UTK) Enrollment

- UTK turning 4 by 09/01/2025

Online Enrollment Available for Residential Enrollment at enroll.lausd.net

Documents Needed to Begin Online Enrollment

- (2) Proofs of residency
 - Current utility bill-gas, water, or electric ONLY
 - Current rental/lease agreement with parent/guardian listed with proof of paid security deposit (receipt, canceled check). Rental agency or landlord information must also be provided to verify residency.
 - We do NOT accept: phone/internet/cable bill, bank statements, or DMV
- **Proof of age:** Birth Certificate, Baptismal Certificate, Passport
- **Current Immunization Record:** The immunization record.
- **Valid parent ID**

Shortly after submitting the online application, our office staff will contact parents to confirm receipt. Additional documents will be provided as part of the enrollment process.

- Physical Card (salmon double sided card) completed by physician. The immunization section of this card must be completed. *The card cannot be mailed or faxed. Unless otherwise noted by office personnel, it must be turned in with the enrollment packet. *

*If the child has an IEP please upload a copy to the enrollment portal or deliver a copy to the school office, if open. Providing a copy of the current IEP will allow us to plan better to meet your child's needs.

*Please note: We are verifying residency and cross-checking for fraudulent residences. Any student found to have entered our school using a fraudulent address will be removed immediately and sent to their home school.

***Your child is enrolled once all required documentation has been provided and receipt is confirmed by our office personnel.**

Practice compassion

Act responsibly

Work hard

Stay safe

Frequently Asked Questions About Kindergarten

Placement in Classes

When is the 1st day of school?

The School Board has not yet approved the 2025-2026 school calendar. The calendar for the new school year will be posted on lausd.net and our website once approved.

How are children placed in classes?

We work to achieve balanced groupings based on age, gender, ethnicity, special needs, and Emerging Bilingual status.

Can I choose the teacher I think my child would work well with?

- Parents *may not* request a specific teacher for their child.
- Once the balanced groupings (described above) are achieved, the principal assigns a class to a teacher.
- UTK is our entry point - for continuity, siblings may be placed in the same UTK class.

I have twins or triplets. Will my children be placed together, or will they be separated?

Our policy is to separate twins and triplets to encourage them to develop their own identities and form more effective social groups in the classroom.

When will I find out which class my child will be in?

You will receive your classroom assignment at the UTK/Kindergarten social before school begins or through our online directory. Classroom assignments will also be available in the main office following the UTK/Kindergarten social in August.

What if my child is unhappy with his or her classroom assignment, perhaps because his or her best friends are in another class? Can we change to another classroom?

Once you receive your classroom assignment, we will not move children from one classroom to another.

Procedures & Services



How is the campus kept safe?

- Gates are always locked during school hours.
- All children leave the classroom with a buddy (to go to the office, restroom, etc.).
- All visitors must sign in at the main entrance when they enter the school and will receive a visitor badge. They are expected to sign out when exiting the campus.

Can I volunteer?

- Volunteers must apply every year. You are required to have a current TB test (**within 60 days of your application**) on file to be processed. Visit <https://volunteerapp.lausd.net/> to complete the application.
- If you are interested in driving on a field trip or being a chaperone on an overnight trip, you must also get fingerprint clearance.
- Visit the office for more information and a flier.
- Shortly after school begins, you will receive information explaining the many options for volunteering at the school and the names of people to contact. As a classroom volunteer, the process varies from class to class. Parents are discouraged from being in the classroom during the first few weeks as children are still adjusting and separating. Your child's teacher will provide more information at Back to School night.

Is it possible to get a tour of Westwood Charter before school begins?

- Upcoming dates: March 6th, May 2nd
- Tours start at 8:30 am
- Visit the [school website](#) to sign up for a tour.

May I bring a cake or cupcakes to school for my child's birthday?

No, but you may donate a book to the classroom or school library for your child's birthday.

I see that the schoolyard opens at 7:50 am. If I drop my child off at 7:50, who gets my child into class?

You may not leave your UTK or Kindergarten child unattended on the yard or anywhere at the school. No one will be able to watch your child and/or escort your child to class during this time period. You must stay with your child and then escort your child to class.

May I drop off or pick up my UTK or kindergarten-aged child at the curb's traffic line?

No. All UTK/Kindergarten children must be walked to their classrooms and picked up from their teachers.

What happens if I'm late picking up my child after school?

Please call the office if you know you are going to be late. If you are not at pick-up, your child will be brought to the office to sit until you arrive.

I don't understand the difference between the after-school supervised playground ("Youth Services"), STAR, and the afternoon enrichment classes.

- Youth Services is available free of charge to children in grades 2nd – 5th from 2:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- STAR is a separate organization that operates at our school; arrangements must be made directly with them. STAR is available to all students for a fee. It is very popular, so enroll early. All students may enroll in STAR's after-school enrichment classes for a fee. Please contact STAR at 310.474.9976 for starting dates and information.

Student Needs

My child has allergies, medical problems, or special needs. How do you accommodate them?

We make accommodations in the classroom according to each child's special needs. Please inform the school of any pertinent academic or health information when you enroll your child. When you enroll, bring a copy of your child's IEP, any outside testing or services, or medical information. If your child needs access to medication during the school day, you need to see the School Nurse for the required paperwork.

Do I need to buy school supplies for my child?

No, we support what is needed for use in the classroom. Please have homework supplies available at home, such as pencils, a pencil sharpener, a pair of child-appropriate scissors, a glue stick, and some crayons.

Will my child need a device to access the curriculum?

All LAUSD students must have a Westwood device checked out to them. Devices will be delivered to your child in their classroom.

Should I buy a backpack for my child?

Yes. It should be large enough to hold a 9" x 12" homework folder, a lunchbox, and a jacket. If your child is prone to accidents, put a change of clothes to be kept in the backpack. All belongings should be clearly labeled with your child's name. **No rolling backpacks are allowed.**

My child needs sunscreen; will the kindergarten teacher apply sunscreen on my child?

No. If your child needs sunscreen, you should apply a long-lasting variety on your child before dropping him or her off at school.

What does my child need to bring to school daily for lunch or snack?

Every child has the opportunity to go to the cafeteria for a healthy snack and lunch daily or bring a snack/lunch from home. The snack and lunch should be packed separately. Please do not pack candy in your child's lunch or snack. The teachers will ask that the child bring it home. **As per LAUSD policy, no lunch or beverage deliveries or drop offs are allowed after the start of the school day.**

School Readiness:**My child has separation issues. How do you deal with that?**

Be sure to talk to your child positively. If you are worried, your child will pick up on your anxiety. If you are at ease, your child will be more apt to feel the same. Let your child know that the teacher will take good care of him/her during the school day. A parent's positive attitude and demeanor when saying farewell at the door is important. Once the parent says goodbye and leaves quickly, the child will feel safe and will soon be distracted by school activities.

Are there some things I can do to help ease my child's transition to UTK or Kindergarten at Westwood?

- Enroll in STAR summer camp for a few weeks to help your child get used to the campus and meet some other new UTK/kindergarteners.
- Once school begins, arrange a few playdates with one or two of the children in your child's class.
- Your teacher would be happy to make peer suggestions based on what social connections they see in class.

Kinder Academic Program:**How much homework is given?**

Homework is given Monday through Thursday and should take no longer than fifteen minutes. The homework is an extension of what is being taught in class. We hope the children can do the homework independently to foster independence and responsibility. Some homework will be project-based and require parent involvement.

Do children go on field trips?

Children will go on field trips during the school year to enhance our curriculum. Students may travel to field trips on LAUSD school buses or with the support of parent drivers. They will go on trips within our community, such as the fire station, retirement homes, market, etc.

My child's home language is not English. How will their needs be met?

Students with a home language other than English will be tested for their English language proficiency. Should testing reveal that English language support is needed, the teacher will differentiate instruction to meet your child's needs. Emergent bilingual (EB) students are automatically enrolled in the "Language and Literacy in English Acceleration Program (LEAP)," where their growth will be closely monitored to ensure equal access to the curriculum.

My child doesn't know his/her letters. Is that a problem?

Letter identification and sound recognition are academic skills that will be taught in UTK/Kindergarten. Please refer to the California Common Core Standards for more details (available at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/>). The skills necessary to master each standard will be taught throughout the year.

My child is already reading. How will you accommodate him/her?

We differentiate instruction to meet the needs of all the students in our classrooms. We do so through our questioning strategies, focusing on the different learning styles of our students, modifying and extending assignments as needed, and grouping strategies.

How do you teach math?

Our goal in mathematics is to develop your child's understanding of math through authentic experiences and the use of concrete materials. Our lessons encourage children to interact as they explore, investigate, and discover relationships in math.

Will my child learn to read and write in Kindergarten?

Westwood Charter's Kindergarten teachers use a balanced literacy approach in alignment with the Science of Reading. The District has adopted CKLA, a program which includes phonics and text reading opportunities. Students are given an opportunity to read many books at their independent reading level and are encouraged to explore different genres, authors, and texts. During **Writing Workshop**, students engage in Units of Study, learning how to write poetry, narratives, and "All About" books. After a short mini-lesson, the students begin or continue writing independently to the best of their abilities using the strategies they learned in the mini-lessons, thus allowing students of all ability levels to access the curriculum. While the students are working independently, the teacher conferences with students individually to provide them with a 'teaching point' for the next steps of their writing.

Phonics instruction aims to expand and refine children's reading and writing powers. Students learn about the alphabetic principle and how to communicate authentically using letters, sounds, and words.

What enrichment classes does Westwood provide?

A rich academic program includes creative and active pursuits to engage the whole child. We offer visual and performing arts classes, music, and technology. These courses are taught by specialists and supported by the fundraising efforts of WISE.

Will my child get enough exercise at school?

Students have at least two daily opportunities to engage in physical activity outside in the kindergarten yards. Under the teacher's and teaching assistants' supervision, students use resources like the apparatus, sandbox, scooters, and jump ropes. In addition, Westwood also has a certificated Physical Education teacher who teaches developmentally appropriate, standards-based lessons to students.

What other subjects will be taught in kindergarten?

Westwood Charter has a social studies-based curriculum, and each grade-level Family focuses on a "Big Idea." Kindergarten students focus on their expanding role in the community and access core academic areas via many social studies topics. Additionally, students explore science topics such as life cycles, weather, and plant life.

UTK Academic Program:

UTK uses The Creative Curriculum to guide students through comprehensive hands-on units which include beginning literacy, math, science, social studies, engineering, and social/emotional activities. Westwood provides an integrated program where teachers supplement and add enriching activities to support the growth of all students and prepare them for kindergarten.