

QUESTION 04

WHAT DO WE DO WHEN STUDENTS HAVE LEARNED ALREADY?

Question Four is the final critical question as part of the ICS commitment to students:

- Question One: What do we want students to know, understand, and be able to do?
- Question Two: How do we know if students are learning?
- Question Three: What are we going to do when students are not learning?

Our objective is to create life-long learners who are curious and will continue to grow throughout school and their adult lives. To achieve this, we must give students opportunities to extend their learning beyond what is expected of them. We believe there is no ceiling to learning. It doesn't help to encourage a child to relax once they have reached mastery. We want to instill in our students a drive to learn more, to ask deeper and more complex questions. We want to give students ownership of extending their learning.

Question Four asks: What do we do when there's evidence a student has already learned?

At ICS, we believe if a student already knows something, we need to challenge that student to go even further. We can target the next level of proficiency in a given concept or skill. We can encourage students to go beyond the level of proficiency that's been deemed appropriate for their age group or class. We can guide the student to seek ways of deepening their understanding. We can ask students to connect concepts to other disciplines and to the world outside the classroom.

From the perspective of both the teacher and the student, this question signals the natural progression of learning: to incrementally hand over the learning journey to the student to maximize their own individual potential to investigate, analyze, and grow.