

## Somerdale Park School

### Junior STEPS Program

### *K-2 Identification and Details*

**Selection:** Any K-2 student, who functions at a consistently exceptional level in general intellectual ability, specific academic aptitude, creativity, leadership, or visual and performing arts, may be considered for identification. Throughout the school year, classroom teachers will collect evidence of students' advanced abilities through conversations with parents/guardians, observations, anecdotal records, portfolios, and/or behavioral checklists.

**Program:** The process of identification is continuous. Classroom teachers regularly review student progress and performance, and student data is gathered each year in a portfolio as reference for the following school year. To this end, classroom teachers work to develop and implement appropriate programming for more able learners. Kindergarten students are served within the regular classroom with age appropriate curriculum differentiation strategies until the third Marking Period. At the end of the second marking period, the STEPS teacher will either push-in or pull-out based on teacher recommendation. The curriculum for Junior STEPS students will be differentiated from the regular curriculum in the areas of content, process, and product.

**Instruction:** Instructional strategies may include the following:

- Student Centered Classroom
- Cooperative Environment
- Questioning Techniques
- Critical, Creative, Evaluative, and Interpersonal Skills
- Learning Centers
- Flexible Grouping

## *Junior STEPS Timeline of Acceptance*

**September-** students in grades 1 & 2 who were identified in Kindergarten or 1<sup>st</sup> grade auto-enroll in Junior STEPS.

**February** – recommendations open for kindergarteners and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders new to the district.

**March** – students and families notified of acceptance.