

## **Transitional First Grade**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **My child knows her letters, numbers and colors. She can even read a little. Why should she have a Transitional First Grade year?**

At Germantown Academy, we strive to identify the best placement for each student to be successful in our Lower School program. Placement in our Transitional First Grade (T1) program considers each student's social, academic, physical and emotional developmental readiness. For example, a student who may be academically ready may not be emotionally ready for the different learning challenges that the first grade year presents.

#### **What are the benefits of the T1 year?**

The T1 year provides a flexible option for students who may not be ready for the demands of first grade. It offers a specially designed program for your children to continue to progress in academic and social areas. Students may participate in the T1 program for a variety of reasons and may benefit from the gift of time, an increase in confidence, academic skill development, as well as social and emotional maturity. An individualized learning plan is drafted to provide specialist resources and enrichment opportunities for these students. Students work with our Germantown Academy specialists, including our math and literacy specialists and our Lower School psychologist and pediatrician as needed.

#### **What is an individualized learning plan?**

An individualized learning plan is created for all students participating in the T1 program. Teachers, administrators and families will come together to create a plan detailing social, academic, emotional and physical goals for your child as needed. It will also include any additional time with specialist teachers at Germantown Academy so your child receives instruction specifically tailored to their strengths and goals.

#### **Can my child go straight from T1 to second grade?**

A student who participates in the T1 program will move to first grade the following year. It is important that students explore the concepts, skills and developmental milestones that take place during the first grade year.

#### **If my child is making good progress, can she transition to a first grade classroom mid-year?**

Students who begin the year in the T1 program will remain there for the duration of the year. Teachers and specialists will work closely with your child to help them progress towards their specific goals throughout the year. This includes both enrichment and support in response to your child's individual learning plan.

#### **How will I know if my child is eligible for the T1 program?**

Home and school communication is an essential part of our early childhood program. Teachers may reach out to families who are eligible in the spring before contracts are sent out. If you are interested in the T1 program, you may inquire with your child's teacher. The Admission committee may recommend a T1 placement for students who are new to Germantown Academy based on the information gathered throughout the Admission process. In all cases, recommendations for the program will be made for students who would benefit most from a transitional year. Enrollment in the T1 program is always at the discretion of the families.

#### **Where does this program take place?**

The transitional first grade year takes place within the Kindergarten classrooms. Students who have already participated in Kindergarten at GA may be placed with a different Kindergarten teacher for their transitional year.