



THE KING'S ACADEMY

Frequently Asked Questions About TKA 6th Grade

WHAT IS THE MISSION OF THE SCHOOL?

- *Who We Are:* The King's Academy is an independent, college preparatory school for grades 6-12, which exists to honor and glorify our King Jesus Christ.
- *Mission:* The King's Academy is a Christ-centered school that inspires academic excellence, servant leadership, and enduring relationships.
- *Vision:* Graduates of The King's Academy are transformed by Christ, live a life that honors God, and use their gifts to influence the world for Him.

WHEN WAS THE SCHOOL ESTABLISHED, AND IS IT ACCREDITED?

The King's Academy was founded in 1991. TKA is fully accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

WHAT IS THE ACADEMIC BACKGROUND OF ENTERING 6TH GRADE STUDENTS?

The 6th-grade student body varies in terms of educational background. We have students who come to The King's Academy from private schools, public schools, and homeschooling. All students must achieve a passing score on the Secondary School Admission Test (SSAT) to be considered for acceptance.

WILL MY 6TH GRADER STAY WITH THE SAME STUDENTS AND TEACHER ALL DAY? Students begin each day with a 6th-grade homegroup and then attend their four core classes with other sixth graders: Bible, English Literature and Composition, Ancient World History, and Earth Science. Math classes are different. Students are given a placement test after acceptance, in May, to help identify the math level at which each student will be most successful (6th Grade Math, General Math, Pre-Algebra). Additionally, 6th grade students may be mixed with students of other grades for their electives.

ARE ELECTIVES OFFERED TO 6TH GRADE?

Students have one class period available for elective choices and may choose between year-long and semester electives.

- **Year-long:** Dance, Theatre, Blue Band, Gold Band, Jazz Band, String Ensemble, String Orchestra, Concert Choir
- **Semester-long:** Robotics 1; Folklore, Legends & Writing; Speaking with Confidence; Discovering Art - Junior High; Study Skills

HOW MUCH HOMEWORK WILL MY 6TH GRADE STUDENT HAVE?

Depending on the student's ability and time management, there could be approximately two hours of homework each night. Teachers do not assign any Friday homework that is due on Monday. TKA 6th graders are encouraged to write their assignments in a planner. Additionally, parents may access assignments and communicate with teachers by email through the Family Portal, a web-based interface between teachers and families. Google Classroom is for student use and contains information such as assignments, group messages from teachers, and a calendar of upcoming class events. Our expectation is for 6th-grade students not to have more than two tests or projects due on any given day.

HOW SHOULD PARENTS COMMUNICATE WITH TEACHERS?

All teachers have an email address that parents can use to initiate communication with teachers. Teachers strive to return all communications within 24 hours. If you would like to meet with a teacher, please make arrangements in advance; no walk-in appointments please.

HOW WILL I BE INFORMED OF MY STUDENT'S PROGRESS?

Grade details are available electronically 24/7 in the Family Portal up until Finals Week. Semester report grades are available in the Family Portal on December 28, 2023, and May 31, 2024. Only final semester grades will appear on transcripts.

HOW IS TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATED INTO THE CLASSROOM?

TKA is a "Bring Your Own Device" (BYOD) 1:1 technology program. For grades 6-12, students use MacBooks with specifications prescribed by the school, so the devices work with the other technology in the classroom. Please visit the Technology webpage (tka.org/academics/technology) for details. When students are on TKA's campus, all their online activities will be filtered and monitored by TKA, but TKA will not monitor nor filter computers off-campus. Teachers will use the MacBooks in various ways to create a more collaborative, engaged, and creative learning environment for all students and reach students with different learning styles. The school utilizes Apple Classroom to monitor students' online activity during class time.

HOW IS DISCIPLINE HANDLED IN 6TH GRADE?

At The King's Academy, conduct standards are derived from the commandments and principles found in the Bible. The goal of all discipline is the cultivation of Christian character in a student. We seek to recognize patterns of meritorious behavior while addressing behavior choices that are not in line with school expectations. The administration and teachers encourage students to develop self-discipline, but the responsibility of the choices and consequences rests upon the student. Detailed information about school behavior expectations, attendance, and dress code policies can be found in the *Student/Parent Handbook*. Students are recognized for meritorious behavior such as respecting and assisting other students and teachers and helping keep the campus clean. When a student violates the code of conduct, a conduct report is sent home electronically to notify the family of the situation. Classroom teachers are the primary adult involved in matters of discipline. They are most familiar with their students and can effectively work with the student and the family to address issues of concern.

DO STUDENTS TAKE PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE)?

Students attend PE four days per week. PE classes are separated by gender in 6th grade. Students are required to dress in the approved school PE uniforms: T-shirt and shorts (sweatshirt/sweatpants are optional). Students are assigned a locker for the year to keep PE clothes and must provide their own lock. PE uniforms may only be worn during class.

WHO DO I SEE IF MY STUDENT IS STRUGGLING?

Teachers are the first and primary source of academic support. Appointments can be made for lunchtime or after-school tutoring sessions. The Academic Support Center tutoring is available on a space-available basis for students with significant math or science subject matter challenges. The Center also has private tutoring references available. Additionally, the Academic Support Center assists students that have been diagnosed with a learning issue and need accommodations. Parents concerned about their student's mental, social or emotional wellness, should inform the Dean of Students Office without delay.

IS THERE A SCIENCE CAMP FOR 6TH GRADE?

Yes. The 6th grade attends a one-week Science Camp at [Mission Springs](#) in Scotts Valley. This trip is scheduled for February 26-29, 2024. Primarily, parents of 6th-grade students serve as cabin chaperones. Occasionally, TKA upper-level high school students serve as assistants for the week. The 6th-grade classroom teachers and naturalists on staff at Mission Springs supervise all activities and programs. All of the activities, from classes to campfires, are designed to foster academic and spiritual growth. Naturalists intentionally weave Christian growth lessons into their outdoor science classes. These retreats are also designed for students to bond together as a class and build relationships with staff.

WHAT IS THE SPIRITUAL LIFE PROGRAM FOR 6TH GRADERS?

The 6th grade attends junior high chapel every Thursday along with 7th and 8th graders; the high school has a separate chapel. Chapel is a time for students to worship God, learn about His Word, and reflect on what He is doing in our world. Guest speakers teach students how to apply Christian principles to daily life. Both junior high and high school students assist in leading the music worship for junior high chapel. Sixth graders also attend "TKA

Club” which is a time for the entire student body to come together for a fun and exciting time that fosters community and celebrates God’s love.

WHAT SPORTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR 6TH GRADERS?

There are many junior high school sports offered during the school year. Girls may choose from basketball, cross country, soccer, softball, tennis, track, and volleyball. Boys may choose from baseball, basketball, cross country, flag football, soccer, tennis, track, volleyball, and wrestling. There are designated 6th-grade basketball, volleyball, and flag football teams, but the other sports have tryouts with the entire junior high school. Details at tka.org/athletics/sports-sign-up.

IS MY 6TH GRADE STUDENT ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THEATRE PRODUCTIONS?

Yes. The King’s Academy has a junior high theatre program open to students in 6th-8th grades. There will be a junior high musical in the fall and a junior high spring play. Rehearsals for these performances are scheduled after school. Students must be in good standing both academically and behaviorally in order to participate.

WILL THERE BE A DAILY RECESS?

Yes. The 6th grade has a 10-minute brunch period in the morning at the same time as other students. During brunch, hot and cold food is sold at the student store, The Knight’s Café. In the junior high area (BDF wings), students have access to an open play area, a Gaga Ball pit, and a grass area for students to sit. During brunch and lunch, they are also free to spend time playing on the multi-purpose turf field, go to the Athletic Quad for basketball games, or enjoy our spacious Quad.

IS THERE A CAFETERIA?

The Knight’s Café (tka.org/student-life/knights-cafe), our student store, offers healthy and nutritious hot and cold food selections at breakfast, brunch, and lunch. The daily offerings include a salad bar, soup, plus a rotating selection of Chinese food, Mexican food, sushi, pizza, hot sandwiches, lasagna, etc. Healthy snack foods and drinks are also available in the Knight’s Café at all meals and after school. The menu and prices are available on the website and on the parent and student portal pages. Parents can create a pre-paid account for their students to purchase items at the Knight’s Café through an online service provider, MySchoolBucks.com. All the student needs to do to access the account is use their student ID number at the Café.

WHAT IF MY STUDENT WILL BE ABSENT ALL OR PART OF A DAY?

Parents must email Attendance@tka.org before 8:00 a.m. on the day of an absence, even if your student will only miss one class in the middle of the day. Emails to Attendance@tka.org from parents are required for every absence: partial day absence, late arrival, or early departure. Please do not email teachers to report absences.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY STUDENT IS LATE FOR SCHOOL?

Students arriving at Home Group after the 8:00 a.m. bell (10:00 a.m. on Wednesdays) are considered tardy to Home Group and must go to the SAO to get a Tardy/Admit Slip. An accumulation of 12 tardies will result in detention. A student who earns detention will attend detention on a Tuesday from 3:00-5:30 p.m. and pay \$20 for each detention session. Details about detention are in the *Student/Parent Handbook*.

WHAT IS THE EARLIEST I CAN DROP OFF MY STUDENT IN THE MORNING?

We do not recommend you drop off your student earlier than 7:30 a.m. The library opens at 7:30 a.m. each day. Staff do not supervise students prior to that time.

WHAT OPTIONS ARE THERE IF I NEED TO DROP MY STUDENT OFF EARLY ON WEDNESDAYS WHEN SCHOOL BEGINS AT 10:00 A.M.?

The library opens at 7:30 a.m. to all students. Additionally, from 9:30-9:55 a.m. on Wednesdays, there is an Advisory Period for students to meet with teachers if they need assistance. All teachers will be present in their classrooms at that time.

IS AFTER-SCHOOL CARE AVAILABLE?

While there is no formal after-school care, students may go to the library after school if they are not involved in extracurricular activities. The library is open 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday*; *However, the library closes Friday at 4:00 p.m. on half-days and finals days and any day preceding a non-school day.

WHERE DO I DROP OFF AND PICK UP MY STUDENT?

There are drop-off lanes for your convenience in both the front and back of the school, so parents do not need to park. Please limit your driving speed to 5 mph through all the parking lots, and watch for students everywhere! Now that students are in junior high, school staff do not monitor who picks up a student after school. Parents are responsible for communicating with their student(s) about carpool arrangements and pick-up times and locations.

ARE THERE STUDENT CLUBS?

Clubs offered at The King's Academy vary annually based on student interest. Last school year, there were over 65 clubs chartered, including 3D Printing, Badminton, Big Sister-Little Sisters, Big Brother-Little Brothers, Blockchain, Board Games, Book Club, Bridge, Chess, Coding & Game Design, Environmental Action, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Model Making, Nintendo, Photography, Pre-Med, Red Cross, Spikeball, Sci-Fi and Fantasy, and Ultimate Frisbee. Most clubs meet during lunch. View a list of clubs at www.tka.org/clubs.

WHAT ALL-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ARE AVAILABLE TO 6TH GRADE?

The Student Council plans many activities for the entire student body. A few of these activities are only for the high school students, but there are many all-school activities such as Fall Carnival, Homecoming, Spirit Week, and Multicultural Week.

ARE THERE WAYS FOR PARENTS TO VOLUNTEER?

Yes!! There are many opportunities for parent involvement at TKA. Our history teacher may need help with history simulations. Field trip drivers are required periodically. Science Camp chaperones are needed every year. Grade-level Parent Coordinators help the teachers organize bonding activities for the whole grade. Plus, TKA counts on parent volunteers to help with many school-wide events and activities including Back-To-School events, Open Houses, staff celebrations, graduations, etc. The weekly Friday email bulletins, *TKA Royal Reminders*, have a Parent Volunteer section with links for parents to sign up online.

WHO TO CONTACT WITH ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

Jack Ferrante, *Junior High Principal*, 408.481.9900 x4284, jack.ferrante@tka.org

Hanna Sandquist, *Junior High Athletic Director*, 408.481.9900 x4354, hanna.sandquist@tka.org

Michele Duncan, *Admissions Director*, 408.481.9900 x4222, michele.duncan@tka.org

Kriss Hayward, *Marketing and Communications Director*, 408.481.9900 x4235, kriss.hayward@tka.org

Gabrielle Babin, gabrielle.babin@tka.org, and Carolyn Thompson, Carolyn.Thompson@tka.org, *PR Event/Parent Volunteer Coordinators*

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