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School Guide
YOUR RESOURCE
FOR FINDING THE
RIGHT SCHOOL

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Kid Contest!**
DETAILS INSIDE

FAMILY FAVORITES

PARENTS' PICKS FOR THE BEST IN TULSA

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MERRITT'S BAKERY



LAURANNAE



2026 TulsaKids Family Favorites

OKTOBERFEST



MEET THE COVER KID!

Eight-year-old Bayzee had a great time at our July cover shoot at the Discovery Lab. She will be will be a third grader at Emerson Montessori School this fall, where she loves learning and asking questions. Polite, curious and a quick learner, she made our job easy.

Bayzee is proud of her multicultural family and her family story, and she especially loves being a big sister to her little brother, Ma'Kai. She was recently featured in *America Kids Multicultural World* magazine, and will compete in the National American Miss Oklahoma pageant later this month.

Bayzee's favorite colors are pink and red. We loved getting to know this smart, kind and confident young lady and are happy to introduce her as our July cover kid.

COVER PHOTO BY VALERIE WEI-HAAS



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OUR FAMILY FAVORITES

One of my favorite projects since becoming editor of TulsaKids has been putting together this Family Favorites issue. It has reminded me of how many wonderful things there are to do, see and experience right here in Tulsa. As I looked through this year's winners and finalists, I realized many of our family's favorite places are on these pages.



Some of them, like *The Nutcracker* and Oktoberfest, have become family traditions. Others are our go-to spots, like pizza at Hideaway or doughnuts from Livi Lee. One of the things I love most is that some of our family's favorite places aren't just our Tulsa favorites—they're some of our favorites anywhere. A few years ago, we took our kids to one of the best zoos in the country. On the way home, they announced they still liked the Tulsa Zoo better. The same thing has happened with restaurants and shops we've visited while traveling. They're fun to experience, but our family is always happy to come home to our Tulsa favorites.



It makes me realize how lucky we are to live in a community with so many exceptional places and people. The businesses, schools and organizations featured in this issue aren't simply convenient because they're close to home. They're places that have earned the affection and loyalty of Tulsa families. And the best part of Family Favorites is that these aren't our picks—they're yours.

That's what Family Favorites is all about. Thousands of readers helped create this year's list by voting for the places they trust and love.

This issue also includes our annual School Guide, one of our most popular resources for families. Whether you're choosing a daycare, preschool, elementary school or planning for high school, finding the right fit is one of the most important decisions we make as parents. I hope our guide helps your family discover the many outstanding educational opportunities available in Tulsa.

Thank you for reading TulsaKids and for making Family Favorites such a fun tradition each year. I hope this issue inspires your family to revisit old favorites and discover a few new ones.

Natalie Mikles

EDITOR



tulsakids

Volume XXXIX | Number 7

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TulsaKids is published monthly
TK Publishing, Inc.
2510 E. 15th St., 202, Tulsa, OK 74104
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CONTESTS & GIVEAWAYS



Cover Kid Contest

Presented by Dental Depot

TulsaKids is looking for a local child between the ages of 2 and 17 to appear on one of our upcoming covers! Submit a photo of your child from July 1-15, then encourage your friends and family to vote (once daily) from July 16-31!

Please note: Siblings must be entered separately, with the exception of twins/multiples.



Impactful Women of the 918

Presented by  BANK OF OKLAHOMA

We're excited to celebrate the incredible women making waves in the 918!

If you know a woman in the Tulsa area who's been an inspiration in her field, we want to hear from you. Help us shine a light on exceptional women and their achievements by nominating them for recognition in our September issue.

To submit a nomination, simply provide a brief description of why this woman is deserving of recognition, along with her accomplishments and impact in her field.

Nominations will be accepted through July 20 at tulsakids.com/impactful-women-of-the-918-nominations



NEW PRIZES EVERY MONTH

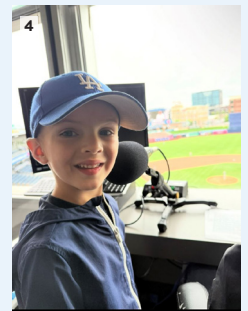
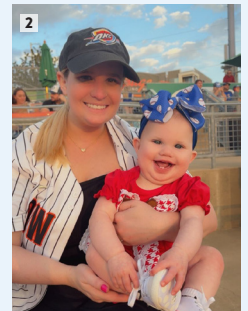
SCAN HERE to get links to all of our contests and giveaways, or visit us at tulsakids.com/contests.

WHAT'S GOING ONLINE?







TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME PHOTO CONTEST SUBMISSIONS

Thank you to everyone who entered our Take Me Out to the Ballgame Photo Contest, presented by Tulsa Drillers! Here are a few submissions:

1. Ollie, 6, and Henry, 3
2. Allison Lang and Henley Taylor
3. Beckett, 6
4. Knox Flores, 5



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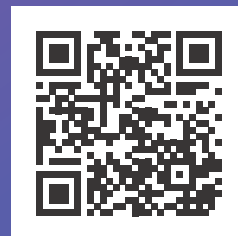
ENTER THE TULSAKIDS

Cover Kid Contest

Kids ages 2-17 are invited to enter TulsaKids' Cover Kid Contest! We will announce this year's winner in September.

ENTER July 1-15

VOTE ONCE DAILY July 16-31



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NO PLACE LIKE THIS PLACE: R.C. DICKENSON FAMILY YMCA

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ymcatulsa.org | 918.872.9622

Summer is in full swing at the R.C. Dickenson Family YMCA in Broken Arrow, where families can stay active, learn new skills and connect with their community. The Dickenson YMCA offers a full-service wellness center, a wide variety of group exercise classes and plenty of opportunities for families to stay active together. Whether you're looking to fit in a workout or spend time with friends and neighbors, there's something for everyone at the YMCA.

Swim lessons are available throughout the summer, helping children build confidence in the water while learning important safety skills that can last a lifetime. Families can also enjoy the branch's outdoor pool, a favorite summer destination for fun, fitness and cooling off on hot Oklahoma days. Youth sports registrations begin on July 18 for the upcoming season. T-ball, soccer and flag football teams will focus on skill development, teamwork, sportsmanship and fun in a supportive environment.

Mark your calendar for the Community Open House on July 18. This free event is a great opportunity to explore the facility, meet YMCA staff, enjoy family-friendly activities and discover all the ways the YMCA strengthens the Broken Arrow community. In-person discounts will be available for those signing up for sports, swim lessons and more!



Did You Know?

The YMCA offers many ways to save. Insurance-based insurance programs, financial assistance and group memberships are just a few ways that we ensure that no one is turned away for inability to pay.

- July 18: Community Open House & Parents' Night Out | R.C. Dickenson Family YMCA
- July 18: Youth Sports Registration Open
- Swim Lessons Available Throughout Summer
- July 18-26: Try the Y FREE Week - join and you get \$0 Joining Fee!

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THE VOTES ARE IN! Every year, TulsaKids readers tell us about the local businesses, destinations and professionals they count on for everything from everyday errands to life's biggest milestones.

In the pages ahead, you'll find this year's Family Favorites winners and finalists in categories ranging from Favorite Museum to Favorite Place to Have a Baby. Some are longtime favorites, while others may be new discoveries. We hope this guide helps you find a few new places to explore and celebrate the local businesses and organizations that make Tulsa such a great place to raise a family.



MEDDYS



2026 FAMILY FAVORITES WINNERS + FINALISTS



FAMILY FUN & TRAVEL



TULSA OKTOBERFEST

PHOTO BY PATRICK QUIRING

FAVORITE MUSEUM

DISCOVERY LAB

Curious kids have plenty to explore at Discovery Lab. Hands-on exhibits encourage children to build, create, experiment and discover through play. Parents appreciate that learning and fun go hand in hand. Sensory-friendly hours, birthday party rentals and summer camps add to the family fun. While you're there, stop at the Elote Cafe for a coffee, ice cream or puffy tacos.

FINALISTS

Philbrook

Woolaroc

FAVORITE LOCAL ATTRACTION

GATHERING PLACE

Gathering Place continues to top TulsaKids readers' lists of favorite places to visit. With imaginative playgrounds, trails, boats, gardens and year-round events, there's something new to discover with every trip. Best of all, admission is always free.

FINALISTS

Tulsa Zoo

Oklahoma Aquarium

FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM

OKLAHOMA CITY THUNDER

It was a thrilling year to be a Thunder fan. Oklahoma City's championship run had families across the state cheering together, whether at the Paycom Center or from the couch at home. Fast-paced basketball and exciting stars make every game fun for fans of all ages. It's easy to see why so many Oklahoma kids are growing up wearing Thunder blue. A trip to a Thunder game is an experience the whole family can enjoy.

FINALISTS

Tulsa Drillers

Tulsa Oilers Hockey

FAVORITE PLACE TO GET OUTSIDE

GATHERING PLACE

Sometimes the best family outings don't require much planning. Gathering Place offers plenty of room to climb, run, play and explore across its 100-plus acres—and TulsaKids readers agree. This is the seventh-straight year for Gathering Place to win this category. Whether spending an hour or an entire afternoon, families can always find something to do.

FINALISTS

Elam Park

Turkey Mountain

FAVORITE STATE PARK

NATURAL FALLS STATE PARK

A stunning 77-foot waterfall makes Natural Falls State Park one of Oklahoma's most scenic destinations. Hiking, picnicking and wildlife viewing give families plenty of reasons to visit throughout the year. You can even book a yurt for an unforgettable overnight adventure.

FINALISTS

Robbers Cave State Park

Keystone State Park

FAVORITE PLACE TO CAMP

ROBBERS CAVE STATE PARK

Camping at Robbers Cave is a classic Oklahoma adventure. Families can pitch a tent, park an RV or stay in a cabin while enjoying hiking, fishing and exploring the park's rugged beauty. It's a great place to unplug and enjoy the outdoors.



ROBBERS CAVE

FINALISTS

- Keystone State Park
- Sequoyah State Park

FAVORITE HOTEL

THE MAYO HOTEL

The Mayo Hotel has welcomed guests for generations and remains one of Tulsa's most iconic places to stay. Beautifully restored rooms, downtown views and a touch of history make it a popular destination for staycations and special occasions alike. The rooftop bar is a favorite spot for parents.

FINALISTS

- River Spirit Casino Resort
- Brut Hotel

FAVORITE WEEKEND GETAWAY

BRANSON, MISSOURI

Just a few hours from Tulsa, Branson makes an easy family getaway packed with fun. Spend the day riding roller coasters at Silver Dollar City or cooling off at White Water. Mini golf, go-karts, museums and plenty of family-friendly attractions mean there's something for every age to enjoy.

FINALISTS

- Broken Bow, Oklahoma
- Bentonville, Arkansas

FAVORITE PLACE TO BUY AN RV

WADE'S RV

For families dreaming of life on the open road, Wade's RV helps make those adventures possible. A wide selection of RVs gives shoppers plenty of options for weekend camping trips and cross-country vacations. With an RV, road trip season is always just around the corner.

FINALISTS

- Bob Hurley RV
- Camperland of Oklahoma

FAVORITE ENTERTAINMENT VENUE

MAIN EVENT

Bowling, laser tag, arcade games and great food all under one roof make Main Event a great choice for family fun. Whether celebrating a birthday or escaping a rainy day, there's plenty to keep everyone entertained. Parents might even get in on the competition.

FINALISTS

- Cinergy
- Andy B's

FAVORITE INDOOR PLACE TO PLAY

DISCOVERY LAB

When Oklahoma weather doesn't cooperate or it's too hot to be outside, Discovery Lab offers hours of indoor fun. Interactive exhibits encourage kids to touch, build and explore while burning energy along the way. Hands-on activities invite children to experiment, solve problems and let their imaginations run wild. Parents appreciate having a place where the whole family can play—including sliding down the tape tunnel!

FINALISTS

- Adventure Avenue
- Slick City

FAVORITE FAMILY-FRIENDLY LIVE PERFORMANCE

THE NUTCRACKER BY TULSA BALLET

For many Tulsa families, attending *The Nutcracker* is a holiday tradition. Young performers share

the stage with professional Tulsa Ballet dancers, bringing beloved roles like mice, soldiers and party guests to life. Tchaikovsky's unforgettable music, beautiful costumes and magical storytelling make it a wonderful introduction to live performance for children of all ages. It's a tradition many families look forward to each year.

FINALISTS

- Summer's Fifth Night
- Hot Toast Music Co.

FAVORITE FESTIVAL

TULSA OKTOBERFEST

Tulsa Oktoberfest brings families together for food, music, dancing and fun. From polka bands and carnival rides to apple strudel and pork schnitzel, there's something for every age to enjoy. It's a fall tradition that Tulsans have loved for 46 years.

FINALISTS

- Mayfest
- Owasso Harvest Festival



FAMILY DINING



LANNA THAI

FAVORITE PLACE TO GRAB A BURGER

BRAUM'S

An Oklahoma favorite for generations, Braum's is the go-to spot for a classic burger, fries and the best cherry limeades in town. Affordable prices and locations throughout the Tulsa area make it an easy choice for busy families.

FINALISTS

Ron's Hamburgers & Chili
Society Burger

FAVORITE PLACE TO GET PIZZA

HIDEAWAY PIZZA

Hideaway Pizza continues to be a family favorite with its creative specialty pies, generous portions and fun atmosphere. Hideaway is a great spot for big family gatherings or a quick weeknight dinner. The pizzas are legendary, but the fried mushrooms, garlic knots and lasagna are also great.

FINALISTS

Andolini's Pizzeria
East Village Bohemian Pizzeria

FAVORITE PLACE TO GET ICE CREAM

BRAUM'S

A scoop of ice cream is the perfect ending to a family outing, and TulsaKids readers say Braum's does it best. With dozens of flavors and frozen treats, there's something for everyone to enjoy. A couple of kids' favorites to try: a lime sherbet freeze or a strawberry shortcake sundae.

FINALISTS

Andy's Frozen Custard
Big Dipper Creamery

FAVORITE MEDITERRANEAN RESTAURANT

MEDDYS

Fresh ingredients and a menu with something for every appetite make Meddys a hit with families. Start with warm pita and hummus, then choose from wraps, grain bowls, shawarma and fresh salads. Don't skip the famous garlic sauce—and end the meal with a piece of baklava.

FINALISTS

It's Greek to Me
Shawkat's

FAVORITE ITALIAN RESTAURANT

MONDO'S RISTORANTE ITALIANO

Known for hearty Italian comfort food, Mondo's has built a loyal following in Tulsa. Families appreciate the generous portions and classic dishes. From baked ziti and spaghetti to chicken parmesan and homemade rolls, everyone can find a favorite.

FINALISTS

Ti Amo Ristorante
Gambill's Pastaria

FAVORITE ASIAN RESTAURANT

LANNA THAI

Lanna Thai has become a favorite destination for families craving fresh, flavorful Thai cuisine. From mild favorites for younger diners to bold, authentic dishes, the restaurant offers something for every palate. Pad Thai is always a crowd-pleaser, but the curries and fried rice dishes are worth exploring, too.

FINALISTS

Desi Wok
India Palace



LAURANNAE

FAVORITE MEXICAN RESTAURANT

MI TIERRA COCINA MEXICANA

Mi Tierra has become a family favorite for authentic flavors, friendly service and generous portions. It's the kind of place where everyone at the table can find a favorite dish, from classic Tex-Mex staples to traditional Mexican fare. Fresh chips and salsa start the meal off right, and the colorful atmosphere adds to the fun.

FINALISTS

- 918 Maples**
- El Rio Verde**

FAVORITE KID'S MEAL

CHICK-FIL-A

Chick-fil-A continues to win over families with kid-friendly meals, quick service and play areas at many locations. It's an easy choice for lunch or dinner when everyone wants something they'll enjoy. Parents appreciate the healthy sides, and kids love opening the surprise (or ice cream cone!) that comes with the meal.

FINALISTS

- Meddys**
- McAlister's Deli**

FAVORITE FAMILY MEAL DEAL

CHICK-FIL-A

When life gets busy, Chick-fil-A's family meal options make dinner simple without sacrificing quality. Convenient ordering and crowd-pleasing favorites help take the stress out of mealtime. Grab a nugget tray, waffle fries and a gallon of sweet tea, and dinner is done.

FINALISTS

- Meddys**
- Taziki's**

FAVORITE COFFEE SHOP

LAURANNAE

Laurannae offers a cozy gathering place where parents can enjoy a handcrafted coffee while kids choose from sweet treats and refreshments. The welcoming atmosphere makes it a neighborhood favorite. Pair a latte with one of the bakery's pastries or cookies for an afternoon pick-me-up.

FINALISTS

- Don't Stress Meowt**
- Doubleshot Coffee Company**

FAVORITE BREAKFAST

NEIGHBORHOOD JA.M.

Neighborhood JA.M. serves up creative breakfast and brunch favorites that appeal to diners of all ages. Bright flavors, hearty portions and a fun atmosphere make it a popular family destination. The cinnamon roll pancakes and breakfast tacos have earned plenty of fans, but it's hard to go wrong with anything on the menu.

FINALISTS

- The Big Biscuit**
- Queenies**

FAVORITE DOUGHNUTS

LIVI LEE & CO.

Livi Lee & Co. puts a fresh spin on classic doughnuts with creative flavors and beautifully crafted treats. TulsaKids readers love stopping by for a sweet breakfast or special occasion indulgence. Seasonal specialties and colorful toppings make choosing just one a challenge.

FINALISTS

- Morning Glory Donuts**
- Big Baby Rolls & Donuts**

FAVORITE FOOD TRUCK

ANDOLINI'S

Andolini's brings its popular flavors on the road, making festivals, community events and family gatherings even more delicious. TulsaKids readers appreciate the quality and convenience of grabbing a favorite meal on the go. Whether it's a slice of pizza or another Italian-inspired favorite, the food truck is always a welcome sight.

FINALISTS

- Hibachi In Tha Hood**
- El Ranchero**



FAVORITE PARTY ENTERTAINER

HOT TOAST MUSIC CO.

Hot Toast Music Co. knows how to get the party started with music and activities that keep kids engaged. Whether little ones are singing, dancing or playing along, the performances are designed to get everyone involved. It's a fun addition to birthdays and other family celebrations.

FINALISTS

- Dustin the Balloon Guy of Tulsa Balloons**
- Balloon Man Neil**

FAVORITE BIRTHDAY PARTY VENDOR

ABCO PARTY RENTALS

From tables and tents to inflatables and carnival games, ABCO Rentals has the supplies to help bring a party vision to life. Families appreciate having a one-stop shop for everything from small backyard gatherings to larger celebrations. It's a favorite for hosts who want to make party planning a little easier.

FINALISTS

- Balloon Therapy**
- Tulsa Balloons**

FAVORITE BIRTHDAY PARTY VENUE

AIM HIGH ACADEMY

Aim High Academy gives kids plenty of room to climb, jump and play while celebrating with friends. Active play and dedicated party spaces help make birthdays both fun and easy for parents to plan. Best of all, the cleanup is someone else's job.

FINALISTS

- Adventure Avenue**
- Main Event**

FAVORITE PLACE TO BUY PARTY TREATS

MERRITT'S BAKERY

No birthday party is complete without something sweet, and Merritt's Bakery has been helping Tulsa families celebrate for generations. Custom cakes and cookies can be tailored to fit any party theme. And when guests see the white Merritt's box, they know they're in for a treat.

FINALISTS

- Reasor's**
- OK Cookie Momster**

FAVORITE PLACE TO BUY BIRTHDAY GIFTS

KIDDLESTIX

Kiddlestix is a go-to destination for finding a gift that's both fun and unique. The locally owned toy store is packed with games, books, crafts and imaginative toys for kids of all ages. TulsaKids readers also love the free gift wrapping.

FINALISTS

- Tulsa Toy Depot**
- Ida Red**

FAVORITE LAWN DÉCOR

TULSA BALLOONS

Nothing says "Happy Birthday!" quite like a surprise waiting in the front yard. Tulsa Balloons helps families celebrate with festive lawn displays and colorful balloon creations that make the birthday boy or girl feel extra special. It's a fun way to kick off the festivities before the party even begins.

FINALISTS

- Card My Yard**
- SignGypsies South Tulsa**



LOOKING FOR THE PARTY VENUE IN TULSA?



BOOKING REQUEST

Celebrate life's biggest moments at Camp Loughridge, a scenic venue just minutes from Tulsa. With 188 acres of wooded hills, open spaces, and peaceful lakes, we provide the perfect setting for weddings, corporate retreats, birthday parties, receptions, and private events. Whether you're planning an elegant celebration or a team getaway, Camp Loughridge offers a beautiful natural backdrop for unforgettable experiences.



WEDDINGS



BIRTHDAYS



CORPORATE EVENTS



SHOP LOCAL



MAGIC CITY BOOKS

PHOTO BY VALERIE WEI-HAAS



TONI'S FLOWERS & GIFTS

FAVORITE PLACE TO BUY CHILDREN'S CLOTHES

ONCE UPON A CHILD

Kids seem to outgrow their clothes and shoes overnight, and Once Upon A Child helps families keep up without breaking the budget. Shoppers can find gently used clothing, shoes, toys and baby gear from popular brands, all at wallet-friendly prices. It's a smart stop for everyday essentials and special occasion outfits alike.

FINALISTS

- Rhea Lana's**
- Lolly Garden**

FAVORITE LOCALLY OWNED MOM'S BOUTIQUE

AMBER MARIE & CO.

Whether shopping for a wardrobe refresh or a special occasion, Amber Marie & Co. offers stylish clothing, accessories and gifts in a welcoming atmosphere. Seasonal décor and collections, like the MacKenzie-Childs displays, give shoppers plenty of reasons to stop in often. It's a favorite destination for treating yourself or finding the perfect gift.

FINALISTS

- J. Spencer**
- The Snow Goose**

FAVORITE CONSIGNMENT SHOP OR SALE

RHEA LANA'S

Rhea Lana's seasonal consignment events have become a tradition for many Tulsa-area families. Parents can shop for gently used children's clothing, toys, books and baby gear while saving money. It's also a great opportunity to consign outgrown items and make room for the next season.

FINALISTS

- Uptown Resale**
- The Children's Closet**
- Bearlee New Clothing**

FAVORITE LOCALLY OWNED BOOKSTORE

MAGIC CITY BOOKS

Magic City Books offers something for readers of every age, from picture books and young adult novels to bestsellers and local authors. The welcoming downtown bookstore regularly hosts author visits, story times and community events that bring book lovers together. It's a wonderful place to discover your family's next favorite read.

FINALISTS

- Gardner's Used Books & Music Book and Bloom**

FAVORITE LOCALLY OWNED GIFT SHOP

IDA RED

Need a birthday gift, Oklahoma souvenir or something just for fun? Ida Red is filled with locally inspired merchandise, quirky finds and unique gifts. Kids especially love the candy area, with nostalgic and fun finds. It's the kind of shop where it's hard to leave empty-handed.

FINALISTS

- Amber Marie & Co.**
- The Snow Goose**

FAVORITE FLORIST

TONI'S FLOWERS & GIFTS

Fresh flowers have a way of making any occasion feel a little more special, and Toni's Flowers & Gifts has been helping Tulsa families celebrate life's milestones for years. Beautiful arrangements, thoughtful gifts and friendly service make it a trusted local favorite. Whether it's a birthday, holiday or "just because" bouquet, there's something for every occasion.

FINALISTS

- Art in Bloom**
- Mary Murray's Flowers**

THANK YOU, TULSA



VOTED BEST
KID FRIENDLY
DENTIST



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Allergy**

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- Patrick C. Buchanan, DO
- Jeremy Foon, MD
- David Hall, MD
- Scott Hudson, MD
- Landon Massoth, MD
- Evan Moore, MD
- Chris Siemens, MD
- Atul Vaidya, MD



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MEDICINE



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ALL ABOUT BABY



**KATELYN HANSEN
PHOTOGRAPHY**



**ALYSSA LYONS, LEVANA
BIRTH MIDWIFERY**



FAVORITE PRENATAL/ POSTPARTUM CLASSES

BREATHE BIRTH AND WELLNESS

Preparing for a new baby can feel overwhelming, but the right classes can help parents feel more confident. Breathe Birth and Wellness offers education and support for growing families, from childbirth preparation to postpartum care. It's a welcoming space to ask questions and build connections with other parents.

FINALISTS

**Saint Francis Health System
Her Outlet**

FAVORITE PLACE TO HAVE A BABY

SAINT FRANCIS HEALTH SYSTEM

Welcoming a new baby is one of life's biggest moments, and Saint Francis Health System helps families feel supported every step of the way. Comprehensive maternity and newborn services care for both parents and babies from delivery through recovery. For newborns needing specialized care, Saint Francis is home to a Level IV neonatal intensive care unit.

FINALISTS

**Breathe Birth and Wellness
Ascension St. John**

FAVORITE MIDWIFE

ALYSSA LYONS, LEVANA BIRTH MIDWIFERY

Pregnancy and birth come with many questions, and a trusted midwife can provide guidance and support along the way. Alyssa Lyons was selected by TulsaKids readers as their favorite midwife. Families appreciate the compassionate approach and encouragement she provides throughout the journey to parenthood.

FINALISTS

**Kim Kmita, Breathe
Birth and Wellness
Karis Johnson Midwifery**

FAVORITE DOULA

HOPE HERRERA, WITH HOPE AND WITH CHILD

Doulas offer encouragement and practical support before, during and after birth, and Hope Herrera is a favorite among TulsaKids readers. Families value having a knowledgeable, calming presence to help navigate the birthing experience. Her focus on personalized care helps parents feel empowered and prepared.

FINALISTS

**Emily Bentley, Breathe
Birth and Wellness
Cheryl Wood,
A Mother's Strength**

FAVORITE PLACE TO BUY BABY GIFTS

ONCE UPON A CHILD

Shopping for a new baby is always exciting, and Once Upon A Child makes it easy to find adorable outfits, toys and baby gear at budget-friendly prices. New parents and gift-givers alike appreciate the wide selection of gently used and new items. It's a practical resource for growing families.

FINALISTS

**Lolly Garden
Kiddlestix**

FAVORITE NEWBORN PHOTOGRAPHER

KATELYN HANSEN PHOTOGRAPHY

Those first days with a new baby seem to pass in the blink of an eye, making newborn photography a treasured keepsake for many families. Katelyn Hansen Photography is known for capturing sweet moments and tiny details that parents will cherish for years to come. The result is a beautiful keepsake of baby's earliest days.

FINALISTS

**Taryn Starkey, The Photo Doula
Makenzie Howard Photography**



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Congratulations to all the Family Favorites nominees dedicated to keeping your whole family healthy.



WINNERS

- Favorite Place to Have a Baby - Saint Francis Health System
- Favorite Hospital - Saint Francis Hospital
- Orthopedist - Dr. Mark Schwartz, Saint Francis Children's Physicians
- Favorite Urgent Care - Warren Clinic Urgent Care



FINALISTS

- Family Friendly Gym - Health Zone at Saint Francis
- Pediatrician - Dr. Kyle Rock - Saint Francis Children's Physicians
- Prenatal/Postpartum Classes - Saint Francis Health System
- ENT - Dr. Steven Dyer, Warren Clinic Otolaryngology
- Allergist - Dr. Lynn Wiens, Warren Clinic Allergy and Immunology
- Family Doctor - Dr. Kathleen McGovern, Warren Clinic Family Medicine
- Family Doctor - Dr. Renee Frenier, Warren Clinic South Memorial



Saint Francis
Children's Hospital

Hospital | Clinics | Physicians



EDUCATION

FAVORITE CHILDCARE GRANNY & DOT'S

Granny & Dot's earns this year's top honor for providing a warm, nurturing environment where children can learn and grow. Families appreciate the caring staff, engaging activities and focus on helping children build confidence and independence from an early age.

FINALISTS

Primrose School of Broken Arrow

Chapman Child Learning Center

FAVORITE PRESCHOOL MONTE CASSINO

A longtime Tulsa favorite, Monte Cassino combines strong academics with hands-on learning and character development. Parents value the welcoming community and the school's commitment to helping young learners develop a love of discovery.

FINALISTS

The Kirk Preschool

Parkview Weekday Preschool

FAVORITE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MONTE CASSINO

Small class sizes, dedicated teachers and a challenging curriculum help Monte Cassino stand out among

Tulsa-area elementary schools. Families appreciate the balance of academic excellence, faith formation and opportunities for students to grow as leaders.

FINALISTS

Metro Christian Academy

Miss Helen's Private School

FAVORITE MIDDLE SCHOOL MONTE CASSINO

The middle school years are a time of tremendous growth, and Monte Cassino gives students opportunities to explore new interests while building academic confidence. Readers praised the school's supportive environment and experienced faculty.

FINALISTS

Metro Christian Academy

Holland Hall

FAVORITE HIGH SCHOOL METRO CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Metro Christian Academy takes the top spot for high school, offering rigorous academics, athletics, fine arts and opportunities for students to develop their faith and leadership skills. Families appreciate the close-knit community and focus on preparing students for college and beyond.

FINALISTS

Bishop Kelley

Cascia Hall

FAVORITE CHARTER SCHOOL TULSA CLASSICAL ACADEMY

Tulsa Classical Academy continues to earn praise for its classical liberal arts curriculum and emphasis on critical thinking and character development. Families value the school's commitment to cultivating knowledgeable, thoughtful and engaged citizens.

FINALISTS

Tulsa School of Arts and Sciences

Epic Charter Schools

FAVORITE VIRTUAL SCHOOL BROKEN ARROW VIRTUAL ACADEMY

Broken Arrow Virtual Academy gives students and families the flexibility of online learning while maintaining strong academic expectations and support. Readers recognize the program for helping students succeed in a learning environment tailored to their individual needs.

FINALISTS

Epic Charter Schools

Tulsa Virtual Academy



Granny & Dot's
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TULSAKIDS Family Favorites 2026 FINALIST

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PHILBROOK

ENRICHMENT

FAVORITE SUMMER DAY CAMP CAMP LOUGHRIDGE

Summer camp is a chance to make friends, try new activities and enjoy the outdoors. Camp Loughridge offers a mix of classic camp adventures like archery, canoeing and arts and crafts, along with the thrill of soaring across the zip line. It's a place where campers can unplug, build confidence and make the most of summer.

FINALISTS

YMCA of Greater Tulsa
Camp Monte

FAVORITE SUMMER OVERNIGHT CAMP NEW LIFE RANCH

A week away at camp can build independence and confidence while creating lifelong friendships. New Life Ranch gives campers opportunities to explore the outdoors, tackle new challenges and enjoy classic camp traditions. It's an experience many families look forward to year after year.

FINALISTS

Camp Tallchief, Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma
Shepherd's Fold Ranch

FAVORITE YOUTH THEATRE CLARK YOUTH THEATRE

Whether they're center stage or behind the scenes, young performers gain valuable skills through theatre. Clark Youth Theatre gives children opportunities to build confidence, creativity and teamwork while putting on memorable productions. It's a place where a love

of the arts can flourish.

FINALISTS

Theatre Tulsa Academy
Theatre Arts

FAVORITE GYMNASTICS/CHEER AIM HIGH ACADEMY

Flips, tumbles and big smiles are all part of the fun at Aim High Academy. Kids can build strength, coordination and confidence while learning new skills in a positive environment. Classes and programs are available for a variety of ages and abilities.

FINALISTS

The Little Gym of SE Tulsa
Pride Gymnastics Academy

FAVORITE DANCE STUDIO MISS SHELLY'S SCHOOL OF DANCE

Dance classes help children express themselves while developing discipline and confidence. Miss Shelly's School of Dance offers instruction in a variety of styles for dancers of all ages and experience levels. Recitals and performances give students a chance to showcase their hard work.

FINALISTS

Destiny Dance
Dance Dynamics

FAVORITE MARTIAL ARTS STUDIO MARTIAL ARTS ADVANTAGE

Martial arts teaches much more than kicks and punches. At Martial Arts Advantage, students build confidence,

focus and self-discipline while staying active and having fun. The supportive atmosphere helps children work toward personal goals both on and off the mat.

FINALISTS

Apollo's Martial Arts
Golden Dragon Taekwondo

FAVORITE PLACE TO LEARN SOCCER

SOCCERCITY TULSA

Learning the fundamentals of soccer should be fun, and SoccerCity Tulsa gives young players plenty of opportunities to develop their skills. Programs focus on teamwork, sportsmanship and building confidence along with the game itself. It's a great place for beginners and experienced players alike.

FINALISTS

YMCA of Greater Tulsa
i9 Sports
Soccer Shots

FAVORITE SOCCER CLUB

METRO TULSA SOCCER CLUB

For families looking for competitive soccer opportunities, Metro Tulsa Soccer Club continues to be a reader favorite. Players can develop their skills while learning the value of teamwork, commitment and perseverance. The club has helped generations of young athletes grow both on and off the field.

FINALISTS

Broken Arrow Soccer Club
Tulsa Soccer Club



**SOCCERCITY
TULSA**

FAVORITE MUSIC PROGRAM/LESSONS

SCHOOL OF ROCK

Music lessons become even more exciting when students have the chance to perform. School of Rock combines individual instruction with group rehearsals, helping young musicians build skills and confidence. Playing with a band makes learning fun and rewarding.

FINALISTS

Anthem Road Academy

Brie Jones Institute of Music

FAVORITE ART PROGRAM/LESSONS

PHILBROOK

Art classes encourage creativity and self-expression while introducing children to new ideas and techniques. Philbrook offers programs that inspire young artists through hands-on projects and creative exploration. The beautiful museum setting makes the experience even more memorable.

FINALISTS

Arts@302

Tiny Art Garage

FAVORITE SWIM LESSONS

MILLER SWIM SCHOOL

Learning to swim is an important life skill for Oklahoma kids. Miller Swim School helps children build confidence and water safety skills while making lessons enjoyable. Parents appreciate the patient instruction and supportive environment.

FINALISTS

YMCA of Greater Tulsa

Savvy Swimmers

FAVORITE TUTORING

LAVENDER'S BLEU READING TUTORING CENTER

A little extra academic support can make a big difference in a child's confidence. Lavender's Bleu Reading Tutoring Center helps students strengthen reading skills while encouraging a love of learning. Personalized instruction helps children grow at their own pace.

FINALISTS

Mathnasium

Kumon

FAVORITE PLACE FOR STORYTIME

TULSA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY

Storytime is about so much more than books. Tulsa City-County Library brings families together for songs, stories and activities that encourage early literacy and a love of reading. From babies to preschoolers, TCCL librarians use books, music and movement to help children learn while having fun.

FINALISTS

Gathering Place

Philbrook

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FAMILY LIFE



KUTS 4 KIDS BY MR. WILL



PLAY & LEARN, YMCA OF GREATER TULSA

FAVORITE FAMILY-FRIENDLY GYM **YMCA OF GREATER TULSA**

With 15 Tulsa-area locations, the YMCA of Greater Tulsa is so much more than a place to hit your fitness goals. Beyond group fitness classes and personal training, the YMCA offers youth and adult sports programs, childcare, community health initiatives, summer camps and much more.

FINALISTS

- Life Time**
- Health Zone at Saint Francis**

FAVORITE HAIR SALON **KUTS 4 KIDS BY MR. WILL**

Some kids approach haircuts with trepidation – but Kuts 4 Kids by Mr. Will makes the process painless and fun! Mr. Will's youngest clients can sit in chairs styled to look like planes and automobiles while they get their hair trimmed. And long-time fans may be glad to know that the business now offers adult cuts and beard services.

FINALISTS

- Chloe's A Salon for Kids**
- Sharkey's Cuts for Kids**

FAVORITE CAR DEALERSHIP **BILL KNIGHT FORD**

Whether you're looking for a new family vehicle, a work truck or

something sporty like the classic Ford Mustang, Bill Knight Ford offers a wide selection of new and used vehicles along with on-site service and maintenance.

FINALISTS

- Jim Norton Toyota**
- Nelson Nissan**

FAVORITE CHILDCARE SERVICE **PLAY & LEARN, YMCA OF GREATER TULSA**

It can be hard for parents to find time to work out, but the YMCA of Greater Tulsa's Play & Learn program greatly reduces barriers for busy families, as members can enjoy up to two hours of supervised care for children ages 6 weeks to 12 years old when they work out.

FINALISTS

- The Nanny Connection & Co.**
- E-Nanny**

FAVORITE DATE NIGHT RESTAURANT

BULL IN THE ALLEY

Bull In The Alley's air of mystery starts with a visit to its website, where you'll find a phone number for reservations but little else. This speakeasy-styled steak house invites guests to enter through a nondescript alleyway door in downtown Tulsa, hiding the luxurious restaurant beyond. According to

reviews, standout menu items include the porterhouse steak, hand-cut bacon and wedge salad. Leave room for dessert!

FINALISTS

- Mahogany Prime Steakhouse**
- Mondo's Ristorante Italian**

FAVORITE PLACE FOR A GIRLS' NIGHT OUT

PINOT'S PALETTE

Pinot's Palette invites you to create memories – along with a hand-painted, tangible souvenir to take home. While Pinot's Palette was voted Favorite Place for a Girls' Night Out – and does host frequent Ladies Nights – it also offers private parties for kids and adults, family painting and date night events, and even art camps.

FINALISTS

- Waters Edge Winery & Bistro**
- Vintage Wine Bar**

FAVORITE LOCAL BREWERY

NOTHING'S LEFT BREWING CO.

Nothing's Left Brewing Co. brings an air of playfulness to its menu, with creative concoctions like beer slushies and alcoholic soft serve in addition to high-quality beer like the Luchador Lunch (a Mexican lager) and the Strawberry Blonde wheat beer.



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FINALISTS

Cabin Boys Brewery
American Solera

FAVORITE BANK/CREDIT UNION

TTCU FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Originally founded as Tulsa Teachers Credit Union in 1934, TTCU Federal Credit Union was created to help educators during the Great Depression. Today, the not-for-profit financial institution serves more than 153,000 members while continuing its commitment to the community.

FINALISTS

Bank of Oklahoma
Arvest

FAVORITE LAW FIRM

DRISKELL LAW FIRM

Founded by Courtney Driskell, Driskell Law Firm specializes in family law and juvenile deprived cases, helping children and caregivers navigate difficult circumstances. Inspired by her volunteer work with CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children), Driskell attended law school as a single mother working full time and continues to support local families through Tulsa Lawyers for Children.

FINALISTS

Barrow and Grimm
The Price Law Firm

FAVORITE DRY CLEANING

YALE CLEANERS

Yale Cleaners is a third- and fourth-generation family business established in 1944. With an "in-by-12, out-by-5" same-day service guarantee, Yale makes things easy for customers by offering drive-thru dry cleaning, a 24-hour drop box, a transparent pricing list and more.

FINALISTS

Brookside Cleaners
Fox Cleaners

FAVORITE PLANT NURSERY

SOUTHWOOD LANDSCAPE & GARDEN CENTER

When it's time to beautify their yard or brighten up their garden, Tulsa families turn to Southwood Landscape & Garden Center. Plus, you'll find an impressive variety of home décor and even apparel as well. Follow Southwood on social media so you stay in-the-know about special seasonal events, like the recent Pollinator Festival.

FINALISTS

A New Leaf
Sanders Nursery

BILL KNIGHT FORD

Thank You
FOR VOTING US YOUR
Favorite Car Dealership



WOODLAND WEST PET RESORT

MUDDY PAWS



PETS

**FAVORITE VETERINARIAN
WOODLAND WEST ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

Regular veterinary care helps pets stay healthy through every stage of life. Woodland West Animal Hospital offers a wide range of services, from wellness exams and vaccinations to advanced medical care. Compassionate staff and a commitment to quality care have made it a favorite among Tulsa-area families.

FINALISTS

- Catoosa Small Animal Hospital**
- Tulsa Animal Urgent Care**

FAVORITE DOG GROOMING BUSINESS

MUDDY PAWS

A trip to the groomer can help dogs look and feel their best. Muddy Paws offers bathing, grooming and

pampering services to keep pets clean and comfortable. Another great thing: Muddy Paws is part of the nonprofit Pets Helping People that works with women with felony convictions to become dog groomers.

FINALISTS

- Dog 4 Dog Grooming**
- Woodland West Pet Resort**

FAVORITE PLACE TO BOARD YOUR PET

WOODLAND WEST PET RESORT

When families travel, they want to know their pets are in good hands. Woodland West Pet Resort provides a safe and comfortable place for dogs and cats to stay while their owners are away. Spacious accommodations and attentive care help give pet owners peace of mind.

FINALISTS

- Camp Bow Wow**
- Catoosa Small Animal Hospital**

FAVORITE PLACE TO BUY PET SUPPLIES

SOUTHERN AGRICULTURE

Whether shopping for pet food, treats, toys or supplies, Southern Agriculture has become a favorite spot for Tulsa-area pet owners. The locally owned store carries products for dogs, cats and a variety of other animals, making it convenient for pet owners. Knowledgeable staff can help families find the right products for their pets' needs.

FINALISTS

- Dog Dish**
- Three Dog Bakery**



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Thank You, Tulsa!

Jaye Bea Downs, DO

Favorite ENT

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HEALTH & WELLNESS



DR. STEPHEN GROVES, HIS VISION EYE CARE AND EYE WEAR

FAVORITE PEDIATRICIAN

DR. UMANG SOOD, BIRTH & BEYOND PEDIATRICS

From newborn visits to sports physicals, pediatricians help guide children through every stage of growth and development. TulsaKids readers chose Dr. Umang Sood for compassionate care and a family-centered approach. Dr. Sood is known for building lasting relationships with patients and parents alike.

FINALISTS

Dr. Kyle Rock, Saint Francis Children's Physicians Pediatrics

Dr. Sarah Hayden, Utica Pediatrics

FAVORITE FAMILY DOCTOR

DR. CHELSEY GRIFFIN, OSU MEDICINE

A trusted family doctor can care for patients through many of life's milestones. Dr. Chelsey Griffin was recognized by TulsaKids readers for providing personalized care for individuals and families. Her ability to take time to listen and answer questions helps patients feel comfortable and cared for.

FINALISTS

Dr. Kathleen McGovern, Warren Clinic Family Medicine

Dr. Renee Frenier, Warren Clinic South Memorial

FAVORITE OB/GYN

DR. SARAH SHEPHERD, OB/GYN SPECIALISTS OF TULSA

From annual wellness visits to pregnancy and beyond, OB/GYNs provide care through many important stages of life. TulsaKids readers selected Dr. Sarah Shepherd for her compassionate approach and commitment to women's health. Patients appreciate having a trusted partner for their healthcare journey.

FINALISTS

Dr. Cole Nilson, Tulsa Women's Health Care

Dr. Cate Hildebrand, OB/GYN Specialists of Tulsa

FAVORITE EYE DOCTOR

DR. STEPHEN GROVES, HIS VISION EYE CARE AND EYE WEAR

Regular eye exams play an important role in a child's learning and development. Dr. Stephen Groves specializes in pediatrics, including working with premature infants and children with neurodevelopmental conditions. His patients' families know him for his comprehensive care and excellence.

FINALISTS

RoseRock Eyecare

Dr. Andrea Dudley, Primary Eye Care Associates

FAVORITE KID-FRIENDLY DENTIST

DR. STEPHANIE BROWN, LITTLE TOOTH CO.

A positive dental experience can help children develop healthy habits that last a lifetime. TulsaKids readers appreciate Dr. Stephanie Brown's welcoming approach to caring for young patients. Creating a comfortable environment helps make dental visits less stressful for kids and parents alike.

FINALISTS

On the Cusp Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics

Morrow, Lai and Kitterman

FAVORITE ORTHODONTIST

COOPER AND MISNER ORTHODONTICS

A confident smile starts with quality orthodontic care. Cooper and Misner Orthodontics helps children, teens and adults navigate treatment options in a supportive environment. Families appreciate the personal attention and commitment to patient care.

FINALISTS

Dr. Kelly Klontz, On the Cusp Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics

Dr. Clint Emerson, Emerson Orthodontics



**DR. UMANG SOOD,
BIRTH & BEYOND
PEDIATRICS**



**DR. SARAH SHEPHERD,
OB/GYN SPECIALISTS
OF TULSA**

FAVORITE ALLERGIIST

EASTERN OKLAHOMA ENT

Seasonal allergies and other conditions can affect the whole family. Eastern Oklahoma ENT provides evaluation and treatment options to help patients better manage allergy symptoms. For Tulsans, it is experienced care close to home.

FINALISTS

Dr. James Love, Allergy Clinic of Tulsa

Dr. Lynn Wiens, Warren Clinic Allergy and Immunology

FAVORITE ENT

DR. ATUL VAIDYA, EASTERN OKLAHOMA ENT

Ear, nose and throat specialists help patients with a variety of common childhood and adult health concerns. TulsaKids readers recognized Dr. Atul Vaidya for compassionate care and attention to patients' needs.

FINALISTS

Dr. Jaye Bea Downs, Ear, Nose and Throat Specialists of Tulsa

Dr. Steven Dyer, Warren Clinic Otolaryngology

FAVORITE PLACE FOR PEDIATRIC THERAPY

TULSA SUNSHINE CENTER

Every child develops at their own pace, and sometimes a little extra support can make a big difference. Tulsa Sunshine Center provides pediatric therapy services designed to help children build skills and confidence while reaching their individual goals. Families appreciate the caring approach and encouragement offered every step of the way.

FINALISTS

Elite Pediatric Therapy

Together Just

FAVORITE MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDER

LAUREATE PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC AND HOSPITAL

Mental health is an important part of overall wellness for children and adults alike. Laureate Psychiatric Clinic and Hospital offers a variety of services to support individuals and families through life's challenges. TulsaKids readers value compassionate care and access to resources.

FINALISTS

Family & Children's Services

Counseling and Recovery Services

FAVORITE CHIROPRACTOR

DR. CASSIDY MEREDITH, THRIVE CHIROPRACTIC

Many families include chiropractic care as part of their wellness routine. TulsaKids readers selected Dr. Cassidy Meredith for a patient-focused approach and commitment to individualized care. Dr. Meredith specializes in prenatal care and care for mothers and their children. She is a third-generation chiropractor.

FINALISTS

Free Spirit Chiropractic

Dr. Casey Flickinger, Ochsner Chiropractic

FAVORITE ORTHOPEDIST

DR. MARK SCHWARTZ, SAINT FRANCIS CHILDREN'S PHYSICIANS

From sports injuries to broken bones, orthopedic specialists help keep active kids moving.

TulsaKids readers recognized Dr. Mark Schwartz for compassionate care and dedication to young patients. Families appreciate expert guidance through recovery and rehabilitation.

FINALISTS

Dr. Brent Dressler, Tulsa Bone & Joint

Dr. Jason Griffin, Tulsa Bone & Joint

FAVORITE URGENT CARE

WARREN CLINIC URGENT CARE

When unexpected illnesses and minor injuries happen, families appreciate having convenient care nearby. Warren Clinic Urgent Care provides walk-in services for a variety of everyday health concerns. Quick access to care helps parents get their families back on track.

FINALISTS

Tulsa Pediatric Urgent Care

PediStat

FAVORITE HOSPITAL

SAINT FRANCIS HOSPITAL

Hospitals play an important role in caring for families through both routine and unexpected health needs. TulsaKids readers selected Saint Francis Hospital for its broad range of services and long history of serving the community. Saint Francis has provided healthcare to Tulsans since opening in 1960. For families, Saint Francis offers specialized services including a Level IV neonatal intensive care unit, a dedicated children's hospital and a pediatric emergency center.

FINALISTS

Ascension St. John

Oklahoma Surgical Hospital

**THE
INCREDIBLE
DOCTOR
UMANG SOOD!**

WE JOKE THAT I'M YOUR FRIENDLY
NEIGHBORHOOD
PEDIATRICIAN...



BUT THE REAL
SUPERHEROES ARE THE
PARENTS DOING THE HARD
WORK EVERY DAY --



-- AND THEIR AMAZING
"SIDE KIDS" WHO MAKE
LIFE SO VIBRANT.

THANK YOU,
TULSA FAMILIES,
FOR VOTING ME
BEST PEDIATRICIAN

IT'S AN HONOR TO
STAND IN YOUR
CORNER, PROTECT
YOUR LITTLE ONES,
AND CELEBRATE
THEIR VICTORIES
WITH YOU.



WHERE'S MY
SUPER SOOD!?

BIRTH & BEYOND
PEDIATRICS P.C.



Winner Favorite Preschool
Winner Favorite Elementary School
Winner Favorite Middle School
Winner Summer Camp Finalist

Come see why!!!



Small Class Sizes
Robust Curriculum
Exemplary Educators
Strong Student Support
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A Light in the Night

What began as an 8-year-old's wish has grown into a weekly outreach serving hundreds of Tulsa neighbors.

Story and Photos by **Art Haddaway**



Longtime Night Light guest and volunteer Adairia Watts pauses to talk with lead volunteer Ben Grounds under the Maybelle Avenue and Reconciliation Way downtown bridge.



LEFT Sarah Grounds and her son, Ben Grounds, lead Night Light Tulsa, a local outreach that offers warm meals, basic essentials, and heartfelt connections to those who are experiencing homelessness in the area.

For Sarah and Ben Grounds, building bridges starts underneath one.

The mother-son duo can be found serving Tulsa's homeless community under the Maybelle Avenue and Reconciliation Way downtown bridge every Thursday evening.

They lead Night Light Tulsa, a local outreach that offers warm meals, basic essentials and heartfelt connections — rain or shine — to those who are experiencing homelessness in the area.

The idea for the program, launched in September 2013, was sparked by an early birthday wish Ben made to see lives changed in his community. Turning 8 years old at the time, the philanthropic third-grader set out to make his dream come true and started a meal distribution line with his mom to feed their neighbors in need.

"I just wanted to help people out; my parents instilled that into me

from a very young age," Ben, now 21, said. "I just remember really enjoying seeing everybody's smiles as we gave them the food, and just seeing how much they appreciated people talking to them. ... It felt really good."

"He's always had a heart for others," Sarah said of her son. "That early investment in our kids leaning into community in ways that they can serve, it's been really cool as a parent to be able to watch that."

Fast-forward to 2026, Ben's vision — paired with his mom's passion and leadership — has evolved into one of Tulsa's foremost homeless outreaches impacting thousands of lives throughout the region since its inception.

Each week, Night Light provides a range of resources for guests, including warm meals and snacks; clothing such as socks, underwear, pants and shirts; hygienic items like soap,

shampoo, sunscreen and dental supplies; and even footwashings and haircuts — a service that Carlos Urosa Jr. is grateful for.

"It's pretty nice because it makes you look fresher," the 11-year-old Tulsan said of the routine trim he gets from the on-site barber.

He and his disabled father, Carlos Urosa Sr., have been visiting Night Light every week for the last three years, and always walk away with not only fresh cuts but with clean garments, "because when you need clothes, it's just good," the boy added.

Shayla Muttart and her 5-year-old son, Ethan Muttart, started showing up under the bridge in mid-April after a move from Oregon in March left them displaced and in need of support.

"We're here for the food; we're hungry," Shayla said. "There's good people and it's a good experience."

"More popcorn and burgers!" Ethan exclaimed.

The Urosas and Muttarts are among the 300 to 350 guests of all ages and walks of life who come through Night Light to receive assistance from a team of around 70 to 100 dedicated volunteers every Thursday evening.

The staff's influence goes beyond meeting people's basic needs, however. Volunteers offer emotional and spiritual support through prayer, case management and conversations that continue to draw growing turnout at the downtown underpass.

In 2025, Night Light mobilized 5,666 volunteers to serve 10,910 guests and distribute 19,280 meals over 48 weeks in operation—a testament to the program's ongoing impact.

Adairia Watts, 77, is a longtime participant of the program and has stood at both ends of the



NIGHT LIGHT BY THE NUMBERS

5,666
volunteers
in 2025

10,910
guests
served

19,280
meals
distributed

300+
guests each
Thursday

70+
volunteers
weekly



How to Get Involved with Night Light Tulsa

Want to help? Night Light Tulsa welcomes volunteers of all ages each Thursday evening under the Maybelle Avenue bridge. Individuals, families and groups can jump in to serve meals, sort donations, hand out supplies or simply spend time talking with guests.

No long-term commitment is required — many volunteers show up once, while others return weekly.

WHEN: Thursdays, 6:30–9:30 p.m.

WHERE: 202 N. Maybelle Ave., Tulsa

WHO CAN HELP: All ages (children with a parent or guardian)

Donations are also needed year-round, including socks, underwear, hygiene items and ready-to-serve food.

Learn more or sign up at
citylightsok.org

serving and receiving lines since her first walkthrough 11 years ago. Previously unhoused, volunteering has brought her full circle to help those who walk in her former footsteps.

“I was homeless for two years eating out of garbage cans,” said Adairia, who regularly prays and talks with guests. “I’m here because I have compassion for who I once was.”

What started as a small initiative to feed a few hungry people like Adairia quickly turned into a community-wide movement that became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in December 2015 as City Lights Foundation of Oklahoma.

Night Light is now one of four core programs operating under the foundation, along with Mobile Outreach, bringing life-saving care and emergency shelter to neighbors in crisis; Housing Stability, providing ongoing support to help neighbors maintain

stable and dignified homes; and City Lights Village, restoring stability and hope through safe, long-term housing.

Beyond Night Light, the foundation’s three other sister campaigns served around 560 additional neighbors through mobile pop-ups and residential provisions in 2025. The organization also raised over \$21.5 million for its new 23-acre, 75-home affordable housing development under construction in north Tulsa.

“It’s really a beautiful thing,” Sarah Grounds said of those helped by the City Lights Foundation. “It’s been life-changing for me, in the way that I see our neighbors, and the way that I have been able to raise my kids, and just in the places that we’ve really made an impact.”

Ben, lead volunteer, added: “It’s really cool to see how big it’s grown and how many more people get served, even outside

of Night Light. It just means a lot to me to see progress in these people’s lives.”

What’s more, that progress is especially evident in the lives of Tulsa’s younger generation. Children like Carlos and Ethan get to experience firsthand how the foundation — rooted in Night Light’s early grassroots efforts — is restoring the community one relationship at a time.

“Kids have such a different lens than us,” Sarah said. “I love having them out there because it really challenges us as adults to see the humanity in each other instead of just developing our own opinions of what somebody might have went through.”

Ben added: “They (children) can make a difference in somebody’s life. I think teaching kids what right and wrong is, where their value should be in helping others, is super important.”

Kids and adults of all ages are welcome to visit or volunteer at Night Light, which is celebrating 13 years of service this September.

Donations and sponsorship opportunities are also available for the foundation, including the nonprofit’s \$26.1 million fundraising campaign for City Lights Village, which broke ground in the 1500 block of East 46th Street North last June. Just over \$4.6 million is left to be raised.

Night Light partners with Grand Mental Health, Family & Children’s Services, OU Medical Street Outreach, Feeding the Pets of Tulsa’s Homeless and A Way Home For Tulsa.

Art Haddaway is a journalist and photographer with over 20 years of experience covering a wide range of subjects, with a passion for telling uplifting stories that highlight the best in people and communities.

MILLER SWIM SCHOOL



What is water competency?

Water competency is more than learning swim strokes — it's the ability to stay safer and respond confidently in real-world water situations. According to our partner, the National Drowning Prevention Alliance, nearly 70% of drownings happen during non-swim times, such as family gatherings, playing near water or everyday outdoor activities. That's why Miller focuses on teaching true water competency, not just swimming technique. Through consistent, skill-based lessons, swimmers build confidence, safety awareness and the ability to respond calmly if the unexpected happens.

Water competency includes essential skills like safely entering the water, floating, controlling breathing, rolling onto the back, swimming short distances and exiting the water independently. These are life-saving skills that help children move toward safety in real emergencies. At Miller Swim School, lessons begin as early as 4 months old and progress through our S.A.F.E.R. Swimmer Promise, helping swimmers develop real-world water safety skills over time.

While no child is ever completely risk-free around water, consistent swim lessons can make a meaningful difference. Every lesson helps build confidence, strengthen safety skills and prepare children for a lifetime of safer experiences in and around the water.

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MillerSwimSchool.com

DENTAL DEPOT



How can parents help children who are anxious or afraid of going to the dentist?

Stay calm and positive; children pick up on parental anxiety quickly. Avoid using words like “hurt” or “shot,” and instead frame visits as routine and helpful. Reading books about dental visits or doing pretend checkups at home can also help. Dental Depot offices are designed to be welcoming, and we're trained to work gently with nervous kids.

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GRAND MENTAL HEALTH



How can summer be used to help children build confidence and independence before the school year begins?

Summer offers a unique opportunity for children to strengthen confidence and independence in ways that aren't always possible during the school year. With fewer academic demands, kids can explore who they are, what they enjoy and what they're capable of. These are key components of healthy emotional development.

Parents can support this growth by encouraging age-appropriate responsibility. Simple tasks like managing a small allowance, helping plan a family outing or taking ownership of a personal project allow children to practice decision-making and problem-solving. These experiences build self-trust and resilience.

Summer is also a great time for children to explore interests without the pressure to perform. Whether it's art, music, sports, reading or helping in the kitchen, pursuing activities for enjoyment rather than achievement helps children develop intrinsic motivation and a stronger sense of identity.

Equally important is allowing room for safe mistakes. When children try new things and don't succeed right away, supportive guidance helps them learn perseverance rather than fear failure.

View summer as a confidence-building season. When children feel capable and supported, they return to school better equipped emotionally and socially for the year ahead.

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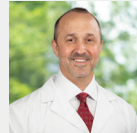
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When Your Child Needs Surgery



Q&A with

Dr. Barry Berch

MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF PEDIATRIC SURGERY,
SAINT FRANCIS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

What's the first thing you'd tell a parent when they find out their child needs surgery?

First, recognize that fear is normal. A big part of what we do at a children's hospital is help put parents and children at ease during a difficult time. We explain what's about to happen, talk through the surgery and recovery, and help families know what to expect. Everything around us is designed to make children and their parents more comfortable.

What are some common mistakes parents should avoid?

One common mistake is assuming it doesn't matter where a child receives care. Children's healthcare is profoundly different from adult healthcare. Children's anatomy, illnesses and surgical conditions are different, so it's important to seek out pediatricians, pediatric specialists and children's hospitals that are specifically trained to care for kids.

It's also important to remember that surgery isn't just about the surgeon. It takes an entire team, including pediatric anesthesiologists, nurses, surgical staff, child life specialists and recovery teams who care for children every day.

What should parents do when preparing for surgery?

Do your due diligence. Make sure you're going to a children's healthcare system that's set up to care for kids. Learn about the credentials and training of the providers caring for your child, and don't assume every facility provides the same level of pediatric care.

What makes a children's hospital different?

Children's hospitals have specialized services and equipment designed for patients of every age and size, from newborns to teenagers. One of the most valuable resources is child life services, which help reduce fear and anxiety through play, education and emotional support.

We also have equipment specifically designed for children. Whether it's IV supplies, anesthesia equipment or surgical instruments, having the right size equipment for every child makes a big difference in their care.

If parents have time to ask questions before surgery, what should they ask?

Parents should feel comfortable asking about a surgeon's training and credentials. Board certification and specialized pediatric training help ensure children receive the best possible care. Children's healthcare is different enough that it's important to know the people caring for your child have the right experience.

How is pain managed after surgery?

One of the surprising things about children is that they often recover very well. For many surgeries, pain can be managed with simple measures like Tylenol or ibuprofen. Parents being present, holding, swaddling and comforting their children also plays a big role in pain control.

We try to avoid narcotics whenever possible. Most children go home with over-the-counter pain medications rather than prescription narcotics.

What would you like parents to know about recovery after surgery?

Recovery is another area where a children's hospital makes a difference. It's not just the operation itself but the team of nurses and specialists who teach families how to care for their child afterward. Having people who do this every day helps families feel confident and supports better outcomes.

What's the one piece of advice you'd leave with parents?

Take your child's health concerns seriously and trust your instincts. Parents know their children, and their observations are incredibly important. Make sure your voice is heard by your child's healthcare providers, and if surgery is needed, make sure your child is receiving care from a team that specializes in children.

For the complete interview, visit TulsaKids.com

If you have questions for a Saint Francis Children's Physicians provider to answer, please email editor@tulsakids.com



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WICHITA | KANSAS

Change Is Good, Change Is Hard

Books to help your child (and you!) with transitions, big and small.

By **Laura Raphael**, MA, MLIS, former Children's Services Coordinator

With **Kristina Acosta**, MLIS, current Children's Services Coordinator, Tulsa City-County Library



Hello, I must be going!

After 25 years in public libraries—including 22 at Tulsa City-County Library and 10 as Children's Services Coordinator—I'm retiring. It's been a wonderful ride, and I've loved contributing to the "Books" column for TulsaKids since 2014.

But it's time for a change, so you'll be seeing a new name in these pages: the brilliant Kristina Acosta, former Youth Librarian of the Herman and Kate Kaiser Library, and when you read this, the new Children's Services Coordinator for TCCL. (See "Welcome, Ms. Kristina!" below!)

In honor of this enormous transition, I wanted my final column to gather book titles about change in children's lives—and how to use books to help your child handle the inevitable changes, big and small, in their lives.



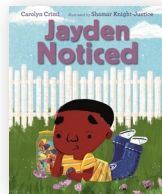
No More Señora Mimi
written by Meg Medina, illustrated by Brittany Cicchese

When Ana's abuela comes to stay with her family, she can hardly contain herself! But it quickly dawns on her that, with this new addition, she will need to say goodbye to her beloved babysitter, Señora Mimi. This quiet story deftly captures the bitter-sweet nature of welcoming something new and wonderful while bidding adieu to something old and just as wonderful.



Goodbye, Friend! Hello, Friend!
written and illustrated by Cori Doerrfeld

The paradox of goodbyes followed by hellos is the crux of this generous and gentle picture book. It uses the simple construct of "Goodbye to [one thing]...is hello to [another thing]" – for example: "Goodbye to snowmen . . . / . . . is hello to puddles!" Try using this with your child in similar situations. Goodbye, cereal bowl...hello, full tummy!; Goodbye, shoes and socks...hello, free toes!



Jayden Noticed
written by Carolyn Crimi, illustrated by Shamar Knight-Justice

Noticing and wondering are great ways to handle change. The main character of this lovely little book, Jayden, is able to soften the pain of moving to a new house by paying attention to things like the moon, spiderwebs, rose petals and rocks. Along the way, he might just make a friend who notices as much as he does.



Caterpillar Chryzzle
written by Andrew Bond, illustrated by Julie Völk

The natural world is full of changes, beautiful changes, including "chryz-zaling"! Follow a caterpillar's changes to becoming a butterfly with beautiful water-color illustrations and poetic rhymes.

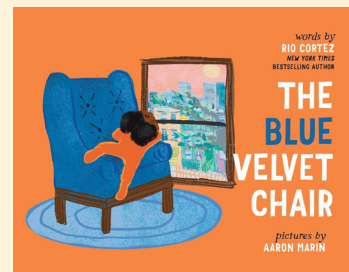


Kitty vs. Kindergarten
written by Martha Freeman, illustrated by Eda Kaban

Kitty gets yanked from his comfortable world and into a classroom where he must adapt. Fortunately, he discovers that being the star of Show and Tell isn't bad at all. A perfect story to share with a child going to school (especially kindergarten!) for the first time.

WELCOME, MS. KRISTINA!

My name is Kristina Acosta, and I am the new Children's Services Coordinator for the Tulsa City-County Library! I have worked for the library system for the past five years. Before that, I was a middle-school English teacher for several years. I have lived in Tulsa for the past eight years but am originally from Tennessee. I have my own Tulsa kid, a 9-year-old son who loves all things silly and graphic novels!



I am so excited for the next chapter of my career. Change can be hard, but it can also be very fun! One of my favorite books about change is **The Blue Velvet Chair** by Rio Cortez. It is a story told from the point of view of a young girl and her mother in their cozy apartment as they discuss time and the natural aspect of change through the observations of the seasons and nature. It's a great way to begin discussing how change is normal and, while it may be difficult or stressful at times, it's something that we all must face—even plants and cities change! And most importantly, we can find a solid anchor to keep us safe and grounded during a change, such as a blue velvet chair or a loving grown up.

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UNEARTH A STORY

PRESENTED BY



Caught in the Middle

How to help your child transition from elementary to middle school.

By **Shannon Dean**



By middle school, most kids already know the routines of school life—homework, friendships, classroom expectations and academic pressure. Still, the transition to middle school can bring a whole new set of academic, emotional and social challenges.

Although preadolescents don't always show it with their words or actions, they need their parents' love, involvement and support every bit as much as they did in elementary school. When the school year starts, they may face unique challenges that isolate them at a time when they need your increased reassurance.

Finding Their Place

Many beginning middle schoolers have specific worries about looking out of place. They worry about navigating a larger facility, managing a locker or a very heavy backpack, being on time for their next class, and juggling several different teachers. Add in changing hormones, the beginnings of peer pressure and

tweens' tendency to view everything as a crisis, and the result can be an enormous amount of anxiety.

You can help ease these fears by visiting the school prior to the first day and making sure that your child has walked through his daily routine enough times to feel comfortable. Remind him to tape his schedule, locker combination (if applicable) and e-text passwords inside a folder or in the notes section of his phone, just in case.

Since self-esteem is directly tied to feelings of acceptance, preteens may covet the clothes, hairstyles and hobbies embraced by their friends. Although it may be hard to accept, experts encourage parents to give kids some freedom with their appearance.

Counselor Bonnie Harris, who wrote *Confident Parents, Remarkable Kids: 8 Principles for Raising Kids You'll Love to Live With*, suggests an open dialogue to address any concerns: "You have the right to say, 'I'm



HawthorneElementarySchoolstudentHkeemGraywill start middle school this fall.
PHOTO COURTESY TULSA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

not comfortable' and explain why," she explains. "But if you start with, 'You can't go out looking like that,' you can't win."

Keeping Up

The National Education Association recommends students spend 10 minutes per grade level on homework each night. That equates to 60-80 minutes nightly for middle schoolers.

To help students stay organized and avoid overload, experts recommend parents:

- Help students keep a designated homework folder or agenda for tracking assignments and deadlines.
- Review assignments regularly and help children understand both short- and long-term expectations.
- Break large assignments into smaller, more manageable tasks.
- Encourage students to estimate how long assignments will take

so they can avoid procrastination and overcommitting.

- Create a regular homework routine with a quiet workspace free from distractions like electronics or younger siblings.

Navigating Social Pressure

Experts say that parents should address peer pressure well before the first day of school by speaking freely about their values, sharing their own experiences and helping their child find ways to respect their wishes but still fit in.

Offer acceptable ways to escape risky situations. Role-play to find face-saving one-liners like, "I couldn't go to the mall with you this weekend if my mom caught me skipping class."

Pick a code word or phrase to use when she needs you to bail her out of an uncomfortable situation, but can't say so. For example, when she calls you mother instead of mom, this means that she needs

QUICK WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR TWEEN

- Visit the school before classes start
- Help create a homework routine
- Practice locker combinations
- Keep communication open
- Encourage downtime and sleep



your help, but can't explain why in front of her friends.

Do everything in your power to arm your child with high self-esteem, respect for herself and others and strong moral standards. "When a person believes in herself, she is more likely to make the right decisions in difficult moments," says Mike Domitrz, creator of Safer Choices, an interactive program for schools. "Students with low self-esteem are more likely to lower their standards to please others – a very dangerous and unhealthy behavior."

They Still Need You

The start of middle school has the potential to be a difficult adjustment, but it can also be an opportunity to strengthen your relationship with your tween.

Try to see this transition as an opportunity to reinforce your family's values and to remain as connected as you have always been.

Cynthia Uhlrich Tobias, the co-author

of *Middle School: The Inside Story: What Kids Tell Us, But Don't Tell You*, assures parents that these years can actually be advantageous: "Instead of just barely hanging on and riding out these middle school years, this stretch of your lives together can be a time that enriches and deepens your relationship in ways you never thought possible."

Many experts stress that loving parental involvement is critical to how successfully preteens navigate these turbulent years. Most of the time, they actually want your continued and loving support, even if they insist otherwise.

Shannon Dean is a freelance writer who specializes in writing about women and families.

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2026 SCHOOL GUIDE

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admissions@bishopkelley.org

Contact: Patti Bush

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Faith is woven throughout the student experience through prayer, retreats, service and meaningful relationships with faculty and peers. Families choose Bishop Kelley for its strong sense of community, commitment to excellence and mission of forming graduates prepared to lead lives of purpose, faith, integrity and service.

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DOVE SCHOOLS

discoveryok.org

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DSA Tulsa (pre-K–8th Grade)

dsatulsa.org

4343 S. 118th E. Ave., Tulsa

918.994.6797

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dsahstulsa.org

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J.P. Culley, Head of School

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918.584.4631

Contact: Jay Luetkemeyer

Marquette Catholic School has been educating the next generation for more than 100 years. Offering PK3 through Grade 8, Marquette is a community that first and foremost belongs to Jesus Christ. We form students with care, intentionality and excellence, and then send them out into the world to transform it.

In our Early Childhood Development Center, 3- and 4-year-olds are immersed in a rich curriculum that prioritizes their physical and emotional needs in classrooms custom-made for their needs.

In kindergarten through eighth grade, our teachers focus on developing well-rounded, happy and faith-filled students. All students have recess every day, and our 7th and 8th-graders have 23 electives to choose from based on their interests and academic pursuits.

With an enrollment of approximately 500 (PK3 – Grade 8), our rigorous academic curriculum upholds the Catholic tradition as our faith animates every aspect of our school. Marquette students possess great character and virtue and are academically prepared for high school.

The best way to experience our community is to see it for yourself. Schedule a tour today!

METRO CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

metroca.com

6363 S. Trenton Ave., Tulsa

918.745.9868

connect@metroca.com

Contact: Julie Frohrip, Admissions Specialist

Located on a 60-acre campus in the heart of Tulsa at 63rd and Trenton, Metro Christian Academy is an interdenominational Christian school serving students age 3 through 12th grade. All grades are under one roof but with distinct areas for preschool, elementary, middle and high school.

Metro's elementary school offers two tracks for students. One features traditional curriculum that students may join at any time. The other is a Spanish Immersion section that students may enter in pre-K or kindergarten and continue through 5th grade. Spanish Immersion students become bilingual by learning core subject content in Spanish including history, language arts, science and math.

Metro's secondary school offers a range of academic programs including Advanced Placement classes and courses for concurrent college credit. Metro offers many activities including varsity sports, leadership and missions classes as well as fine arts including studio art, drama and band.

What makes Metro truly special is the sense of community. Teachers, students, and families work together to create a place where kids feel seen, supported, and inspired to reach their full potential. Learn more about us at metroca.com.

MONTE CASSINO

montecassino.org

2206 S. Lewis Ave., Tulsa

918.742.3364

bjones@montecassino.org

Contact: Brooke Jones, Director of Admissions

There is a reason Monte Cassino is consistently a TulsaKids Family Favorite.

"Academics and rigor are important in our family, but even more important is curiosity and a genuine love of learning. Before coming to Monte, I was afraid Opal had begun to lose that spark. Our first year at Monte, however, has been nothing short of transformative. This has truly been the best school year she has ever had." – Parent of MC elementary schooler

Monte Cassino's pre-K through 8th grade model celebrates childhood and supports kids as they mature at an age-appropriate pace. Throughout our students' time with us, we empower them to become leaders by instilling knowledge, fostering positive relationship skills and nurturing a growth mindset that prepares them for success in high school and beyond. Our strength is in our Benedictine values coupled with a culture of encouragement and love of learning.

Whether your student needs extra support or more challenging course work, the educators at Monte Cassino meet your student where they are, using modern, research-based practices. The comprehensive curriculum offers a variety of honors classes, electives, French, Latin, Spanish, 14 sports, dozens of after-school activities, and our middle school's Benedictine Lead Institute and advisory programs.

Book a tour and come see why our families love Monte Cassino.

PRIMROSE SCHOOL OF BROKEN ARROW

primroseba.com

1701 W. Albany Street, Broken Arrow

918.355.6827

CBlaylock@PrimroseBA.com

Contact: Cayse Blaylock

Primrose School of Broken Arrow is the nation's leader in premier early education and care, serving infants through kindergarten, with over 560 schools in 36 states. Our state-of-the-art campus is 14,091 square feet on 2.2 acres and features a reinforced storm shelter, 12 classrooms, and 4 secure, age-appropriate turf playgrounds, including a sports basketball court and garden patch.

At Primrose Schools, we believe that who children become is as important as what they know. Primrose teachers utilize our proprietary Balanced Learning® curriculum to foster the skills children need for the future. As a result, 97% of Primrose pre-K students demonstrated kindergarten readiness per the Spring 2024 Bracken School Readiness 4th Assessment™ Fourth Edition.

Our Balanced Learning is our exclusive, Cognia-accredited, time-tested approach created from the best early education wisdom. Our

research-informed, proprietary curriculum integrates sign language, Spanish, language and literacy, STEAM, social studies, music, gardening, social-emotional intelligence, cognitive, physical, and character development, along with our Primrose Promise giving events. We also provide balanced meals and snacks created by a registered dietitian.

The Oklahoma Private School Accrediting Commission approves us, so families can apply for the Parental Choice Tax Credit for pre-K and kindergarten and receive up to \$7500 for private school expenses.

Call today to enroll, schedule a tour, and learn how Primrose School can make a lifelong impact on your family! You can also follow us on Facebook @PrimroseSchoolBrokenArrow.

RIVERFIELD COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

riverfield.org

2433 W. 61st St., Tulsa
918.446.3553

admissions@riverfield.org
Contact: Kacey Davenport

Educating infants – 12th grade, Riverfield's mission is to ignite adventure, inspire inquiry and build excellence to empower students to change their world.

Since 1984, Riverfield has offered a challenging, personalized curriculum as an integrated process, blending learning across subjects and through student-led projects. At every age, students' interests and ideas are valued, leading to a high level of engagement and learning.

Riverfield's unique 120-acre campus cultivates creativity, reflection, inquiry and adventure through hiking trails, creeks and ponds, a variety of gardens and a barnyard full of animals.

All Riverfield students benefit from the collaborative spaces of our Center for Creativity, including a black box theater, recording and film studios, open-air art studio and makerspace. Our athletics facilities support Ravens basketball, tennis, cross country and soccer teams in addition to many competitive programs where students thrive, including Speech and Debate, Academic Bowl and eSports.

Riverfield Country Day School is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS).

Schedule your tour today with Admissions Director Kacey Davenport!
918.446.3553

TOWN & COUNTRY SCHOOL

tandcschool.org

8906 E. 34th St., Tulsa
918.296.3113, ext. 0111

djurbala@tandcschool.org
Contact: Denise Jurbala, Director of Admissions

Founded in 1961, Town & Country School is Northeast Oklahoma's only accredited, non-public, full-day program specifically designed to meet the needs of students who have been diagnosed with learning disabilities, ADHD and Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Serving students in grades 2-12, Town & Country improves each student's life by advancing critical academic, social and personal skills through individualized attention, family support and flexible curriculum enhancements. Children with learning disabilities, ADHD and Autism Spectrum Disorders are bright – they just learn differently.

We look beyond their difficulties to find our students' strengths. This builds self-esteem and inspires our students to learn. We believe that by

providing the right tools and developing the right skills, our students can be successful in their life goals.

TULSA PUBLIC SCHOOLS PRE-K PROGRAMS

tulsaschools.org/pre-k

Tulsa Public Schools Enrollment Center
2819 S. New Haven Ave., Tulsa
918.746.7500
enroll@tulsaschools.org

Discover the world of learning at Tulsa Public Schools with our free, full-day pre-K programs available at all 45 elementary schools! Enroll your child in pre-K to build a strong foundation for their educational journey.

Our nurturing classrooms support cognitive, social and emotional development, teaching essential life skills like patience and collaboration. With the research-based Tools of the Mind curriculum, children engage in imaginative play that fosters creativity and problem-solving.

We also offer specialized programs, including eight dual-language and three Montessori options. Enroll your child in Tulsa Public Schools' pre-K today to help them thrive in a supportive community!

If your child will be 4 years old by September 1, 2026, you can enroll online at enroll.tulsaschools.org. Learn more at tulsaschools.org/pre-k.

VICTORY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

vcstulsa.org

7700 S. Lewis Ave., Tulsa
918.491.7763
jthomas@victory.com
Contact: Jan Thomas

Academic Excellence. Biblical Truth. A Place to Belong.

Victory Christian School is a fully accredited K3–12th grade school where students are challenged academically, grounded in a Biblical worldview and known by name.

With more than 1,350 students enrolled for the 2026–2027 school year, VCS is celebrating its ninth consecutive year of record growth. Families across the Tulsa area continue to choose Victory for its strong academics, Christ-centered culture and commitment to preparing students for success in college, career and life.

At Victory, students are known, challenged and encouraged to discover their God-given potential. Smaller class sizes, caring teachers and meaningful relationships help students thrive academically, spiritually, socially and athletically.

Students benefit from exceptional opportunities, including a state-of-the-art STEM Lab, dedicated History Wing, expanded Media Center and a new Media Arts program launching this fall. These enhancements, along with an expanded chapel, were made possible through support from the annual Conquer the Night gala.

Athletic excellence begins early, with premier facilities including the Victory Athletic Center and newly upgraded turf at Regent Bank Field.

Beyond the classroom, students enjoy Victory Park, a vibrant space for recreation, family events and community gatherings.

Where your child goes to school matters.

Text VCSINFO to 28950 or visit vcstulsa.org/experience-vcs to learn more.



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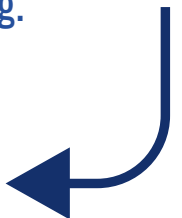
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ALL SOULS UNITARIAN CHURCH

allsoulschurch.org

2952 S. Peoria Ave., Tulsa
918.743.2363

tcross@allsoulschurch.org

Contact: Tiffany Cross, Childcare Coordinator

All Souls Kids' Day Out is a welcoming, inclusive program designed to give 2- to 4-year-olds the time and space to grow socially, physically, intellectually and spiritually. Through dramatic play, artistic creation, outdoor exploration and community-building, our littlest learners are encouraged to celebrate diversity, explore equity and practice inclusion in a nurturing environment.

Each session focuses on developing emotional, physical and social skills in a warm and supportive setting — giving children the freedom and safety to explore the world around them.

Kids' Day Out meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at All Souls Unitarian Church, 2952 S. Peoria Ave., Tulsa, OK.

For more information and to register, visit allsoulschurch.org/kidsdayout or contact Tiffany Cross, Childcare Coordinator, at tcross@allsoulschurch.org.

AVANT GARDE PRESCHOOL AND EARLY LEARNING CENTERS

avantgardeschools.com

Sheridan location:

7607 S. Sheridan Rd., Tulsa
918.497.1335

Brookside location:

4103 S. Detroit Ave., Tulsa
918.743.0975

At Avant Garde Preschool and Early Learning Centers, we're more than childcare. We're a private preschool where your child's early education takes center stage. Picture your little one measuring ingredients for a hands-on science experiment, teaming up with classmates to solve challenges and gaining confidence as their ideas come to life. Who knows, they may discover a lifelong passion for learning!

Our private preschool combines academic enrichment with a warm, supportive atmosphere, where children can:

- Build essential skills
- Discover their unique strengths
- Form lasting friendships

We love sparking curiosity and inspiring confidence, helping your little one explore new ideas and grow into their unique selves.

CASCIA HALL PREPARATORY SCHOOL

casciahall.com

2520 S. Yorktown Ave., Tulsa
918.746.2604

achapman@casciahall.com

Contact: Andrea Chapman, Director of Admissions & Marketing

As Cascia Hall celebrates its centennial year in 2026–27, the school honors a 100-year tradition of forming students prepared to lead, serve and succeed.

Cascia Hall is a Catholic, Augustinian, college preparatory school serving students in grades 6–12. Rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the teachings of St. Augustine, the school welcomes students of all faiths and fosters a lifelong pursuit of Truth, Unity and Love.

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5130 E 101st St.
Tulsa, OK 74137
918-296-9936
LakeHillsMontessoriTulsa.com

A rigorous liberal arts curriculum challenges students academically while encouraging growth in athletics, the arts, leadership and service. With a student-teacher ratio of 14:1, students are known personally and supported throughout their educational journey.

Beginning in sixth grade, students benefit from a seamless curriculum designed to prepare them for college and beyond. Middle School students may earn high school credit in select courses, while Upper School students can pursue Advanced Placement coursework and opportunities for college credit.

One hundred percent of Cascia Hall graduates matriculate to college. The 73 members of the Class of 2026 earned more than \$11.4 million in achievement-based scholarships.

For a century, Cascia Hall has formed young men and women of faith, character and purpose who are prepared to serve their communities and the world.

GROWING GRACEFULLY PRESCHOOL

growinggracefullypreschool.com

4818 E. 80th St., Tulsa
918.561.6648

ggpreschool@healinggracetulsa.com
Contact: Kemberly Satterfield

At Growing GRACEFULLY Preschool, your child will be loved as the unique and wonderful being God created him/her to be. We nurture children's learning and development by partnering with families, providing engaging educational and creative curriculum that teaches to the WHOLE child, and fostering a life-long sense of curiosity, wonder and identity that is rooted in God's endless grace and Christ's love for us.

We are now enrolling ages 6 weeks to 4 years. We are open for both summer and fall enrollment. Come check us out, join our family and allow your child the opportunity to grow GRACEFULLY alongside us.

LAKE HILLS MONTESSORI

lakehillsmontessori.com

5130 E. 101st St., Tulsa
918.296.9936

jodie@lakehillsmontessori.com
Contact: Jodie Whitman

Lake Hills Montessori is committed to providing quality education for children ages 2-6 years in a safe, loving, and stimulating environment. Each child's day is organized to ensure successful experiences that will foster self-esteem and a love of learning.

LHM offers a traditional Montessori curriculum that allows children to learn through exploration and play. In addition to providing an atmosphere of discovery, LHM offers dance, Spanish, soccer, music, yoga and art.

School time is 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m. and before/after care is 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m. Follow us on **Instagram** or **Facebook!**

MISS HELEN'S PRIVATE SCHOOL

misshelens.com

4849 S. Mingo, Tulsa
918.622.2327

director@misshelens.com
Contact: Jayme Wingo-Baker

Miss Helen's Private School is a family-owned, family-focused business celebrating 70 years. Teachers are college-degreed, caring and dedicated. All pre-Kindergarten classes offer music, Spanish, art,

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JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL

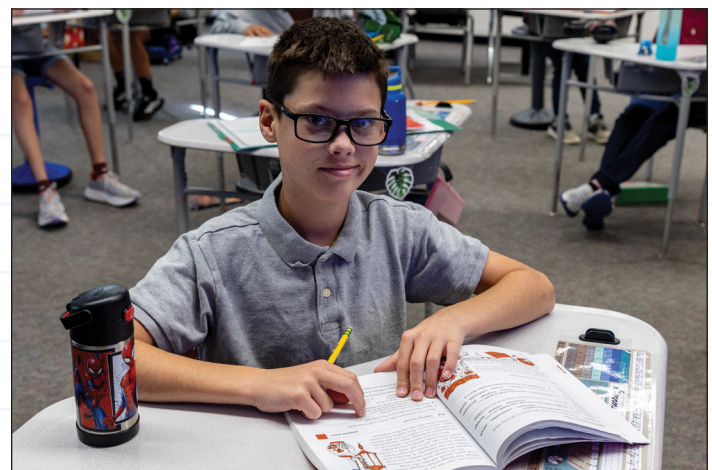
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918.494.0953 | MizelSchool.org



Founded in 1961, Town & Country School serves students with Learning Disabilities, ADHD and High Functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Denise Jurbala
Director of Admissions
djurbala@tandcschool.org
918-296-3113, ext. 0111



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7607 S. Sheridan Rd., Tulsa, OK
918-497-1335



stories and science, pre-reading skills, math and dance through small group and independent activities. Small class sizes in grades K-5 enable students to have more individualized instruction and work beyond traditional grade levels.

In addition to basic academics, we offer Spanish, fine arts, and community service and charitable projects as well as health, nutrition and fitness. After-school activities include computer classes, swimming, cheerleading, Amazing Athletes and more. Serving ages 3 years through 5th grade.

We thank the TulsaKids readers for voting us the 2020 Family Favorite for Best Preschool. Come for a tour and see why!

MIZEL JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL

mizelschool.org

2021 E. 71st St., Tulsa
918.494.0953

admissions@mizelschool.org

Located on the Zarrow campus, Mizel Jewish Community Day School is a small, diverse school serving all religions and backgrounds from 18 months to 5th grade. For 50 years, Mizel has blended Jewish values and traditions with diverse studies, student-centered learning and a safe environment.

Our small, multi-age classes and hands-on learning include physical education, music, Hebrew and Judaic studies, art, STEAM and culinary arts. The core curriculum includes history, language arts, science and math.

Mizel JCDS is more than a school—it's a family. Parents, grandparents and community members actively volunteer and contribute, making our school a warm and welcoming place for all.

Schedule a tour today! We would love to meet you and show you our school in action!

OWASSO PREPARATORY ACADEMY

owassoprep.org

9341 N. 129th E. Ave., Owasso
918.710.7135

apurvis@owassoprep.org

Contact: Ashley Purvis, Director of Admissions

Owasso Preparatory Academy is an affordable private Christian school offering a university model format, quality athletics and extracurricular activities, and in-person classroom learning with certified teachers. We are an accredited institution, which means that families may utilize their Oklahoma Parental Choice Tax Credit.

Classes led by professional teachers meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays for students in pre-K through 8th grade, and on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays for students in high school. OPA provides the curriculum, and our experienced classroom teachers craft lesson plans for parents to implement on the home classroom days. Available courses include Language Arts, Math, Science, History, Bible, PE, Art, Music, Spanish, Computer Science and other high school electives. Enrichment activities such as monthly field trips and service projects are also offered.

OPA now has a second elementary location in Tulsa, serving students in pre-K through fifth grade. It is located at First Methodist Church. To learn more about OPA's campus locations, view course schedules and school calendars, or sign up for an information meeting, please visit owassoprep.org.

Currently accepting applications for the 2026-27 school year. Small class sizes allow highly credentialed, experienced faculty to deliver personalized instruction that nurtures each student's growth. The



Call Us
918-205-1193



Visit Our Website
www.underthecanopy.org



Email Us
office@underthecanopy.org



Under the Canopy

Under the Canopy School is a nature-based, low tech, public Waldorf-inspired Pre-K-Fourth school that connects students to each other and their community through active engagement with the natural environment.



program includes a strong foundation in math and science and includes art, music, physical education and foreign language, taught in a nurturing, curiosity-driven environment where children are encouraged to think creatively, stay engaged and develop a lifelong love of learning.

TEMPO MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL

tempomontessori.com

918.805.6699

diane@tempomontessori.com

Contact: Diane Beckham

Tempo Montessori Charter School is a free public charter school bringing authentic Montessori education to families in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Opening in August 2027, Tempo Montessori will initially serve pre-K4, kindergarten and 6th grade students, expanding each year until it serves pre-K3 through 8th grade.

Our mission is to provide students and families with access to a high-quality public Montessori education that nurtures academic excellence, personal responsibility and a lifelong love of learning. Through individualized instruction, hands-on materials, uninterrupted work cycles and purposeful guidance from highly trained Montessori educators, students develop independence, critical thinking and confidence.

Tempo Montessori combines the proven Montessori approach with Oklahoma Academic Standards to ensure students receive both a developmentally responsive and academically rigorous education. Multi-age classrooms foster leadership, collaboration and respect, while allowing children to progress at their own pace.

As a year-round public school, Tempo Montessori is designed to support consistent learning, strong family partnerships and meaningful community engagement. We believe every child deserves an educational environment that honors their unique potential and inspires them to become thoughtful, capable and compassionate citizens.

Tempo Montessori is committed to creating a welcoming, inclusive school community where curiosity, creativity and responsibility flourish, preparing students to thrive in school, career and life.

UNDERCROFT MONTESSORI SCHOOL

undercroft.org

3745 S. Hudson Ave., Tulsa

918.622.2890

lesley.wilkin@undercroft.org

Contact: Lesley Wilkin, Admissions Coordinator

Established in 1964, Undercroft Montessori is Tulsa's first and only accredited Montessori school, providing an authentic, child-centered education that fosters independence, critical thinking and a lifelong love for learning.

Undercroft serves students from age 3 through 8th grade in a carefully prepared environment designed to support each stage of a child's development. Through individualized instruction, multi-age classrooms and hands-on learning experiences, both indoors and in our unique natural Playscape, students are guided to reach their full potential intellectually, socially, emotionally and physically.

Rooted in Montessori philosophy, our program honors the uniqueness of every child, cultivates a deep respect for self and others, and promotes active, purposeful engagement with the world. Our inclusive community empowers students to become confident, capable and compassionate individuals.

To schedule a tour, please contact Lesley Wilkin, Admissions Coordinator, at 918.622.2890.



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For more information and to register visit: allsoulschurch.org/kidsdayout
 Contact: Tiffany Cross at tcross@allsoulschurch.org

All Souls Unitarian Church
 2952 S. Peoria Ave.
 Tulsa, OK 74114

UNDER THE CANOPY SCHOOL

underthecanopy.org

underthecanopy.org
3205 W. 39th St., Tulsa
918.205.1193

office@underthecanopy.org
Contact: Margaritte Arthrell-Knezek, Head of School

Under the Canopy is a nature-based public Waldorf school, offering a unique educational experience for children from pre-kindergarten through 4th grade in west Tulsa. Nestled amidst natural landscapes, the school integrates the principles of Waldorf education with an emphasis on nature immersion. The curriculum harmonizes academic learning with outdoor exploration, fostering a deep connection to the environment while nurturing each child's creativity, imagination and holistic development.

Classrooms extend beyond the traditional four walls, with children engaging in activities such as gardening and hands-on environmental projects. Teachers, trained in Waldorf pedagogy, emphasize artistic expression, storytelling and rhythmic routines to create a warm, nurturing atmosphere. The school's ethos centers on cultivating a sense of wonder, respect for each other and nature, and a strong community spirit. By blending academic excellence with experiential learning, Under the Canopy inspires a lifelong love of learning and a profound appreciation for the natural world. Learn more and enroll at underthecanopy.org

UNIVERSITY SCHOOL

uschool.utulsa.edu

326 S. College Ave., Tulsa
918.631.5060

gabriel-fuchs@utulsa.edu
Contact: Gabriel Fuchs, Ph.D., Director

A pioneer in educating bright young minds since 1982, University School is a private school located on the beautiful University of Tulsa campus serving children in early childhood through eighth grade. The school provides an emotionally supportive and intellectually challenging learning environment that fosters both creativity and socially responsible behavior.

Small class sizes allow highly credentialed, experienced faculty to deliver personalized instruction that nurtures each student's growth. The program includes a strong foundation in math and science and includes art, music, physical education and foreign language, taught in a nurturing, curiosity-driven environment where children are encouraged to think creatively, stay engaged and develop a lifelong love of learning.



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4115 S. 100th E. Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74146
(918) 960-3131
f discoveryok.org

Dove Science Academy (PreK - 8th)
4343 S. 118th E. Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74146
(918) 994-6797
f dsatulsa.org

DSA High School (9th - 12th)
4343 S. 118th E. Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74146
(918) 576-6719
f dsahstulsa.org

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- Oklahoma Promise Scholarship State Champion 14 years in a row
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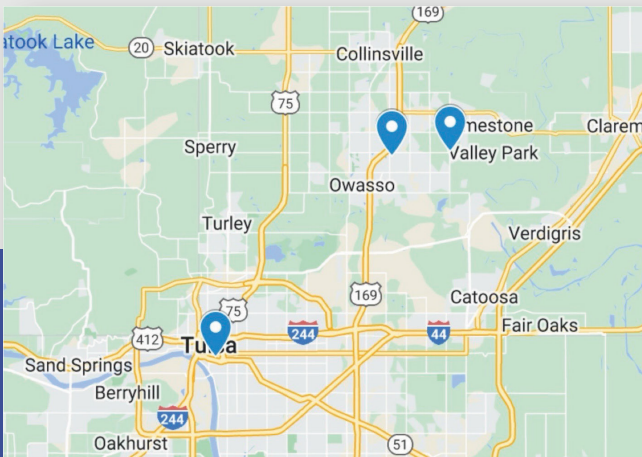


OWASSO PREPARATORY ACADEMY TULSA

Owasso Preparatory Academy is an affordable private Christian school offering a university model format, quality athletics and extracurricular activities, and in-person classroom learning with certified teachers. We are an accredited institution, which means that families may utilize their Oklahoma Parental Choice Tax Credit.

Classes led by professional teachers meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays for students in pre-K through 8th grade, and on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays for students in high school. OPA provides the curriculum, and our experienced classroom teachers craft lesson plans for parents to implement on the home classroom days. Available courses include Language Arts, Math, Science, History, Bible, PE, Art, Music, Spanish, Computer Science and other high school electives. Enrichment activities such as monthly field trips and service projects are also offered.

OPA now has a second elementary location in Tulsa, serving students in pre-K through fifth grade. It is located at First Methodist Church. To learn more about OPA's campus locations, view course schedules and school calendars, or sign up for an information meeting, please visit owassoprep.org. Currently accepting applications for the 2026-27 school year.



**OWASSO ELEMENTARY CAMPUS | 9341 N. 129TH E. AVE
TULSA ELEMENTARY CAMPUS | 1115 S. BOULDER AVE
OWASSO SECONDARY CAMPUS | 9602 N. 177TH E. AVE**

www.owassoprep.org | 918-710-7135



"We're so grateful for Miss Helen's! My daughter always felt like it was "home." The class sizes were small, and she learned everything from computers to music to Spanish/ French and even cheerleading from 3 years old all the way through 5th grade. It's a very well-rounded education! When she graduated

from 5th grade, she was completely prepared for middle school at Holland Hall. The teachers really paid attention to all the little details of learning with my daughter. At her 5th grade graduation, my daughter said this, "A school is built with brick and mortar, but Miss Helen's is built with love and care."



918-622-2327 | Director@MissHelens.com
MissHelens.com | 4849 South Mingo, Tulsa



We selected VCS because God guided our steps, ultimately leading us to relocate our son to an environment conducive to his growth academically and spiritually.

While he was receiving adequate instruction at his previous school, we believed that God desired more for him and our entire family.

Victory Christian School has provided us a diverse welcoming community, familial support, strong academics and unwavering encouragement.

We are Committed to Conquer!



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CALL 918.491.7720 OR TEXT "VCSINFO" TO 28950
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"We chose Primrose because it felt right from the start, 4 years ago. We wanted a place where Lennon (who started in the toddler class and is now in kindergarten) and CJ (who began in infant and is now in preschool) would feel safe, loved, and encouraged every day, and Primrose checked all those boxes.

We've seen so much growth in both Lennon and CJ since starting at Primrose. Academically, they're learning important skills in a way that's engaging and fun, which has really helped them build confidence and a love for learning. Socially, they've grown in their ability to communicate, make friends and navigate situations with independence.

The teachers at Primrose are amazing. They are kind, attentive, and genuinely care about Lennon and CJ. As parents, it means so much to know our children are loved and supported while they're at school. Every staff member plays a role in creating a positive, nurturing environment, and it truly feels like a team effort. We're so thankful for the care and dedication the entire Primrose staff shows every single day."

- Kurt and Chelsie Giller



Primrose Schools®

1701 W. ALBANY ST. BROKEN ARROW, OK 74012
918-355-6827 | PRIMROSESCHOOLS.COM/SCHOOLS/BROKEN-ARROW/



We are the Brown family and we've been at OPA for four years. We have kids ranging from 3rd-11th grade. One of my favorite things since starting OPA has been watching how my kids have grown both spiritually and academically. The OPA community has been incredible - they offer great activities and sports, everyone is kind and welcoming, there is so much support. Don't hesitate to jump in on this model!

The OPA community has been incredible - they offer great activities and sports, everyone is kind and welcoming, there is so much support. Don't hesitate to jump in on this model!



9341 N. 129th E. Ave., Owasso, OK 74055 | 918.710.7135
Email: apurvis@owassoprep.org | www.owassoprep.org



“I transferred to Holland Hall in fifth grade from a big public school. It provided me with a more personalized education, led by teachers who knew me, my interests, and how to challenge me in ways that made learning exciting. At Holland Hall, I felt seen, heard, and supported.”

— MAREN HETTLER '25

(918) 481-1111 | hollandhall.org



METRO CHRISTIAN'S SPANISH IMMERSION PROGRAM: PRE K - 6TH GRADE

When Davilyn and Kasey Worthington first explored Metro Christian Academy, they hoped to find a school where their three children would thrive. From the beginning, they were excited about the possibility of Spanish Immersion. Davilyn loved the idea that bilingual learning strengthens brain development, “The neuro connections and everything that it does in the brain that's been proven over and over with science is exciting. Also, being able to have that cultural diversity is a huge benefit.”

The Worthingtons have seen how natural immersion felt for their boys. “It truly is just like a traditional preschool classroom. They are just using a different language that they are learning first,” Davilyn said, describing the songs, routines, and hands-on activities that helped her children settle in with confidence.

Spanish Immersion faculty member Cathy Boatright says that starting young makes all the difference. “They develop the ability to think in that language. They think both in Spanish and they think in English, and they use whichever is the most efficient,” she explains. “Their brain is so much more developed because of that.”

Beyond academics, the Worthingtons treasure the community their boys have formed. Their classes “become like little siblings to each other... they encourage each other. They look out for each other,” Davilyn shared.

Metro offers full time Spanish Immersion for students in Pre-K through 5th grade. Those students will continue the program through middle school with two periods of Spanish Immersion a day.



EXPERIENCE MORE AT METRO CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

6363 S. TRENTON AVE. | TULSA, OK 74136 | WWW.METROCA.COM | 918.745.9868

enrollTulsa
TULSA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Pre-K helped lay the foundation for my son in literacy, numeracy, and problem-solving through academics and play. It helped him become more comfortable around others and sure of himself. We also felt supported as partners, not just as parents, in our son's growth and development. He is heading to kindergarten more independent, confident and ready than we could have imagined.

Annah, TPS pre-K parent

TULSASCHOOLS.ORG/PREK



“Our daughter [has gone] to Celebree... for a little bit over a year now, so basically from the start of Celebree Tulsa.

One of the things I love about Celebree is how much our daughter looks forward to going to school every day... on Saturday morning, she wakes up and asks if she's going to school today. And when we tell her that, 'No, it's the weekend', she's very disappointed.

She's very social. She has grown so much. She can say every single letter in the Alphabet and she can recognize them, (which at three years old is just crazy.) She can count. She can write...the curriculum that they have here is great. Every week...she's involved in soccer and dance.

I really appreciate the involvement with the teachers. Our daughter really loves both of her teachers so much, and she talks about them all the time when we get home from school and how much that they're teaching her. Her teachers always give us really good status updates and things that we can work on with her at the house.

Not only is [Celebree] a great place for her, it's great for the parents because you can kind of feel just a little bit relaxed, you know your kid is safe.”

From two of our parents here at Celebree:

Britton & Jarla



"We've been very happy with our decision to send our son to Under The Canopy. The combination of academics, social development, and Waldorf education has been a great fit for our family. One of the things we appreciate most is the nature-based learning approach, which has sparked his curiosity and made learning feel exciting and meaningful. We're thankful to be part of the UTC community and look forward to seeing it continue to flourish."

-Sarah H. 2nd Grade Parent

"Under The Canopy has been an amazing blessing for my family. The amount of growth (personally & academically) our child has experienced has been the most amazing transformation that we have seen so far in our parental journey. This is exactly the education establishment that we needed for our family. We are very proud to be a "founding family" for Under The Canopy School in Tulsa."

-Kacey T. 3rd Grade Parent



918-205-1193
 office@underthecanopy.org
 www.underthecanopy.org



"We chose Bishop Kelley because we wanted a school that would prepare our son for whatever came next academically, spiritually, and personally. Four years later, we see a young man who is confident in his faith, ready for new challenges, and committed to serving others. That's exactly what we hoped for when we made our decision about where he would attend high school."

Guadalupe Medina and Anastasio Arroyo,
 parents of Kris Arroyo Medina '26

Open House is Sunday, September 20! • bishopkelley.org



I attended Dove Science Academy Tulsa for nine years and just graduated from Dove Science Academy High School. Dove gave me the opportunity to participate in leadership, grow in understanding other people's cultures and customs, and tutor and mentor other students while participating in sports. Beyond academics, Dove provided a nurturing environment where I could develop meaningful friendships, collaborate with inspiring teachers, and build lasting connections with mentors who guided me every step of the way. Dove has equipped me with the skills and confidence to pursue my dreams and positively impact the world. I was recognized nationally and pursued a passion for math with my team in the Math League, where we took first place in the State, in the Nation, and Internationally! Dove led me to be able to become an Oklahoma Scholar and join many Honors societies. Not only was I able to have an amazing learning experience, but I was able to make lifelong friends.

MASON SHOEMAKER



DoveSchools.org/Apply | f @DoveSchoolsOK



"We are deeply grateful to Lake Hills Montessori for the care, dedication and excellence they have shown in educating and nurturing our two children. Their commitment to fostering a love of learning, encouraging independence and building a strong foundation of respect and curiosity has made a lasting impact on their early years.

From the warm and attentive teachers to the thoughtfully prepared environment, every aspect of their program has helped our children grow not only academically, but socially and emotionally. We have seen them grown in confidence, creativity and compassion—skills that will serve them well throughout their lives.

Sending a heartfelt "Thank you" to our beloved educators and directors for preparing them so thoughtfully for the future. We will always hold a special place in our hearts for the Lake Hills Montessori community."

- The Anglin Family

5130 E 101st St. Tulsa, OK 74137 | 918-296-9936



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bishopkelley.org/admissions • admissions@bishopkelley.org



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WHY TEMPO?

- Tempo is the **only public secondary** Montessori program in Oklahoma
- Features a **year-round** school calendar
- The program develops **stronger** reading, memory, and executive function
- Education designed to meet each child at **every** stage
- Kids develop as **independent thinkers**, gaining stronger focus, self-control, and memory, not just higher test scores
- Children **move at their own rhythm** and grow alongside a community that knows and values them



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Tulsa Public Schools offers free, full-day pre-kindergarten at all 45 of our elementary schools. If your child will be 4 years old by September 1, 2026, you can enroll them for the upcoming 2026-27 school year at TULSASCHOOLS.ORG/ENROLL. We have a place for every child to thrive.

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In Dual Language programs, students build fluency and comprehension through daily interactions in both languages with both English- and Spanish-dominant students.

AVAILABLE AT:

*Celia Clinton, Cooper, Disney,
Felicitas Mendez, Kendall-Whitter,
Sequoyah, Skelly, Springdale*



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TULSA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

To find information about these programs and others near you, visit TULSASCHOOLS.ORG/PREK



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USCHOOL.UTULSA.EDU

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Buckaroo Bart's Mission

Bart Taylor helps children discover the heart and humor of Will Rogers.

By **Lori Orlinsky**



Bart Taylor talks about Will Rogers and demonstrates his rope tricks at the Oklahoma History Center Museum.

For Bart Taylor, history isn't something that belongs behind glass. It's something meant to be brought to life for the next generation.

Known to many Oklahoma students as "Buckaroo Bart," Taylor has spent years blending storytelling, education and humor to ensure the legacy of Will Rogers continues to resonate with young readers. Through his popular children's book series, Taylor has introduced thousands of children to Oklahoma's favorite son in a way that feels accessible and entertaining.

Now, with the release of his third book, *Will Rogers and His Great Inspiration*, Taylor concludes a beloved trilogy that also includes *Will Rogers and the Great White House Sleepover* and *Will Rogers and His Great Presidential Pals*.

The award-winning series has become a celebrated educational tool throughout Oklahoma and beyond. This year, Taylor's *Will Rogers and His Great Presidential Pals* was selected as the official 2026 Read Across Oklahoma



book by the Oklahoma Center for the Book.

Held annually at the Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Garden, the statewide literacy event welcomes young readers from across Oklahoma. This year's theme, "America250: Telling America's Stories," celebrated the people and moments that shaped the nation.

Bringing History to Life
"For kids, history has to feel alive," Taylor said. "Will Rogers had this incredible way of making people laugh while also helping them think differently about the world around them. I wanted these books to introduce children to history in a way that feels fun, relatable and memorable."

Taylor serves as the Will Rogers Interpreter and Creative Curator at the Will Rogers Memorial Museum, where he has dedicated much of his career to preserving and sharing Rogers' legacy. Over the years, he has also worked as an educator at institutions including the Gilcrease Museum, Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park and the Gathering Place.

Taylor's admiration for Will Rogers goes back years. He was drawn to Rogers' humor, kindness and knack for connecting with people from all walks of life. Today, he shares that passion with young readers through his books and school presentations. And while Taylor always hopes students walk away with a greater appreciation for Rogers, it doesn't hurt that he brings along a few rope tricks, too. Inspired by Rogers' days as a cowboy entertainer, the demonstrations are often one of the highlights of his visits and a memorable way to make history come alive.

Taylor's approach stands out because he doesn't simply retell

history—he reimagines it for modern audiences.

"Most historians focus on the past, but Bart Taylor looks to the future," said Meshelle Barnhart, teacher at Owasso Public Schools. "He authors the stories that inspire the next generation to follow in Oklahoma's favorite son's footsteps. He doesn't merely archive history but revitalizes it."

Taylor's newest release, *Will Rogers and His Great Inspiration*, features illustrations by Greg White and includes a foreword by Reba McEntire and Rex Linn. The book explores the people and experiences that helped shape Rogers into one of America's most beloved voices.

"How can we inspire kids if there aren't books made just for them about Will Rogers?" Taylor said. "That's what this series has always been about."

Lori Orlinsky is an award-winning, bestselling children's author. Her picture book, *Being Middle*, celebrates the unique strengths of middle children and the powerful role they play in families.

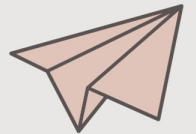
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Summer BotaniCamp

AUGUST 3-7, 9 A.M.-3 P.M. | AGES 7-12

Our five-day summer camp offers a full week of garden adventures, with hands-on activities, outdoor exploration, and plenty of time to learn, create and make new friends. Register today at tulsabotanic.org

918.289.0330

tulsabotanic.org

Tulsa Zoo is hosting
summer camps for grades
K-12 all summer long.

PHOTOS COURTESY TULSA ZOO



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JULY 2026

SCAN THE QR CODE
to find more events at
[tulsakids.com/calendar!](https://tulsakids.com/calendar/)



BROUGHT TO YOU BY





Visit Discovery Lab for Game Night on July 11, and Big Build Week July 21-25.

PHOTOS COURTESY DISCOVERY LAB



July 1 Wednesday

STORYTIME AT TULSA ZOO W

All ages, 10-10:30 a.m.

Tulsa Zoo

tulsazoo.org

A weekly storytime held at the Oklahoma Central Credit Union Nature Exchange inside the Life in the Cold building.

CAMP GUTHRIE F W

All ages, 10 a.m.

Guthrie Green

guthriegreen.com

Each weekly session kicks off with an educational experience followed by a hands-on activity.

July 2 Thursday

SUMMER MOVIE AT CIRCLE CINEMA F

All ages, 1:30-3 p.m.

Circle Cinema

tulsalibrary.org

Watch a family-friendly movie for free; seating limited.

POKÉMON TRAINING ADVENTURE F

Ages 5-18, 4-5 p.m.

Charles Page Library

tulsalibrary.org

Participate in a variety of Pokémon activities, games and challenges to gain your Pokémon Trainer certification.

AMERICA'S BIRTHDAY BASH

All ages, 7:30 p.m.

VanTrease PACE

signaturesymphony.org

From beloved patriotic classics to cinematic favorites, this high-energy concert promises an evening of inspiration and fun for the whole family.

July 3 Friday

TRADITIONAL GAMES F

All ages, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Various locations (see website)

visitchokeenation.com

Live demonstrations of games that Cherokees have played for generations, including stickball, chunky and Cherokee marbles.

HAPPY 250TH BIRTHDAY, USA! F

All ages, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Herman and Kate Kaiser Library

tulsalibrary.org

Enjoy crafts, cupcakes and a red, white and blue parade.

July 4 Saturday

RASCALS ON ROUTE 66 F

All ages, 8:30 a.m.

Downtown Sapulpa

rascalsonroute66.com

A high-energy, Red Bull Soapbox and *Little Rascals*-inspired event.

FC TULSA GAME

All ages, 7:30 p.m.

ONEOK Field

fctulsa.com

FC Tulsa plays Sacramento Republic FC! Enjoy a postgame fireworks show.

July 5 Sunday

Find more at tulsakids.com/calendar

July 6 Monday

SUMMER ZOO CAMPS W

Grades K4-12, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. (aftercare available)

Tulsa Zoo

tulsazoo.org/camps

Join Tulsa Zoo on wildlife adventures while exploring the world around us, making new friends and celebrating nature! Visit the website for camp dates and descriptions.

LITTLE LAB W

Ages 0-4, 11-11:30 a.m.

Discovery Lab

discoverylab.org

Activities focus on learning shapes, colors, working on fine motor skills, identifying emotions and more.

July 7 Tuesday

SUMMER STORYTIME SERIES F W

All ages, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Woodland Hills Mall Play Area

simon.com

Listen to a story read by a special guest, then do a craft inspired by the tale.

SENSORY NIGHT

All ages, 6-8 p.m.

Oklahoma Aquarium
okaquarium.org

Visit the aquarium when there's less of a crowd. Complete a self-guided scavenger hunt for a prize!

**STARLIGHT CONCERT:
WE THE PEOPLE** **F**

All ages, 8 p.m.

Guthrie Green

starlightconcerts.org

A free outdoor concert performed by the Starlight Concert Band.

July 8 Wednesday

TULSA MOMS' WALK **F**

All ages, 10-11 a.m.

Dick's House of Sport

dickssportinggoods.com/s/scheduling/s/1620

Bring your little ones, connect with friends and get moving.

**EXPLORATION STATION:
ROUTE 66 PIT STOP** **F**

All ages, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Gathering Place

gatheringplace.org

Explore the history of the Model-T and the manufacturing engineering that made it affordable.

July 9 Thursday

4WARN STORM SCHOOL

All ages, 10 a.m.

Science Museum Oklahoma

sciencemuseumok.org

Explore Oklahoma's unique weather patterns with hands-on activities and expert insights.

**DIG IN AND DISCOVER:
OLD-SCHOOL TECH** **F**

For teens and tweens, 3-4 p.m.

Broken Arrow Library

tulsalibrary.org

Interact with and learn about "ancient" pieces of household technology from the 1980s and 1990s.

**SUMMER'S FIFTH
NIGHT** **F W**

All ages, 7-9 p.m.

Utica Square

uticasquare.com

An open-air concert at one of Tulsa's most iconic shopping destinations.

July 10 Friday

**TULSA ROCK AND
GEM SHOW**

All ages, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Expo Square

tulsarockandmineralsociety.org

Tulsa Rock and Mineral Society's annual Rock and Gem show features vendors, a free Kid Zone, demonstrations, silent auction and more. Repeats July 11, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and July 12, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

THE SLAM CREW **F**

For elementary schoolers, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. and 2-3 p.m.

Hardesty Regional Library

tulsalibrary.org

A high-energy basketball entertainment show featuring professional-level tricks, crowd engagement and a positive message.

ART CRAWL ON 66 **F**

All ages, 6-9 p.m.

Red Fork District

Facebook: Art Crawl on 66

The Historic Red Fork District comes to life with people, local art and music.

July 11 Saturday

**SHOOT-OUT
COMPETITION**

12-4 p.m.

Dick's House of Sport

dickssportinggoods.com/s/scheduling/s/1620

Think you're the best shooter in town? Prove it! You'll get 10 shots and can choose your shooting line. Pre-register online.

**SATURDAY NIGHT
LAB: GAME NIGHT**

All ages, 5-8 p.m.

Discovery Lab

discoverylab.org

Bring the whole family for an evening of gaming classics: Jacks, Candy Land, Jenga and more!

SHARKS IN THE PARK **F**

All ages, 7-9 p.m.

Oklahoma Aquarium

okaquarium.org

This event features free hot dogs for the first 1,000 attendees, a foam party, inflatables, Touch-a-Truck, splash zone and more.

July 12 Sunday

**SENSORY-FRIENDLY
FAMILY HOURS**

All ages, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Discovery Lab

discoverylab.org

These early hours are designed for families with children on the spectrum and other sensory needs.

July 13 Monday

**BUILD A READER
STORYTIME/STAY AND
PLAY: FAMILY** **F W**

Ages 0-5, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Bixby Library

tulsalibrary.org

There's something for everyone at this 0-5 storytime.

**BALLOON-TWISTING
WORKSHOP WITH
JOE COOVER** **F**

For elementary schoolers, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 2-3 p.m.

Hardesty Regional Library

tulsalibrary.org

Learn the basics of balloon twisting.

Drillers™

Cheer for Tulsa Drillers!

The following games take place at ONEOK Field. Visit tulsadrillers.com for tickets and information about additional game-day promotions.

Plus, sign up for the Kilwins Kids Club for kids ages 14 and under! Your \$30 membership includes tickets to select games, birthday party discounts, team store discounts and other great perks!

- 7/7, 7 p.m. vs. Springfield
- 7/8, 7 p.m. vs. Springfield
- 7/9, 7 p.m. vs. Springfield
- 7/10 7 p.m. vs. Springfield*
- 7/11 7 p.m. vs. Springfield
- 7/12 12:05 p.m. vs. Springfield**
- 7/28, 7 p.m. NW Arkansas
- 7/29, 7 p.m. NW Arkansas
- 7/30, 7 p.m. NW Arkansas
- 7/31, 7 p.m. NW Arkansas*

*Fireworks games **FUNday Sunday

FRESH FLORAL MANDALA WITH ARTIST ELLEN WEATHERHOLT **F**

For teens, 3-4 p.m.

Collinsville Library

tulsalibrary.org

Learn how to build your own fresh floral mandala.

July 14 Tuesday**ROSE DISTRICT FARMERS MARKET** **F W**

All ages, 4-8 p.m.

Rose District Plaza

brokenarrowok.gov

Shop the popular Rose District Farmers Market on Tuesday evenings.

D&D: GAME MASTER'S GUILD **F**

For teens and tweens, 4-5:30 p.m.

Bronson Brookside Library

tulsalibrary.org

Aspiring game masters can discuss how to run TTRPGs.

July 15 Wednesday**INSPYRAL CIRCUS JAM** **F**

All ages, 6-8 p.m.

Guthrie Green

guthriegreen.com

A free, community jam open to anyone interested in circus arts. Extra hoops and juggling balls available for practice.

July 16 Thursday**SUMMER STORYTIME AT THE AIRPORT** **F**

Ages 0-5, 10-10:30 a.m.

Tulsa International Airport

tulsalibrary.org

Join the Maxwell Park Library for an exciting summer storytime at the airport.

BUILD A READER STORYTIME/STAY AND PLAY: SENSORY **F**

Ages 2-10, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Broken Arrow Library

tulsalibrary.org

This inclusive program is designed for children with a variety of learning styles or sensory integration challenges. Registration required for both storytime and Stay and Play. Register online or call 918.549.7323.

COMMUNITY FOOD AND RESOURCE FESTIVAL **F**

All ages, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

TCC Northeast Campus

foodonthemoveok.com

Guests receive a bag of groceries, a hot meal and access to essential resources.

July 17 Friday**OURS TO TELL: CHEROKEE STORIES** **F**

All ages, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Anna Mitchell Cultural & Welcome Center, Vinita

visitcherokeeanation.com

Celebrate Cherokee stories — some new, others passed down through generations, imagined and shaped through a variety of media and activities.

ICE CREAM IN A BAG AND MORE! **F**

For toddlers to tweens and caregivers, 3-4 p.m.

The Gardens at LaFortune Park

tulsalibrary.org

Celebrate National Ice Cream Day (July 19) with ice cream in a bag, crafts and books, plus water play.

MEMBER MOVIE NIGHT: THE LEGO MOVIE **F**

All ages, 6-8 p.m.

Discovery Lab

discoverylab.org

Members-Only Nights are getting a special movie add-on: *The Lego Movie* on the rooftop and complimentary popcorn!**July 18 Saturday****ROUTE 66 FESTIVAL: TALES OF THE MOTHER ROAD** **F**

All ages, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

Gathering Place

gatheringplace.org

Enjoy fascinating demonstrations and hands-on activities, as well as on-stage performances representing the magic of the Mother Road.

SCT ACTOR'S CAMP

10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Spotlight Theater

tulsaspotlighttheater.com

A one-day acting camp focused on character building, improv, theatre games and more. For ages 6-15.

TINKER SATURDAY: FAMILY KITCHEN **F**

All ages, 2-4 p.m.

Central Library

tulsalibrary.org

Explore basic cooking skills together and engage in hands-on culinary activities that help build practical life skills and family connection.

COMMUNITY MOVIE NIGHT: THE SUPER MARIO GALAXY MOVIE **F**

All ages, 7:10-10:30 p.m.

Redbud Festival Park

facebook.com/
owassorecreationandculture

Pre-show activities include a character meet-and-greet, balloon art, bounce house and more.

July 19 Sunday**FITNESS ON THE GREEN: ZUMBA WITH ARIANE** **F W**

All ages, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Guthrie Green

guthriegreen.com

An electrifying workout experience that seamlessly blends dance, music, and fitness.

PAINT THE ZOO

Ages 6+, 2-4:30 p.m.

Tulsa Zoo

tulsazoo.org

This public painting class, instructed by Pinot's Palette, will be held in the Helmerich Discovery Center building. Please note that this is not a drop-off event for children; it is requested that parents make reservations to sit with their children and paint together. Pre-registration required.

July 20 Monday**UNEARTH A STORY WITH DINOSAUR O'DELL: THE HISTORY OF LIFE ON OUR PLANET**

For preschoolers and elementary schoolers, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Nathan Hale Library

tulsalibrary.org

Explore the Paleozoic, Mesozoic and Cenozoic eras — from early marine life, to dinosaurs, to mammals.

July 21 Tuesday**BIG BUILD WEEK**

All ages, July 21-25

Discovery Lab

discoverylab.org

Discovery Lab will provide construction trucks to look at up close, jumbo building blocks, popsicle bridges and more.

FITNESS ON THE GREEN: YMCA YOGA **F W**

All ages, 6-7 p.m.

Guthrie Green

guthriegreen.com

Stretch and sweat through a sequence of seated and standing positions.

July 22 Wednesday**ILLUSTRATING A STORY: A FANTASY MAP WORKSHOP** **F**

For teens and tweens, 3-4:30 p.m.

Pratt Library

tulsalibrary.org

Dive into your imagination and build a custom fantasy map.

DOWNTOWN TULSA MIDWEEK MARKET **F W**

All ages, 4:30-7:30 p.m.

Santa Fe Square Plaza

downtowntulsa.com

This open-air marketplace is the perfect midweek stop to shop, explore and connect with the community.



Celebrate Cherokee stories at the Cherokee Nation Anna Mitchell Cultural & Welcome Center on July 17.

PHOTOS COURTESY VISIT CHEROKEE NATION

SHOW-AND-TELL FOR FAMILIES: I MADE IT MYSELF! **F**

All ages, 6-7:30 p.m.

Zarrow Regional Library

tulsalibrary.org

Bring something special or curious you or someone else made, then share it with the community.

July 23 Thursday

PLAY & BUILDGROUPS

Ages 0-6, 10-11 a.m.

Asbury Church

buildingallchildren.org

A community playgroup designed to support early childhood development while helping families connect, play and grow together. Pre-register online.

BORED GAME AFTERNOON **F**

For teens, 3:30-5 p.m.

Maxwell Park Library

tulsalibrary.org

Beat the boredom with card and board games!

July 24 Friday

ROGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S OKLAHOMA! **F**

7:30 p.m.

Tulsa PAC

tulsapac.com

Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!* bursts to life in a sweeping celebration of love, rivalry and the untamed promise of the American frontier. Additional showtimes through Aug. 16.

July 25 Saturday

NATIONAL DAY OF THE COWBOY **F**

All ages, 10 a.m.

National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum

nationalcowboymuseum.org

Explore movement, creativity and skill through engaging experiences inspired by the life of a cowboy.

SUMMER BASH

All ages, 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

WeStreet Ice Center

weststreeticecenter.com

An exciting day featuring local vendors, public skating, music, train rides and more.

YOUTH SUMMER TALENT SHOW

All ages, 7 p.m.

Herron's Crown Theater

mainstproductions.com

A talent show for kids and teens! Register to participate by July 11.

July 26 Sunday

MISSION IMPOPSICLE

All ages, June 20-Sept. 7

Tulsa Zoo

tulsazoo.org/popsicle

Giving is a treat, and your donation to Mission ImPopsicle presented by Renewal by Andersen benefits Tulsa Zoo's operating fund.

July 27 Monday

BUILDVILLE SOCIAL PLAYGROUP

Ages 3-8, 10-11 a.m.

Building All Children

buildingallchildren.org/buildville

A playful experience designed to support child development, build communication and social-emotional skills, and create joyful family memories. Pre-register online.

BABY BOARD BOOK BOOK CLUB **F**

For infants and toddlers, 10-11 a.m.

Central Library

tulsalibrary.org

Experience the joy of reading with your baby, featuring board books, playtime and a chance to make new friends.

July 28 Sunday

TULSA OPERA PRESENTS GOLDIE B. LOCKS AND THE THREE SINGING BEARS **F**

For elementary schoolers, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Hardesty Regional Library

tulsalibrary.org

This lively, laugh-out-loud children's opera follows one curious girl and three lovable singing bears.

COMMUNITY FOOD AND RESOURCE FESTIVAL **F**

All ages, 5:30-7 p.m.

Northwest Tulsa Hub

foodonthemoveok.com

Participants receive a bag of groceries, a hot meal for each guest and community resources.

July 29 Wednesday

WILL PARKER: MUSIC FOR KIDS AGES 1-100 **F**

All ages, 4-5 p.m.

Kendall-Whittier Library

tulsalibrary.org

Join Will Parker for a whimsical, interactive show for the whole family!

DIG IT: POETRY SLAM **F**

For teens, 4-5 p.m.

Nathan Hale Library

tulsalibrary.org

Come ready to perform, cheer on your fellow poets and celebrate the power of your voice.



Teens can join artist Ellen Weatherholt at Collinsville Library on July 13 to make a fresh floral mandala.

PHOTOS COURTESY TULSA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY



TEEN CONNECTIONS F

For middle and high schoolers, 4:30-6 p.m.

The Arc of Oklahoma
thearcok.org

This is a group for middle and high school youth with autism. Please contact Sherilyn at swalton@thearcok.org prior to attending for the first time.

July 30 Thursday

CRAFT CASTLE: DINO-MITE SUMMER! F

Ages 4-12, 4-5 p.m.

Martin Regional Library
tulsalibrary.org

Join for a STEAM-oriented, dinosaur-themed, make-and-take activity! Repeats July 16.

July 31 Friday

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

6-8 p.m.

Dick's House of Sport
dickssportinggoods.com/s/scheduling/s/1620

For just \$15, drop your kids off for two hours of fun, including pizza, time on the rock wall, HitTrax and golf bays, plus small games to keep them entertained. Pre-register.

IT HAPPENED ON ROUTE 66

All ages, 7-8:30 p.m.

Spotlight Theater
tulsaspotlighttheater.com

This affectionate tribute to the golden age of diners is guaranteed to warm your heart and tickle your funny bone. Presented by Spotlight Children's Theatre.

★ ★ ★
CELEBRATE THE 4TH OF JULY!
 ★ ★ ★

BIXBY FREEDOM CELEBRATION

July 3, 6-10 p.m.

Bentley Park, Bixby

A free, community-wide event, full of patriotism and family-friendly fun. Activities include a massive Kids Zone, Junior Firefighter Challenge, military swearing-in ceremony, food trucks, fireworks and more.

bixbyfreedomcelebration.com

FOLDS OF HONOR FREEDOMFEST PRESENTED BY QUIKTRIP

July 4, 6-10:15 p.m.

River West Festival Park and Zink Lake

Visible for miles around, tens of thousands of visitors enjoy the Folds of Honor FreedomFest from along the river each year. freedomfesttulsa.com

RED, WHITE AND BOOM PRE-SHOW

July 4, 7-9 p.m.

Redbud Festival Park, Owasso

This FREE event features a watermelon eating contest, live music, food trucks, lawn games, inflatables, face painting, balloons and more! The City of Owasso's Red, White and Boom fireworks show will be launched after dark from the Owasso Golf and Athletic Club; it will be visible from many areas of the city.

facebook.com/owassorecreationandculture

BOOMFEST AT OKLAHOMA AQUARIUM

July 4, 6:30-10 p.m.

Oklahoma Aquarium, Jenks

Watch Jenks' spectacular fireworks show from Oklahoma Aquarium. okaquarium.org

Timothy Thummel:

From Classroom to Coffee Shop

By **Natalie Mikles**



Timmy Thummel took the skills he learned through Town & Country School's Success Program to land a job at Not Your Average Joe.

At Town & Country School's student-run coffee shop, Brews & Bites, Timothy "Timmy" Thummel learned more than how to make drinks and snacks. The sophomore helped design the logo, create menu ideas and build confidence working with customers—experience that later helped him land a job at a Broken Arrow coffee shop, Not Your Average Joe.

Timmy is part of the school's Success Program, which focuses on real-world job skills and career preparation. When he's not making frappes or chai lattes, he enjoys playing piano, hanging out with friends, watching movies and creating videos for his YouTube channel. We talked to Timmy about his experience at Brews & Bites.

TK: What do you enjoy most about working at the coffee shop?

Timmy: Making our own free drink at the end and trying out new drinks we make.

TK: What's your favorite drink or snack to make?

Timmy: At Brews & Bites at school, the chai latte. At Not Your Average Joe, I like the power balls snack.

TK: What was your favorite part of helping create the school coffee shop?

Timmy: My favorite part was decorating the cups.

TK: How did it feel to get your job after working on the school project?

Timmy: I felt good about myself.

TK: What's something you've learned from working with customers?

Timmy: Sometimes it's hard to get all orders right. My boss helps us.

TK: What do you like about serving coffee and snacks to others?

Timmy: Making people happy.

TK: What are some of your favorite things to do in Tulsa?

Timmy: I love to hang out with my friends and play video games and piano.

TK: What's something you're really proud of this year?

Timmy: I'm proud of making goals and working.

TK: What are your goals for the future?

Timmy: I want to be a famous YouTuber. I have my own channel, Roblox Flappy Bird King. It's a shoutout channel.

TK: Who encourages or inspires you?

Timmy: My friends and family and my teacher, Mrs. Barna.

TK: What advice would you give another student who is nervous about trying a new opportunity?

Timmy: I would tell them I got nervous the first time I tried something new like working at the coffee shop.

TK: Do you like coffee? What's your favorite drink?

Timmy: Yes, and my favorite is the frappe. **TK**



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Let us know at
editor@tulsakids.com.



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