



TRANSITION  
PROGRAM

# **NEXT** **STEPS**

Open House • May 7, 2021



Next Steps students prepare breakfast together via Zoom

## **WELCOME**

Janet Wolfe, Head of School

## **NEXT STEPS OVERVIEW**

Ryan Zaccaro, Coordinator of the Next Steps Transition Program

## **THERAPIES**

Janie Fox, Director of Therapies and Related Services

## **POSTSECONDARY PLANNING**

Margaret Egan, Director of Learning Support

## **ADMISSIONS**

Lori Murphy and Alexa Arata

## **Q & A**

# Fast Facts

## ● Enrollment

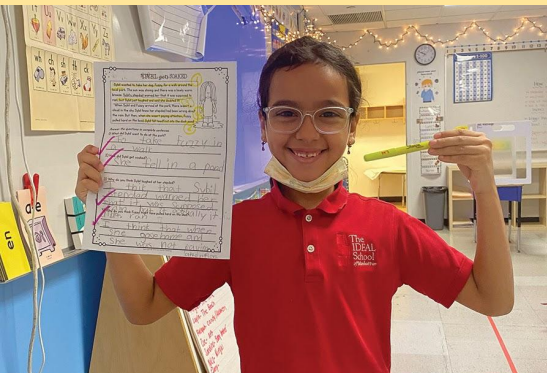
- Opened in 2006 with 20 students in Grades K-2
- Today, we have 222 students
  - 90 students in Lower School (Grades K-5)
  - 74 students in Middle School (Grades 6-8)
  - 53 students in High School (Grades 9-12)
  - 5 students in the Next Steps Transition Program

## ● Average class size:

- 15 Lower School
- 14 Middle School
- 10 High School

## ● Faculty and Staff

- 109 faculty and staff members
- 30% faculty of color, as compared to 15% average of all NAIS member schools
- 83% lead faculty with advanced degrees
- 8 Lower School therapists and counselors, all with advanced degrees
- 8 Upper School therapists and counselors, all with advanced degrees
- 3:1 student teacher ratio in Lower School
- 4:1 student teacher ratio in Upper School
- 2:1 Student Teacher ratio in Next Steps





# Fast Facts

- **Accreditations**
  - Fully accredited by NYSAIS, Grades K-12
  - Absolute Charter, Grades K-12, New York State
  - High School Registered with the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York
- **Memberships and Affiliations**
  - National Association of Independent Schools
  - Independent Schools Admissions Association of Greater New York
  - Guild of Independent Schools of New York City
  - The Heads Network
  - Registered with the College Board as a Level II School
    - Receive students' scores for AP, PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, and ACT
    - Administer AP, PSAT/NMSQT.
    - Participate in AP Course Audit
    - Request College Board accommodations for students with disabilities
    - Receive SAT and ACT publications
  - One Schoolhouse
    - Access to electives and AP classes

# Ryan Zaccaro

Coordinator of the Next Steps Transition Program

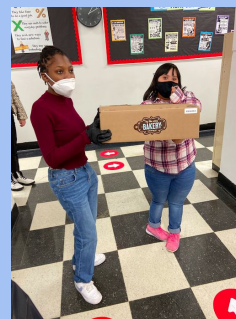
## Overview:

- The Next Steps Transition Program is a postsecondary option designed to meet the needs of a range of students
  - Students for whom college or other postsecondary opportunities might be appropriate after additional preparation
  - Students for whom independent living and career skills are the priority
- Students can attend for one, two, or three years
- The program promotes independence by engaging in community activities
- Next Steps is individualized to the participants in the program
  - We work with students and families to create goals
  - We meet the range of all students in academic classes and internships
  - Our program is student-interest driven
- Next Steps faculty work with students to increase academic, social, and vocational readiness

# Ryan Zaccaro Coordinator of the Next Steps Transition Program

## Student-run businesses:

- By the Way Bakery collaboration
  - Neighborhood kosher, gluten-free bakery
  - Weekly cupcake ordering and delivery coordinated by Next Steps students
- Students run a school store where they:
  - Plan, purchase, and price items to sell
  - Develop marketing skills
  - Advertise, practice, and apply graphic design skills
  - Manage inventory, build customer service skills, and operate a cash register
  - Review the store budget and monitor profits
  - Cultivate regular and meaningful customer relationships



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Coordinator of the Next Steps Transition Program

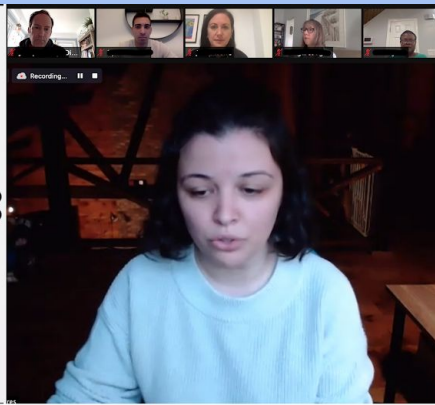
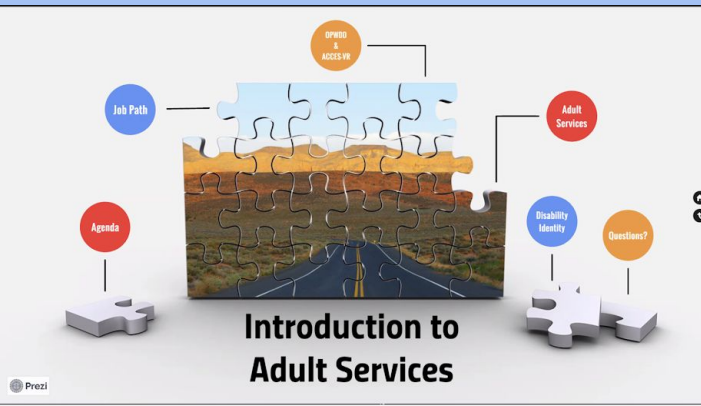
## Partnerships:

- Job Path
  - Lead staff professional development
  - Co-teach vocational planning classes
  - Present parent workshops
- BTW Bakery
  - Collaborate with students on a weekly cupcake delivery service
- Horace Mann School
  - Provide a variety of internship opportunities for students
- B'nai Jeshurun
  - Provide internship opportunities for students in the hospitality field
- A local college with a specialized, inclusive program
- Other local postsecondary programs
  - Plan social events with other programs with build interpersonal relationships

# Ryan Zaccaro Coordinator of the Next Steps Transition Program

## Parent Programming:

- Numerous introductions to inclusive colleges throughout the year
- The IDEAL Speaker Series
  - Presentations on a number of topics related to services and opportunities for young adults with disabilities



## Why are OPWDD and ACCES-VR necessary?

### OPWDD

Required for obtaining waiver services (Supported Employment, Day Hab, Comm Hab, Respite, etc.)

- Application process is lengthy, best to start several years prior to graduation
- Medicaid is required for enrollment

### ACCES-VR

Most employment programs require an open case with ACCES-VR

- Provides funding for job development and first 90 days of work, then OPWDD funding kicks in
- Links to training in a number of areas related to work-readiness

# Ryan Zaccaro

Coordinator of the Next Steps Transition Program

## Internships:

- Students complete a career interest assessment
- Students participate in internships based on their interests
- Students explore a variety of skills and fields
- Students work with a job coach to increase independence
- Internships are individualized to meet the range and needs of all students
- Students practice work-related social skills
- Students receive support in writing resumes and cover letters as appropriate
- In 2020-21, two students engaged in internal internships





# Ryan Zaccaro

Coordinator of the Next Steps Transition Program

## Transition Support Professionals

- Transition Support Professionals assist students:
  - with vocational assistance at internship sites
  - in academic subjects
  - with daily living skills
  - when navigating the community
- Transition Support Professionals provide a high staff to student ratio in order to give individualized attention



# Ryan Zaccaro

Coordinator of the Next Steps Transition Program

## Academics and Life Skills Classes:

- Finance
- Literacy
- Arts
- Fitness and Health
- Technology and Coding
- Hobby Building
- Daily Living Skills
- Travel Skills
- Community Exploration



# Weekly Schedule

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:15	Arrival	Arrival	Arrival	Arrival	Arrival
1: 8:25-9:10	Finance	Finance	Finance	Finance	Finance
2: 9:15-10:00	Literacy	Literacy	Literacy	Literacy	Literacy
10-10:10	snack	snack	snack	snack	snack
3: 10:10-10:55	Fitness & Health	Fitness & Health	Fitness & Health	Fitness & Health	Pioneer Period
4: 11:00-11:45	Hobby Building	Internship	Travel Skills	Hobby Building	Arts
5: 11:50-12:35	Technology and Coding		Daily Living Skills	Technology and Coding	Community Exploration & Lunch
6: 12:40-1:25	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
7: 1:30-2:15	Group Speech	Group OT	Group Speech	Group OT	
8: 2:20 - 3:05	Arts	Arts	Arts	Arts	Dismissal
	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	

Weekly  
Schedule 2

		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	8:15	Arrival	Arrival	Arrival	Arrival	Arrival
1:	8:25-9:10	HS Math	HS Math	HS Math	HS Math	HS Math
2:	9:15-10:00	HS English	HS English	HS English	HS English	HS English
	10-10:10	snack	snack	snack	snack	snack
3:	10:10-10:55	Fitness & Health	Fitness & Health	Fitness & Health	Fitness & Health	Pioneer Period
4:	11:00-11:45	HS Chemistry	HS Chemistry	HS Chemistry	HS Chemistry	HS Chemistry
5:	11:50-12:35	Internship	Group OT	Internship	Group OT	Community Exploration & Lunch
6:	12:40-1:25	Lunch (Group Speech)	Lunch	Lunch (Group Speech)	Lunch	
7:	1:30-2:15	HS Social Studies	HS Social Studies	HS Social Studies	HS Social Studies	
8:	2:20 - 3:05	Arts	Arts	Arts	Arts	Dismissal
		Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	



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Coordinator of the Next Steps Transition Program

## In arts classes, students:

- Participate in daily arts activities
  - Visual art, drama, music
- Build creativity and confidence
- Develop multiple modes of expression
- Increase their community engagement
- Participate in ArtBeat, an annual arts showcase
- Participate in IDEAL's extracurricular drama program



# Music



Students in music used a program called Music Maker to arrange stock music and create a score for a short film. Students had to think about the emotions of the scene and match the music to these emotions.



# Resumé Review

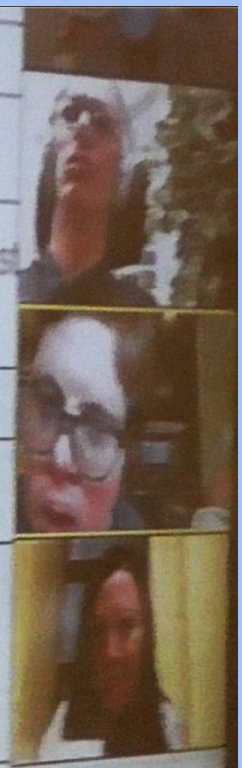
Students work  
together with  
the Head of  
School to write  
their resumes

## Work Experiences

- School store: helped customers, stocked store items, cleaned the store

## Volunteer Experiences

- Nursing Home sang to the residents
- IDEAL Lower School: helped serve lunch to students
- IDEAL Upper School: stocked printer area with office materials



Checklist and other notes

# Culinary Skills

The Upper School building has a kitchen where students can work on daily living skills





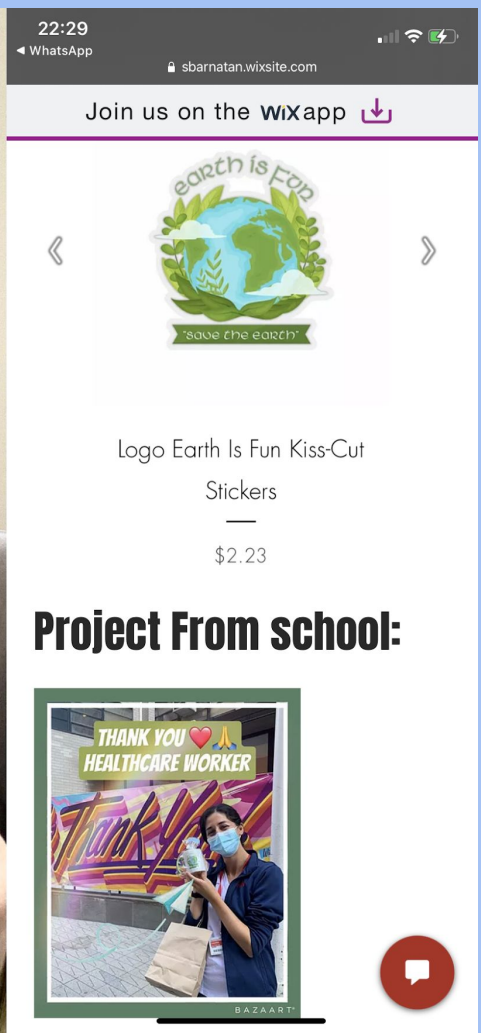
# Daily Living Skills

Preparing lunch together over Zoom



# Service Learning

A Next Steps student  
works independently on a  
website and merchandise





# Creative Arts

Next Steps students  
are able to participate  
in all IDEAL High  
School arts classes



# Field Trip: NYC Transit Museum

Recording...







## Therapies:

- Include small groups for students to work alongside peers
- Incorporated into the schedule
- Led by a NYS licensed speech-language pathologist or occupational therapist
- Focus on building life skills and independence
- Focus on individualized goals and overarching themes
- Include physical therapy or counseling as needed

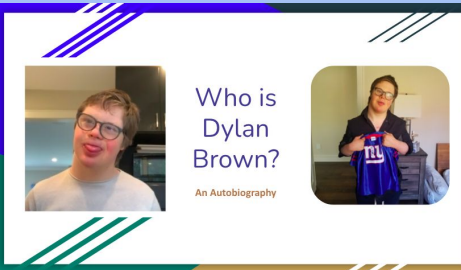
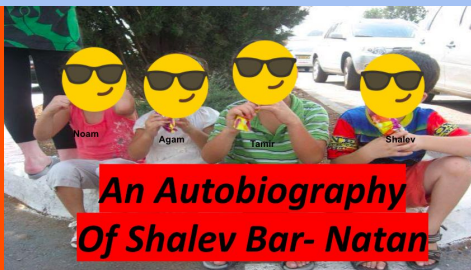
# Margaret Egan Director of Learning Support

## ● The Postsecondary Process

- When is a diploma appropriate?
- Federal/State organizations
- Accommodations in college and the workplace
- Why Next Steps?

### Who is Jack Neuman?

*An Autobiography*



### Who is Kemani Evans?



*An Autobiography*



## How is Next Steps Different from Other Postsecondary Programs?

- Individualized program based on student wants and needs
- Social outreach opportunities
- Interest-based internships
- Daily arts opportunities
- After school extracurricular opportunities
- Support for families through CSE process

# Lori Murphy and Alexa Arata

## Admissions

### Admissions Process

- Application: rolling, online, individualized
- Supplemental materials
- Visit/interview

### Affording Next Steps at IDEAL

- Work with families and attorneys
- Amended payment plans

# Contact Information

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Director of Learning Support **Margaret Egan** [megan@theidealschool.org](mailto:megan@theidealschool.org)

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Director of Therapies and Related Services **Janie Fox** [jfox@theidealschool.org](mailto:jfox@theidealschool.org)

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<https://www.theidealschool.org/academics/next-steps>