



BRAINATION
INSPIRING GREATNESS

Dear Kids of the Kingdom Episcopal School Families,

First, I want to say it was great meeting everyone on Thursday afternoon. We are extremely excited to serve your family in the near future. BRAINATION has received board approval and is fully committed to opening Little Wonder Academy by the first of August. The intent of this message is to provide answers to some of the most frequently asked questions from parents Thursday afternoon. Again, if you have family-specific questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us individually.

Question: What will change, and what will stay the same?

It is a difficult question to answer, especially since we do not know exactly how KOKES has been operating. As the afternoon went on, it became clear that each family had a different intent behind this question. For some, the question was geared toward religious communication; for others, it was staff; and for others, it was curriculum. I found myself wanting to emphasize that our intent was not to change much out of a desire to remain as consistent as possible for the kids and your family. I am afraid I didn't fairly articulate that some changes will be natural while others will be necessary, and some things will not be changed. Below is a chart to clarify the best we can.

Little Wonder Academy Commitments	Little Wonder Academy Anticipated Changes
A safe a loving environment for all families	A change of name to Little Wonder Academy
Transparent and frequent communication	A change in director
A place where children have fun and find joy through learning and growing	Some personnel will change during the transition due to various reasons — more explanation is provided below.
High quality and caring staff	The curriculum will not be religiously affiliated — more explanation is provided below.
A small family-like atmosphere	
A place where you are valued as a family	
An affordable daycare and preschool	

Question: When will the transition be complete?

BRAINATION will be the operating owner beginning the first week of August 2024.

Question: What does the transition look like?

This transition has been fast-moving for both entities. BRAINATION has been doing our due diligence since the end of May and received approval from our Board of Directors on Thursday, June 20. We are working with the state regarding licensing and plan on receiving approval before the end of July. We are currently interviewing for our Director position and hope to have someone in place in the next few weeks. We will then have the Director meet with individual staff members, allowing them to gain an understanding of expectations. At that time, we can better answer the questions about staff changes. The center has some activities planned through August 1, making the first day of Little Wonder Academy August 5!

Question: Will we continue with a religious focus?

Little Wonder Academy is not directly tied to any religious organization, including the Episcopal Church. However, we believe you will continue to see many of the same values and principles, as this was a big motivator in establishing this relationship. We are also already communicating with the Episcopal Church about what an opt-in chapel and music program would look like for families. Our daily curriculum will not be religiously affiliated.

Question: What will happen to staff?

We intend to retain as many staff as possible. This consistency is best for families and your children's development. However, all leadership changes lead to some attrition due to decisions made by both new leadership and current employees. We feel like it is in the best interest of all parties for us to hire a Director before making any personnel decisions. Asking employees to make decisions prior to hiring leadership is unfair to them and vice versa. Once our staff has been finalized, we will communicate directly with families who will be caring for your child.

Question: What will the staff-to-student ratio look like?

Several factors will influence ratios, including enrollment, attendance, and additional support from staff. We will be better able to answer this question after August, but we are committed to a small, family-centered environment. Our goal is to operate the center between 62 and 90 students and will, of course, abide by state regulations. The short answer is that 1:16 would be the most for a group of 4-year-olds because that is the largest room on the premises. The smallest ratio would be 1:4 for infants because it is the most allowed by the state regulations.

Question: Is there a plan to change locations?

We do not plan to change locations.

Question: What is the plan for the curriculum?

We will consider the curriculum and make a decision before August. As stated above, we will move away from a curriculum with religious affiliation. We want to ensure it will not be rooted in or push any agenda. Our curriculum will be intended to develop your child best socially, emotionally, and academically. Once chosen, the curriculum will be posted and readily available for any family to review. We aim to integrate our organization's Inquiry Model with our curriculum throughout the first year.

Question: Will there be electives for children to choose from?

Absolutely! Our Director is dedicated to sourcing partners who can provide a diverse range of experiences for your children. These may include music, dance, sports, and, as mentioned, Chapel. While our full offering may not be available immediately, we are committed to expanding our range of electives until we have a comprehensive selection.

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We understand that you may have more questions, and we are here to provide the answers. Please feel free to reach out to me at jjohnston@braination.net. We are excited and cannot wait for August to arrive! We have a lot of work to do, but we will be ready for your family — providing a place for your child to **belong, find joy, and be great!**



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