

Learning in Progress

A Fresh Perspective on
Collegiate Education

A BIT ABOUT ME

- 24 years in education
- 19 years as administrator
- Led schools K–9, online
- Thought I knew teaching, until I didn't



THE ISLAND OF ONLINE LEADERSHIP

- COVID-era online principal
- The work was meaningful but connection was missing
- Missed relationship with parents and students
- Decided to return to the classroom



A SABBATICAL AND A SHIFT



- Took cabinetmaking & welding at SAIT
- Planned to teach CTF
- Reconnected with hands-on work



INSTEAD OF A SHOP CLASS...

- Expected a shop class but inherited a system
- Became CTS, Dual Credit & Collegiate supervisor
- Supported Diverse Learning at 25 schools
- Supported career programming



IF YOU BUILD IT THEY WILL COME?

- Oversaw collegiate at two sites
- OLR and St. Mary's High
- Renovations well underway then
- OLR opening: January 2025
- 'Choose Your Adventure' tagline



***Our Lady of the Rockies
Collegiate School***
Innovation, Technology & Design Centre

COMING SOON! January 2025

Choose your own *ADVENTURE*

IN OVER MY HEAD

- I didn't fully understand 'collegiate'
- Definition existed, but interpretations varied
- Leadership and staff saw it differently
- Returned to Proof of Concept
- Built my understanding from there



BACK TO THE BLUEPRINT

- Original grant funding: \$8 million
- Plan: Two STEAM Labs built
- Design Thinking was the core
- Sites: OLR and St. Mary's
- Two excerpts stood out clearly

Collegiate School Status Initial Proof of Concept Application

PLEASE NOTE

*Initial Proof of Concept Application is due January 15 (*up to two years prior to opening).*

A staff member will be assigned to support the applicant in completing the application forms.

*Applicants whose Initial Proof of Concept is approved will be required to complete and submit a Business Case including startup funding request (if applicable) by May 31 (*up to two years prior to opening).*

Ensure to complete and submit the Initial Proof of Concept Application by the deadline.

**For applicants requesting an entirely new facility, earlier applications may be required*

“Our aim is to provide programing that aligns closely with the vision of a collegiate school and one that is aligned in meeting the future requirements of Alberta’s labour market.” (pg. 9)

“Calgary is experiencing the fastest growth in tech talent in North America.” (pg.10)

“Part of the work that needs to be done, is helping young people be more aware of what kinds of opportunities exist in the skilled trades, there's long been a negative stigma associated with the skilled trades as "second-class career choices." (pg. 10)

“As an umbrella course to capture specialize instruction in Engineering, Business, Design, Computer Programing, Robotics and Healthcare areas we plan to make effective use of the Locally Developed Course (LDC) Design Thinking for Innovation course which focuses on Innovation, Technology and Design.” (pg. 14)

Balancing Past Work and Future Vision



Dual-Credit Programs

Kickstart your future by earning post-secondary credits and workplace certification while in high school. The Calgary Catholic School District's Dual-Credit programs provide opportunities for students to personalize their high school experience by exploring their interests. In partnership with post-secondary institutions in Alberta, grade 10-12 students can earn high school credits in conjunction with either post-secondary credits or workplace certification. Offered at minimal cost, these programs allow students to discover career pathways, progress at a quicker pace through post-secondary studies or transition easily into workplace settings. **NOTE:** offerings are tentative and subject to change from year to year.

PROGRAM	POST-SECONDARY SCHOOL
Healthcare Career Essentials	SAT
Pharmacy Assistant	SAT
Pre-employment Carpentry	SAT
Pre-employment Pipe Trades	SAT
Pre-employment Welding	SAT
Veterinary Technical Assistant	Olds College Calgary Campus

Discover career pathways

Personalize your high school experience

HEALTHCARE CAREER ESSENTIALS
Students will attend SAT for one semester to begin their first steps in learning about a wide variety of healthcare-related careers. Student will have opportunity to develop essential knowledge and skill in diagnostic imaging, pharmaceuticals, respiratory therapy, dental, pharmacy and other exciting career options. The focus of this program covers medical terminology, anatomy, physiology, and the use of technology-oriented medical skills to learn applied skills in infection prevention and control.

PHARMACY ASSISTANT
Working under the supervision of a pharmacist, this program prepares students for retail operations by compounding, dispensing and packaging prescriptions and sterile products. The program covers inventory management, pharmaceutical information and education while teaching business basics.

PRE-EMPLOYMENT CARPENTRY
Students are exposed to drafting and blueprint reading and comprehensive safety training, while covering all first year Carpentry Apprenticeship Individual Learning Modules. There are 240 hours of practical hands-on skill development and 120 hours of classroom instruction.

PRE-EMPLOYMENT PIPE TRADES
Students will attend SAT to complete their first period of technical training in the Pre-Employment Pipe Trades Program. Through hands-on classes students will learn about plumbing and gas fitting, blueprint reading and writing. This program covers all first year Pipe Trades Apprenticeship Learning Modules (LME).

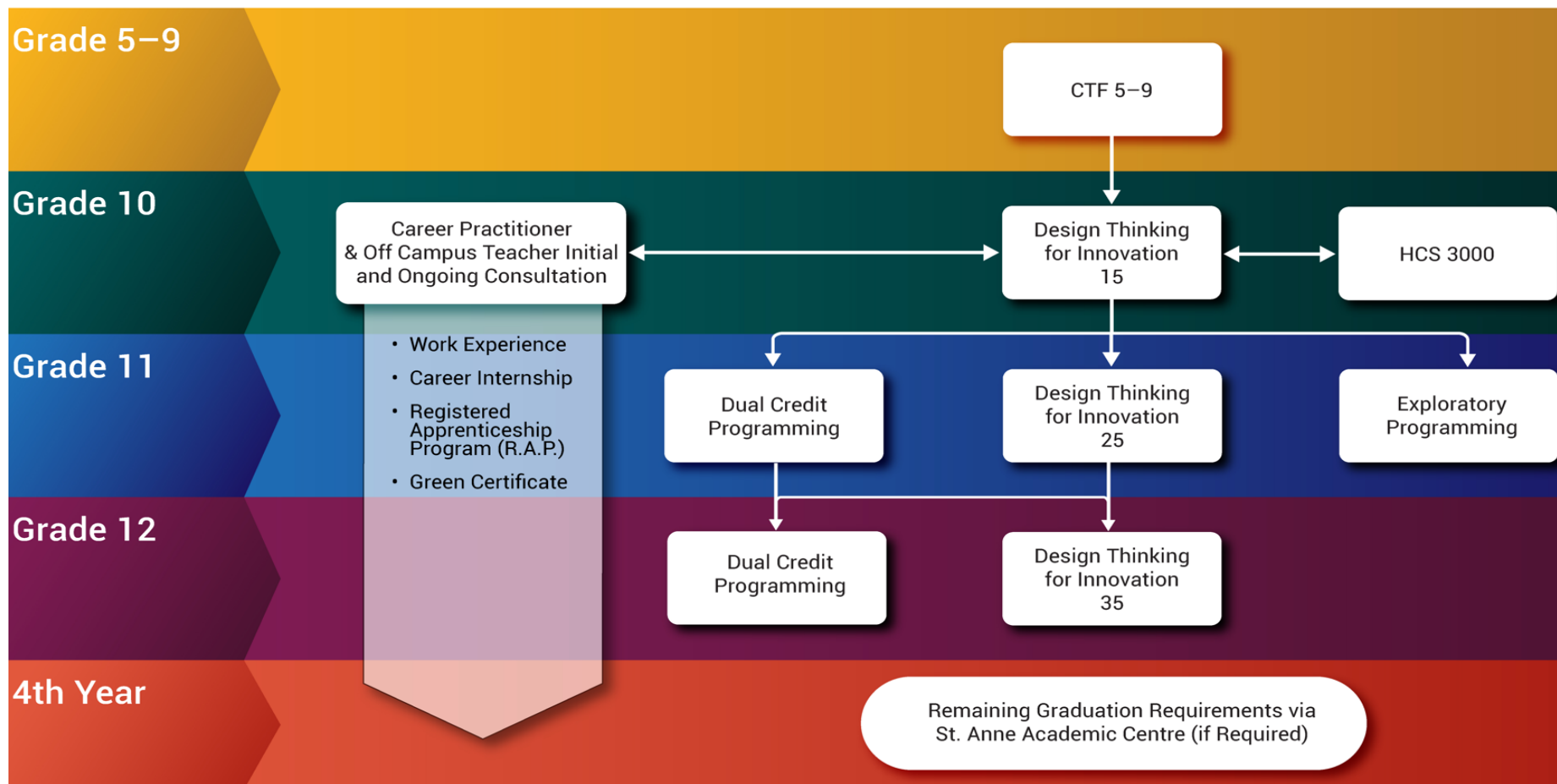
PRE-EMPLOYMENT WELDING
Students receive 240 hours of practical hands-on skill development in SAT's state-of-the-art welding lab and 120 hours of classroom instruction. Welding processes, techniques and theory are taught. Students are exposed to following directions provided in layouts, blueprints and work orders, cleaning parts, checking for defects and welding parts together.

VETERINARY TECHNICAL ASSISTANT
This entry level program is designed to introduce students to the veterinary industry and animal care. It gives students the opportunity to work alongside veterinary professionals, animal health technicians and animal staff.

For more information about these dual credit programs and the application process, please visit ccsd.dualcredit@calgaryccsd.ca

- Honour foundational work
- Re-align vision
- Merged interpretations into shared strategy

CCSD Design Thinking for Innovation Collegiate Program



Back to the Island

Because of how unique the collegiate program was, and the necessity to bring multiple perspectives together, I was feeling over-whelmed and didn't know where to turn.

I began to wonder if I was heading back to the island.



Mentorship Everywhere



Calgary
Construction
Association



Altex Security Systems



OLDS COLLEGE
OF AGRICULTURE & TECHNOLOGY



Relationships: Rooted and Rising

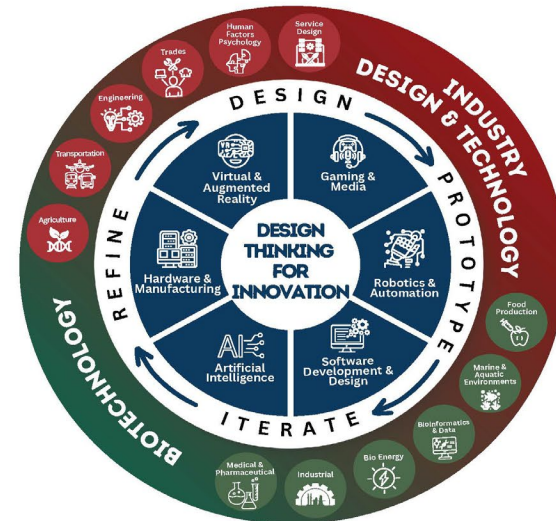
- Stakeholders gave time and expertise
- Contributions enriched our shared vision
- Old ties required honest conversations
- New ones needed trust-building
- We respected every partner's role



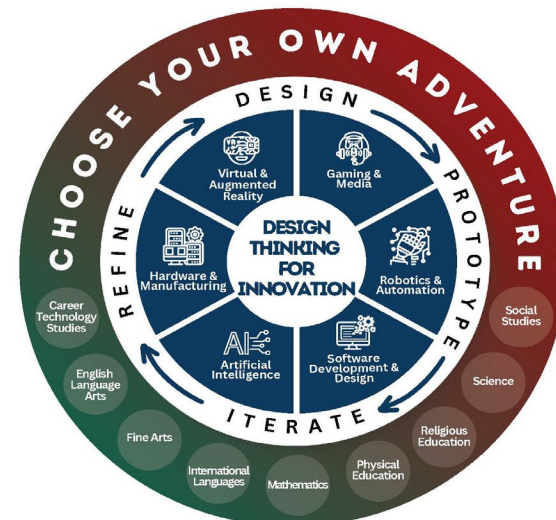
The Results – A Shared Vision

- Everything anchored with DTFI
- St. Mary's: Biotechnology OLOR: Industry Technology & Design focus
- Honour strengths and stakeholder input
- Blending both open and defined pathways

DESIGN THINKING FOR INNOVATION



WHICH PATH WILL YOU CHOOSE?



The Results - Restructuring My Role & Building A Team

- Stepped away from Diverse Learning
- More focused on Collegiate and Career Pathway Planning
- Directly supervise Off-Campus Teachers and Career Practitioners
- Roles redefined for clear focus



The Results: System & Process Changes



- Created District Off-Campus Handbook
- Built digital files
- Defined Dual Credit/ Partner protocols
- Integrated digital career planning
- Expanded CTF Career Components Gr. 1-9

The Results: Redefining Partnerships



- Ensure partnerships are mutually beneficial
- Removing barriers to student access
- Focused on clarity and strategy
- Celebrate student success through partners
- Use testimonials and shared stories

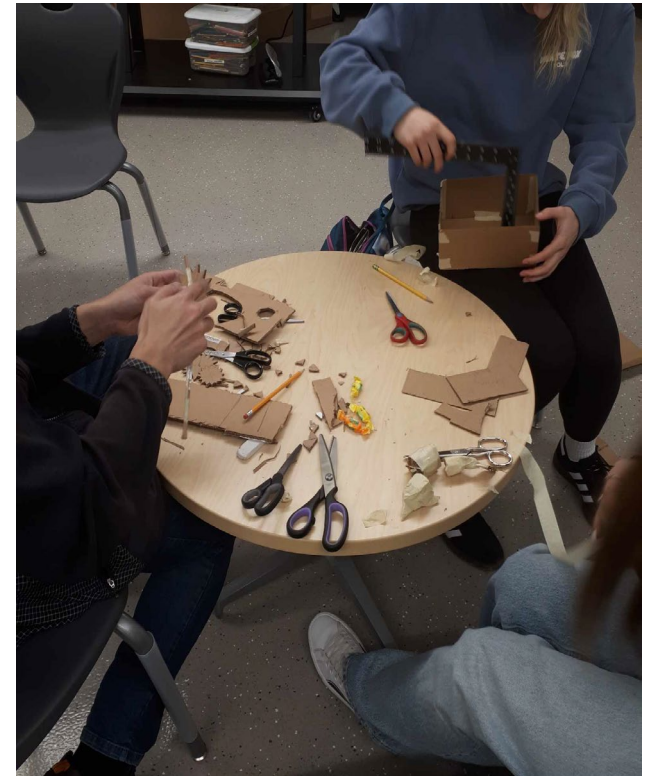
The Results: Collaboration Over Competition

- Collegiate programming reflects each board's unique context
- Collaboration creates more choice, better outcomes for students



Final Thoughts

- Collegiate is built on people
- Trust and collaboration drive everything
- Relationships make opportunity possible
- Community gives collegiate purpose



Take Aways – New to Collegiate

- Understand vision, culture, partnerships
- Build trust before driving change
- Relationships first, then innovation follows
- Seek mentorship, ask for guidance
- Stay humble, listen, keep learning



Take Aways – Established Collegiate Leaders

- Lead by example with experience
- Your journey guides others forward
- Share insights through mentorship, collaboration
- Blend legacy wisdom with innovation



Collegiate Is a Community

Relationship is key, built on trust, sustained by collaboration and empowered by shared vision.

Thank you for your time, your insight, and your partnership.

Questions?

