

## THE *NEXT STEP* PROGRAM

Extend learning opportunities  
Excite learners  
Experience growth

*... "thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Tim. 3:17)*

### **Rationale**

The Special Education Department would like to assist teachers in providing exceptional learning opportunities for highly capable students. By coordinating a plan that is beneficial to each divisional level, CCS can provide additional opportunities for students within the classroom, using resources that can be shared by a group of teachers.

As indicated by CCS standardized tests, many of our students excel in academics, some with scores in the extremely high range, at the 98<sup>th</sup> to 99<sup>th</sup> percentile. Teachers strive to make learning challenging and interesting for their students. Students benefit from open-ended activities, multi-level assignments, and a variety of extra-curricular activities. An extended plan, that is coordinated and planned by the special education department, would benefit students that have specialized interests or areas of strength.

### **Specifics of the *Next Step* Program**

- Guidelines
  - Extension activities should be easy to implement by teachers
  - The activities should be relevant to specific age groups, organized in an easy to access format for teachers/students
  - The *Next Step* plan should be flexible, based on staff input
  - If possible, activities should be self-checking, for student independence and accuracy
  - Activity involvement may be tracked by the classroom teacher and/or special education teacher
  - If appropriate, opportunities should be provided for students to share new knowledge gained through activity involvement, via a presentation or report
  - Regular involvement in extension activities may be documented on term report cards
  - The activities should be used for student growth in developing specific learning skills, such as:
    - Cognitive Skills: ability to think about, understand, and remember information; ability to process information quickly and automatically
    - Higher Order Thinking Skills: ability to solve problems, plan strategies, draw conclusions, and understand cause/effect relationships, ability to reason and form ideas and to think critically and creatively
    - Memory Skills : ability to store and recall information; ability to concentrate and perform sequencing skills
    - Visual-Spatial Thinking Skills: ability to analyze visual patterns and to solve problems using a visual design; ability to quickly understand and respond to visual information
    - Written Expression Skills: use of conventions, developing and organizing ideas, research skills
    - Math Skills: computation, fluency, and reasoning skills
    - Reading Skills: vocabulary and comprehension skills (also in Spanish and French)
    - Music Skills: instrumental and performance skills

- Resources
  - iPad with Retina display, 16 GB: educational apps
    - iPad apps will be made available to challenge students at each divisional level, based on student needs and interests or classroom topics of study
    - Project templates may be provided for research use, by the special education department
    - Activities can be implemented by individuals or small groups
  - Project Activities:
    - The activity templates will be made available to challenge students at each divisional level, based on student needs and interests or classroom topics of study
    - Activities can be implemented by individuals or small groups
    - Students may experience multi-intelligence presentation opportunities
  - Movie-Making Projects:
    - The activity will be made available to challenge students at the grades 4-8 level, based on student interests or classroom topics of study
    - Projects can be implemented by individuals or small groups
    - Students may experience presentation opportunities (including through CCS social media channels)
  - *A-Z Reading, Levelled Activity Books*: Language development activities in English, French, and Spanish; science opportunities including experiments, PBL projects, and more
    - The projectable or printable books and activities will be made available to challenge students at each divisional level, based on student needs and interests or classroom topics of study
    - Activities can be implemented by individuals or small groups
  - Manipulative Games:
    - The games will be made available to challenge students at each divisional level, based on student needs and interests or classroom topics of study
    - Activities can be implemented by individuals or small groups
  - Band Music: solo, duet, and trio *Songs of Praise* musical selections for band instruments
    - The musical selections will be made available to challenge band students at the intermediate division level, based on student interests
    - Activities can be implemented by individuals or small groups
    - Students may experience musical performance opportunities
- Evaluation of the *Next Step* Plan
  - Teacher/student feedback and suggestions, via discussion
  - Teacher meetings regarding specific student needs and program implementation
  - Monitor use of materials, via special education catalogue system

## Summary

The *Next Step* program is intended to assist teachers in order to meet the needs of students that have high performance results in academic subjects. The plan should support student interests and strengths, and be easy to implement by classroom teachers. Implementation of the plan will be monitored by the Special Education Department.