



TRANSITION
PROGRAM

NEXT STEPS

NEXT STEPS *Presenters*



Ryan Zaccaro, Head of the Next Steps Transition Program

Hilary Smith, Director of Admissions

rzaccaro@theidealschool.org
hsmith@theidealschool.org

NEXT STEPS Overview



Who do we aim to serve?

- Students who may want or require additional preparation before pursuing a college education or other postsecondary educational program
- Students who want to develop a greater sense of independence for their next step in life

How long is the program?

- Students can attend for one, two, three years
The length of the program can be determined by individual families based on their student's goal
- The program follows the standard academic calendar

NEXT STEPS *Overview*

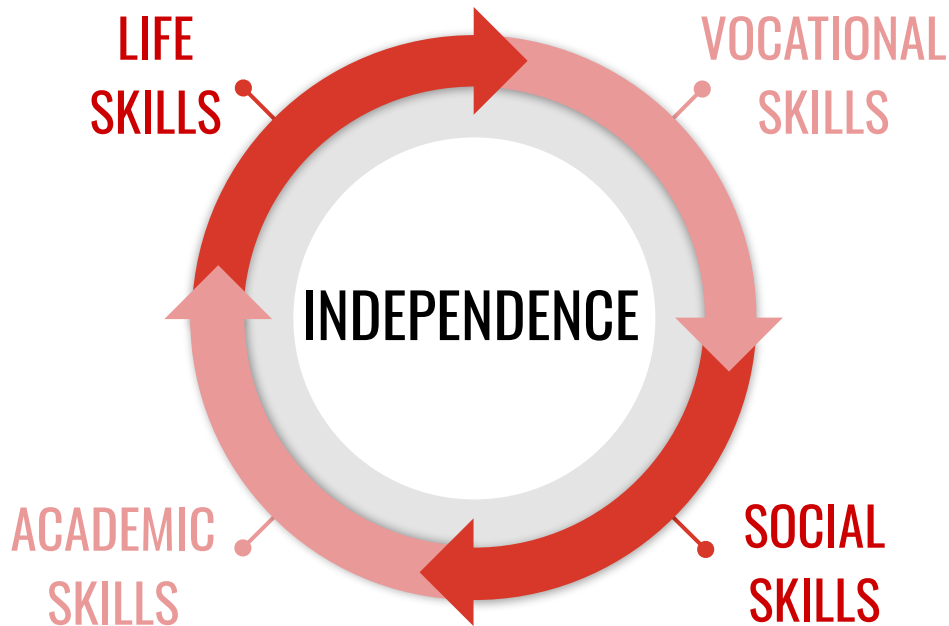


What are the skills that lead to greater independence?

We work with each individual student and family to create goals within each of these realms

Student-interest driven

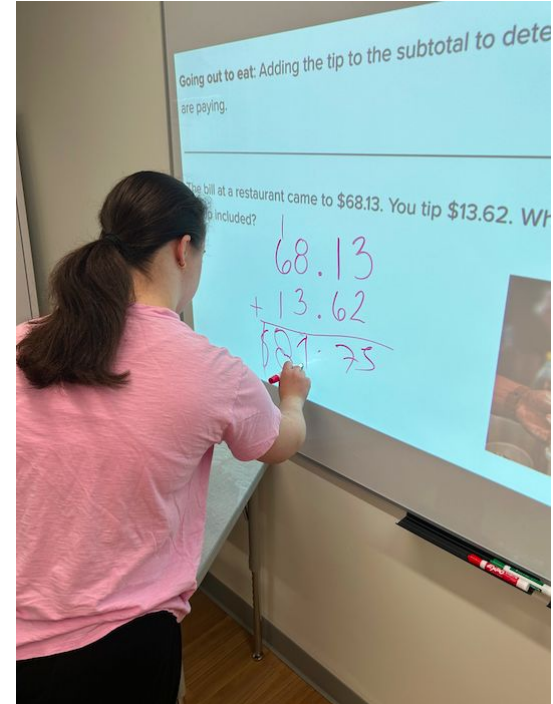
Individualized curriculum to meet students where they are and increase independence



NEXT STEPS *Academics*



- Finance
- Literacy
- Health
- Technology
- Access to High School courses
- The arts



NEXT STEPS *Academics*



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

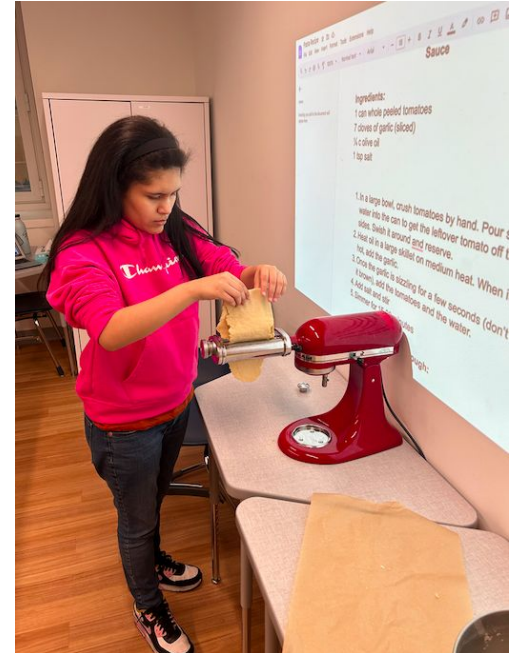


NEXT STEPS *Life Skills*



Independent Living Skills:

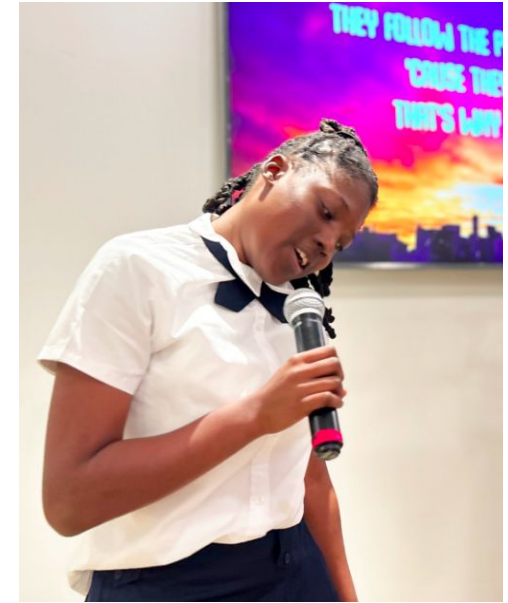
- Culinary Arts
- Independent Living
- Hobby Building
- Travel Skills
- Career Skills
- Mindfulness



NEXT STEPS *Social Skills*



- First Fridays social events
 - Monthly social events with alumni and transition-aged students from other local programs
- Inclusive arts courses, extracurriculars, dances, and clubs with IDEAL students



NEXT STEPS *Internships*

Every student is placed in an internship

A growing list of external internships, including:



New York
Public
Library



NEXT STEPS *School Store*



Student-run business where students work as:

- Cashiers
- Inventory managers
- Sales associates

Students are all involved in:

- Planning, purchasing, and pricing items
- Developing marketing skills
- Reviewing the store budget and monitoring profits



NEXT STEPS *Candle-Making Business*



Student-run business where students:

- Select and name fragrances, and design the labels
- Are involved in the whole candle-making process
- Sell to our community and monitor sales

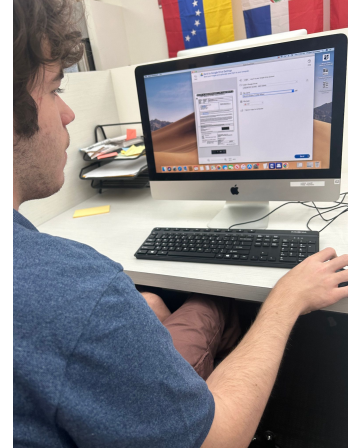


NEXT STEPS *Vocational Skills*



Vocational Skills and Internships:

- Students build skills related to resume writing and job interviewing
- Students apply job skills at internship sites and are supported by faculty
- Students engage in volunteer and service learning opportunities
- Students run two businesses to support their skills



The IDEAL Parent Programming



IDEAL is hosting eight expert-led talks to support families of all students from kindergarten through transitions (18-21). All sessions will be held on Zoom, unless otherwise noted.

This season's dates and topics include:

- **October 24:** *Special Education 101: A to Z of the Special Education Case*
- **December 4:** *How NeuroMovement® Kickstarts Learning and Connection in Parents, Caregivers, and Kids (in-person)*
- **December 17:** *Carrying Over Therapy Goals at Home*
- **January 15:** *College and Postsecondary Alternatives for Students with Disabilities*
- **February 20:** *Introduction to Adult Services, including OPWDD (Office of People with Developmental Disabilities)*
- **March 4:** *Self-Direction Funding*
- **April 3:** *Supported Decision-Making as an Alternative to Guardianship*
- **April 14:** *What Comes Next: Employment, Postsecondary Education, and Life After High School for Students with Disabilities*
- **May 15:** *OPWDD Housing*

NEXT STEPS *Life After Next Steps*



- Students in Next Steps have taken a variety of paths, including:
 - **AHRC Day Habilitation Program, New York;**
 - **Borough of Manhattan Community College, New York;**
 - **The Brookwood Community Residential Program, Texas;**
 - **Chapel Haven School, Connecticut;**
 - **Kingsborough Community College–Melissa Riggio Program, New York;**
 - And, individualized programming based on self-direction budget



NEXT STEPS *Related Services*



Therapies

- Students take speech therapy, occupational therapy, counseling, and physical therapy, as needed
- Include small groups for students to work alongside peers
- Are incorporated into the schedule
- Are led by a New York state licensed speech-language pathologists and occupational therapists
- Focus on building life skills and independence
- Focus on individualized goals and overarching themes

NEXT STEPS *Facts*



Small student-teacher ratio

INCLUDED IN TUITION

Chromebooks Field Trips
Lunch SAT Prep Books
School Supplies Theater
College Counseling Music
Clubs One Schoolhouse

Accreditations & Memberships

- New York State Association of Independent Schools (NYSAIS)
- National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)
- Independent Schools Admissions Association of Greater NY (ISAAGNY)
- Registered with the College Board

8 Upper School therapists,
all with advanced degrees

NEXT STEPS Admission



✓ Step 1: Inquire

Step 2: Submit an application

- Application part 1
- Application part 2 (For students with IEPs)
- School Report Release Form
- ISAAGNY Teacher Recommendations

Step 3: Schedule a parent tour and interview

Step 4: Schedule a child interview and class visit

Step 5: Submit financial documentation

(for FA or Amended Tuition Payment Plan applicants only)

admissions@theidealschool.org