



## The John Crosland School's New 'Odyssey Project'

### Our new "eLearner Initiative" will Help Students Reach Their Full Potential

We're excited to announce our students will soon begin using tablet and keyboard devices equipped with personalized learning software—part of a yearlong pilot project designed to help our children reach their full potential. This fall, we'll launch our new 'Odyssey Project,' to place cutting-edge technology in the hands of our students, allowing for multi-sensory learning through pop-up graphics, sounds, visual clues and voice-to-text software.

We'll be the the first school of our kind to undertake this initiative. In addition to tablet and keyboard devices, students will receive e-textbooks and additional support software. The system for each teacher will include tools for grading and reporting.

### We will release details on the program to the press today, including this information:

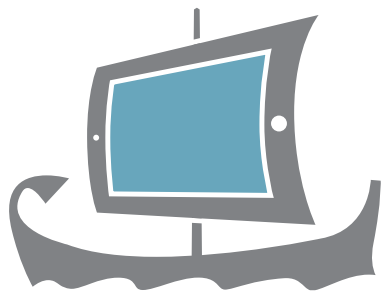
"At Crosland, we recognize that innovation is key to educational excellence," said Dr. Sean Preston, head of the school. "Our eLearner initiative—the Odyssey Project—will create amazing opportunities for our students to reach new heights. It will open doors for students beyond what may have been possible before."

Students with learning and attention differences and ADHD need additional forms of support to be successful in school. Technology can level the playing field for these children and help students make significant gains in writing, reading and oral comprehension.

For example, children with language-based learning differences, such as dyslexia, often need reading software that provides narration so they can simultaneously see and hear text as they follow along. Some students require speech-to-text software for help with written assignments.

The program is made possible by a \$50,000 grant from the Reemprise Fund, established to encourage entrepreneurial ventures by nonprofits. In addition, Microsoft has designated us as a Showcase School. They'll help train and develop our staff, contribute software, and provide equipment at a substantive discount. At first, the Odyssey Project will involve four classrooms and 48 students. The entire school could join the program by August 2015.

"The John Crosland School is advancing learning on many fronts," said Charlie Elberson, trustee, Reemprise Fund. "This pilot program involves innovative thinking and technology to help students achieve in new ways, with the potential to impact education universally. Our fund supports potentially game-changing initiatives for visionary organizations and this exciting new program certainly fits the bill."



## ODYSSEY PROJECT