

The Bridges School

Since its opening in 1979, The Bridges School has successfully educated dyslexic and children with attention deficit disorder (ADD). The Bridges School specializes in the advancement of intelligent students with certain learning disabilities. Hindrances, such as dyslexia and ADD, are capable of being overcome because The Bridges School believes that their students are entitled to achieving their full educational potential. Therefore, The Bridges School structures philosophies, curriculum and goals to meet the needs of its academically challenged students.

The Bridges School prides itself in the continuous production of competent students who have the ability to be successful members of society.

"We believe that to do otherwise in education, is to waste the potentially valuable contributions of these young people."

-Victoria Ives Adamson

Founder of The Bridges School

The school focuses on the individual student by understanding the individual's distinct learning style, multisensory approaches and other elements prescribed by the Texas Education Agency. This process of individualization thrives because the students are prepared to return to public and private schools where they succeed with minimal adjustments at the secondary level. Without the proper education or medical diagnosis, children who are beset with learning disorders struggle with anger, frustration and low self-esteem. Through the proper emotional guidance and a comforting environment, students are better able to recover academic skills and are able to discover the creative potential within themselves.

Curriculum at The Bridges School is structured comprehensively around all current academic areas, including specialized therapeutic instruction. An integral part of the curriculum is the aesthetic, emotional and social development of the students. The school is divided into small classes, which lend to individualized instruction. Another aspect of the curriculum is the importance placed on personal values, such as respect for themselves, their peers, adults, authoritative figures and multicultural heritage.

The method of Alphabetic Phonics is the core of the curriculum program. This method includes special techniques for multisensory teaching and "discovery-learning" of reading, handwriting, spelling and alphabetic sequencing. These special techniques encompass hands-on manipulatives, "skywriting" and continuous review and repetition of concepts. Researchers have found that learning disabled students may require up to 1500 repetitions of a concept for long-term learning.

The Bridges School has adopted the fundamental principle of:

I see, and I believe

I hear, and I remember

I do, and I understand

Through grammar, social studies and science, the curriculum adheres to the tri-modal techniques of the Alphabetic Phonics. This principle allows students equal access to learning despite learning style. The strong academic qualities of the students are harnessed while their weaker academic skills are augmented. The integration of the tri-modal courses reinforces skills and information. This integration adheres to course overlap in which a student's science project is graded as both a science and grammar grade. The elements of course overlapping, individual and teacher interaction, and thematic development help

the student to foster the learning and understanding of given focuses. This technique provides students with true competency and confidence academically.

The Bridges School requires that each student's family pays a minimum tuition and the amount differs by family income. As a specialized private institution, the tuition and fees charged by The Bridges School qualify as a medical deduction on income tax. The school provides scholarship opportunities depending on qualifications.

As an equal opportunity academic institution, The Bridges School does not discriminate regarding academic or financial programs based on race, gender, religion or nationality. The Bridges School is accredited by the Texas Alliance of Accredited Private Schools for first to eighth grades and the Texas Education Agency recognizes it as an accredited private institution.

"As a student, they opened my eyes by teaching me to read and it opened more doors. I fought them my first two years because I was closed minded. It was a good experience once I realized it was a give and take situation. But, as a teacher, I was able to understand my own problems through the kids and I was able to give a lot of input from my experience as a student."

---Mike Cataldi, former student and teacher

"It is an excellent school. It has a friendly staff which is one of a kind. They teach unbelievable skills like phonics that I use today. I was below reading level and now I'm with my classmates. I completed five years of required work and I am now a junior at Coronado."

---Noah Batkin, former student

"They help you learn to read, write and deal with people. After one year, they helped build my self-confidence after being crushed in elementary school, where the teachers didn't have any patience with me. I am now a sophomore at West Point."

---Linda Batkin, former student