

Hickman's PEP Junior Kindergarten Gives "The Gift of Time"

Hickman Elementary, a 2006 California Distinguished School award winner, offers a "Junior Kindergarten" program called "PEP" for Primary Extended Program. This class is for the youngest Kindergarten-age eligible children (turning 5 between June 1 and December 2) who may benefit from an additional year before entering a regular full-day Kindergarten the following year.

A San Diego Unified School District approved pilot program, PEP began in 2006 and provides an alternative and voluntary choice for parents. Recent news reports have shown that today's Kindergarten includes previously 1st Grade expectations while at the same time California has amongst the youngest populations of Kindergarten students (most states have cut-off birthdates of September 1st and some at June 1st to turn 5 years old). Many California districts have created similar classes to PEP to support these young children.

Research-based and modeled after Poway Unified School District's program, PEP allows for the time needed for developmental maturation socially, emotionally, physically and cognitively to succeed with greater readiness for today's very high academic standards in Kindergarten and 1st Grade.

Hickman parents and teachers are seeing the value of developmental readiness and maturity as overall school scores have risen, data shows great success of former PEP students, and parents are 100% supportive and appreciative of the program. PEP is *not* a remedial class, but a developmental Kindergarten that is California Standards-based. Primarily for students who enter Kindergarten still 4 years old, PEP provides for a strong foundation for early and long-term school success. Children participate in all regular school activities and events 8:00 – 11:30 a.m. daily. The second year the students begin a regular, full day Kindergarten with greater readiness skills.

Hickman Elementary is currently accepting PEP applications and CHOICE applications. The school is located in Mira Mesa at 10850 Montongo Street, San Diego, CA 92129 and the school number is (858) 271-5210.