



EARLY CHILDHOOD TRANSITION PLAN

Global Citizens Public Charter School (Global Citizens) is so excited to welcome and serve Pre-K3 and Pre-K4 students as part of our Early Childhood Program. We know that students entering Pre-K3 and Pre-K4 come from a variety of educational settings including public school programs, Headstart programs, childcare centers, and home daycares. For some students, Global Citizens will be their first educational experience outside of the home. We are committed to meeting all students where they are and to supporting a positive transition to our school program. This document is designed to provide information to families so that they know what to expect with the transition to our Early Childhood Program.

Registration Requirements

Families should indicate their child’s previous school or educational program when they complete the online registration form for Global Citizens. If applicable, families should indicate whether the program was a Head Start program. For those coming to Global Citizens from Head Start programs, families should submit a copy of their child’s Head Start “Transition Packet.”

All students enrolling at Global Citizens will be asked to submit necessary documentation for enrollment by deadlines indicated at the time of admission. Documents include birth certificate, proof of residency, health forms, dental forms, and IEPs/504 Plans (if applicable). Our Enrollment Team is available to support families with completing forms and requirements for enrollment.

Age Requirements

Students must meet the following age eligibility requirements with no exceptions:

- Students must be 3 by September 30th to enter Pre-K3.
- Students must be 4 by September 30th to enter Pre-K4.

Transition Support

Being in a classroom with a diverse group of students provides a rich social experience for students. Knowing that some of our young children are entering school for the first time, our teachers are prepared to support students with taking turns, sharing with peers, using space and materials with others, and learning how to ask for help. These factors along with all the newness of the experience make the transition a big one for many students and their families. In order to support students and their families with the transition to school, Global Citizens offers the

following opportunities for families to connect with our Global Citizens staff prior to the start of school.

- ❑ *Summer Pre-K Playdates (optional)*: Global Citizens will offer 2-3 playdates (in-person or virtual) in the summer for Pre-K children to meet their classmates and teachers. Dates will be shared during the enrollment period. While these sessions are optional, they are encouraged to help students get acclimated to their new school environment.
- ❑ *August Family-School Introductory Meetings*: In August, teachers will reach out to families to schedule individual meetings. The meetings provide an opportunity for families to share their hopes and dreams for their children and for the teachers to learn from the children's first teachers (their parents/guardians/caregivers). Children attend these meetings with their families and get a chance to meet their teachers.
- ❑ *Orientation*: Families will have the opportunity to visit their classrooms, learn more about the school day and school curriculum, and ask teachers questions prior to the first day of school.
- ❑ *Transition Week*: During the first week of school, students in our Early Childhood program will have the opportunity to attend classes on a half day schedule. We anticipate that some students will need that time to get acclimated to a full-day schedule.

Pre-K Readiness Expectations

- ❑ Students should be fully potty trained prior to the first day of school. Students should be able to manage toileting on their own or with limited support (including pulling down pants, wiping, washing hands, and fastening snaps and buttons). Please refer to the following document for support: [Surviving Toilet Training](#).
- ❑ Students should be able to walk on their own up and down stairs.
- ❑ Students should be able to feed themselves (opening and closing lunch containers, eating with utensils and cleaning up lunch leftovers).
- ❑ Students should be able to separate somewhat easily from their parents/guardians in the morning (with few tears).
- ❑ Students should be able to use words (with or without support) instead of body language to work through conflicts (rather than hitting, biting, kicking, etc.).

If families have concerns about their child's readiness for school, they are encouraged to reach out as soon as possible to our Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Shedon Williamson, at swilliamson@globalcitizensschool.org.

Global Citizens will meet with families to individually discuss and plan for school readiness. If your child is unable to reliably use a toilet, please share this information with our Director of Curriculum & Instruction right away, so that a toileting plan can go into effect as soon as possible. Families will be asked to provide all necessary supplies if they are able to.

Families are also asked to bring the following items:

- ❑ At least one change of clothes, including socks and underwear.
- ❑ A blanket/pillow for use at naptime.

How Families Can Support

- ❑ Help your child practice snaps/buttons/zippers/Velcro and put on and take off her jacket independently. Velcro shoes are a great option if your child is not independently tying his/her shoes.
- ❑ Have your child clean up after meals and playtimes, putting dishes in the sink and toys in bins or on shelves.
- ❑ Provide opportunities for your child to interact with peers, emphasizing kind words, sharing and taking turns.
- ❑ Practice using the bathroom independently - wiping, washing hands, getting dressed in a timely manner.
- ❑ Be consistent with your rules at home.
- ❑ Talk with your child about being in a classroom - routines and procedures may be different from home. For example, while stuffed animals are fine for rest time, toys are not allowed at school (except for show and tell time).
- ❑ Have a plan for saying goodbye in the morning to minimize separation anxiety. Share this plan with teachers.
- ❑ Practice separation with play dates or time with other family members.
- ❑ Create opportunities for your child to show independence (helping put groceries in the shopping cart, watering plants).
- ❑ Read to your child every day (in any language) to prepare for periods of focus and sitting quietly.

English Learners, Language Learners & Special Education

At Global Citizens, we welcome students who are learning English. English Learners will be assessed on their English language skills during the first month of school, so that we may best support their English language learning. As a dual language immersion school with Mandarin Chinese and Spanish pathways, we consider all students to be language learners. We know that bilingualism is an experience that shapes our brains for a lifetime. Research has shown that from birth to approximately seven years of age, a child's brain is designed to acquire language rapidly and with native understanding and pronunciation. Students and families will receive a plethora of resources and support in order to maximize this very cultivating experience. Resources and support include, but are not limited to:

- ❑ Staff that are equipped to provide differentiated and specific support:
 - Director of Special Populations (Students with special needs, English learners, and language Learners)
 - Special Education teachers
 - English Learner teachers

- Each class staffed with a Lead language teacher + Support language teacher + English teacher (for read alouds, small groups, and center rotations)
- ☐ Access to texts (including culturally diverse texts) in the partner languages and English
- ☐ Curriculum materials in the target language for students and teachers
- ☐ Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS)

Twins

Families with twins entering Pre-K3 or Pre-K4 should contact our Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Shedon Williamson, upon admission to discuss their preferences for placement, specifically whether they would prefer their children be placed in the same class or separate classes. Global Citizens will do our best to accommodate the wishes of families with respect to the placement of their twins; however, we cannot always guarantee a specific placement. When a student is admitted from the waitlist after class lists have been made, an option for class placement may not be possible.

**Please note that children will not be able to switch from one language path to another.*