

**Highpoint Virtual Academy
Kindergarten vs. Junior Kindergarten Considerations**

	Traditional Kindergarten	Junior Kindergarten (TK)
Enrollment Ages	Any student 5 by September 1 *Students with birthdays up to Dec. 1 are still eligible for traditional K with a waiver.*	Students with birthdays April 1- December 1 (5 YO by Dec. 1)
Kindergarten Waiver Needed?	Any student with a birthday between Sept. 1 and Dec. 1 requires a waiver.	Any student with a birthday between Sept. 1 and Dec. 1 requires a waiver.
Length of Program	1 Year	2 Years (TK then K) Students may go from TK to 1 st grade if appropriate based on development. This is a parent/HVAM decision.
Parent Opt-in/Request Required?	No	Yes
Curriculum	Stride-K12 Traditional K OLS materials	Stride-K12 Embark Curriculum
Focus of Studies	Academically driven at a faster pace. K students learn reading, writing, math, science and social studies.	Focused on play-based learning with social development along with developing fine and gross motor skills.
Benefit of Participation	Kindergarten is not a requirement in Michigan, but K helps to build foundational skills in core areas of study.	Students receive an extra year of social, emotional and academic growth prior to more rigorous content. Young 5 students often emerge as leaders during the second-year programming with the strong foundation gained in Jr. K.
Skills to Consider	Teachers will be utilizing quick assessments in August to determine appropriate placement based on these and similar questions. The Enrollment team can ask some simple questions to help determine if Junior K is right for families.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a parent responds NO to more than half (6+), TK is probably a better option. 	
	Can your student: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Name and recognize 5 colors? <input type="checkbox"/> Name and recognize 10+ letters? <input type="checkbox"/> Recognize own name in print? <input type="checkbox"/> Write all or most of the letters of his/her first name? <input type="checkbox"/> Follow 2-step directions? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Order 3 things in a sequence or repeat a simple pattern? <input type="checkbox"/> Identify numbers from 1-10? <input type="checkbox"/> Count and order objects from 1-10? <input type="checkbox"/> Draw a line and closed circle? <input type="checkbox"/> Use scissors and pencils/crayons with control? <input type="checkbox"/> Did your student attend Preschool? <input type="checkbox"/> Did your student attend Preschool?