

Admissions

1. Policy

Tempo School seeks to admit students who, with the support of their families, are willing and able to benefit from Tempo's academic orientation and who can, in turn, contribute to the healthy academic life of the school.

2. Purpose

2.1. That parents have a right and a duty to be actively responsible for their children's education is one of the founding principles of Tempo school. One consequence of that belief is that Tempo is a family oriented school. The ways in which parental responsibility are enacted have changed since the school was founded, but the active engagement of parents with schooling remains an important first principle at Tempo. The primary object of this policy is to ensure that the school's admissions practices support the continued vitality of that principle.

2.2. Another object of the policy is to ensure that students entering Tempo have a reasonable chance of success in the school. Tempo School has an academic orientation. In the Lower School, this orientation reveals itself in the school's curricular emphasis on literacy and numeracy, in the school's use of traditional instructional methods and in the cultivation in students of attitudes and work habits that are fundamental to educational success over the longer term. Tempo operates in the belief that almost all children benefit from an academic education in this basic sense of the word. In the Middle and Upper Schools, however, Tempo's orientation is academic in a more specialized sense, one progressively less defined by teaching methods and the acquisition by students of the common attitudes, skills and habits of mind necessary for any further education and more defined by the school's goal of preparing students for university admission and a successful post-secondary experience. Because Tempo's program builds on itself, the higher the grade level at which a student joins the school, the more demanding the transition into Tempo becomes.

3. Regulations

3.1. Admission decisions will be made in the following way:

3.1.1. Kindergarten

3.1.1.1. Parents applying for a kindergarten place are interviewed at the time of application.

3.1.1.1.1. The purpose of the interviews is twofold:

3.1.1.1.1.1. To ensure that parents are aware of Tempo's curriculum and methods and the expectations the school has of parents:

3.1.1.1.1.2. To give the school a basis, namely, the commitment of parents to the school's philosophy, on which to base admission decisions.

3.1.1.2. Admission decisions will be made before the end of February.

3.1.1.3. If there are unfilled kindergarten places and additional applications have been received after the February admission decisions, a second round of decisions will be made in May.

- 3.1.1.4. Siblings of existing Tempo students will normally be admitted to the kindergarten without interviews.
- 3.1.2. Lower, Middle and Upper School
 - 3.1.2.1. Prospective students will write a placement test.
 - 3.1.2.1.1. The purpose of the test is to ensure that the student is adequately prepared academically for the grade for which he or she is applying.
 - 3.1.2.2. Prospective students and parents are interviewed.
 - 3.1.2.2.1. The purpose of the interviews is twofold:
 - 3.1.2.2.1.1. To ensure that parents are aware of Tempo's curriculum and method and the expectations the school has of them;
 - 3.1.2.2.1.2. To give the school a basis in addition to placement test results, namely, the commitment of parents to the school's philosophy, on which to decide which students will be admitted.
 - 3.1.2.3. Admission decisions are made in early May.
 - 3.1.2.4. If there are unfilled places and additional applications have been received after the May admission decisions, admission decisions will be made as needed.
 - 3.1.2.5. Admission into higher years may entail summer work for the new student to prepare him or her to engage with the Tempo curriculum as successfully as possible.
- 3.1.3. Siblings of existing Tempo students will be given priority in admissions decisions.
- 4. Responsibilities
 - 4.1. Overall responsibility for admissions rests with the Head Master.
 - 4.2. Each of the Heads of the Lower, Middle and Upper schools is responsible for interviewing and testing students applying for admission to their respective schools.
- 5. Effective Date: 1 September, 2009
- 6. Approved by the Board: 21 May 2009