



FEBURARY 2025

Grow – Discover – Belong

Dear Bridges Families –

Hello and welcome to our second semester of the 2024–2025 school year. I have recently returned from a military leave of absence for the past year as I served with the MN Army National Guard’s 34th ‘Red Bull’ Infantry Division in the Middle East and Central and South Asia during 2024. It has been great to be back with our wonderful school community!

The second half of the year is always a great joy as we move towards our highlight of the year – graduation. Our purpose here at Bridges is to re-build connection to school, assist in reducing barriers to students learning and provide opportunities for learning that will allow students to progress towards earning their diploma and graduating. Our teachers have significant experience and deep understanding in way to connect with students and provide the conditions for learning.

Our student support staff (along with our teachers) are experts at supporting students and families in working through difficulties that may be obstacles in learning. We know that when students feel safe, are connected and a part of a school community better and deeper learning occurs.

We are looking forward to inspiring and empowering our students to reach their full potential!

**Sincerely,
David Brown
Administrator
952.226.0843
dbrown@plsas.org**





Main Number: 952-226-0840

Attendance (24 hours): 952-226-0840 -or-
alcattendance@plsas.org

Nurse: 952-226-8682

Counseling Office: 952-226-0846 (Juniors and Seniors) or
952-461-7993 (Freshman and Sophmores)

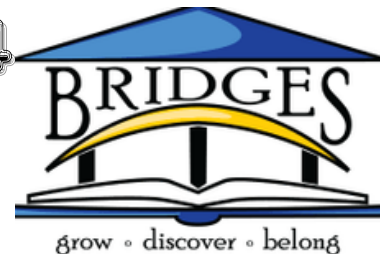
Social Worker's Office: 952-226-0849

Activities Office: 952-226-8690 (PLHS)

Community Education (Drivers' Ed): 952-226-0080

District Office: 952-226-0000

MR. BROWN MILITARY DUTY 2024 W/ MN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



**TF Spartan Commander
w/ Mr. Brown**



**Bridges Grad Andre
deployed w/ Mr. Brown**

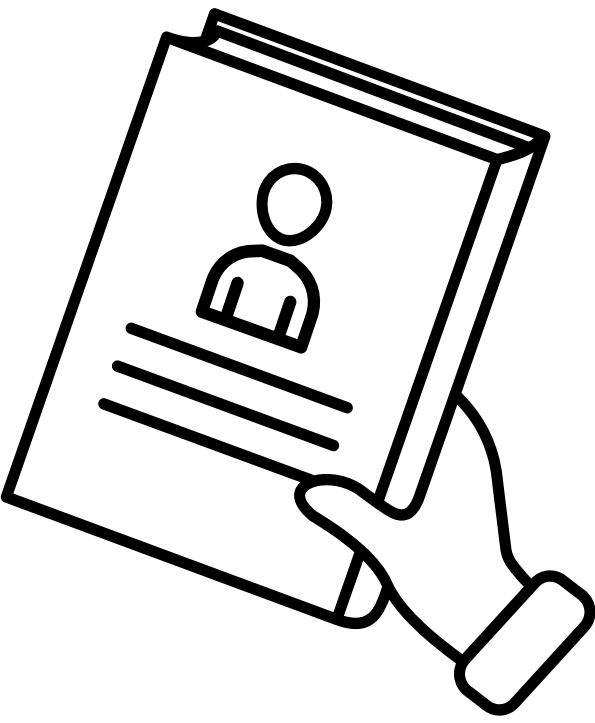


34th Infantry 'Red Bull' Division



Thank you Mr. Donner for your
leadership!





Handbook Highlights

COMING YOUR WAY

Attendance Policy

- 7 absences - excused or unexcused - may result in loss of credit.
- Bridges follows state and Scott County truancy guidelines and practices and will report students who are considered truant. More info can be found here:

<https://www.scottcountymn.gov/211/Truancy>





Handbook Highlights

COMING YOUR WAY

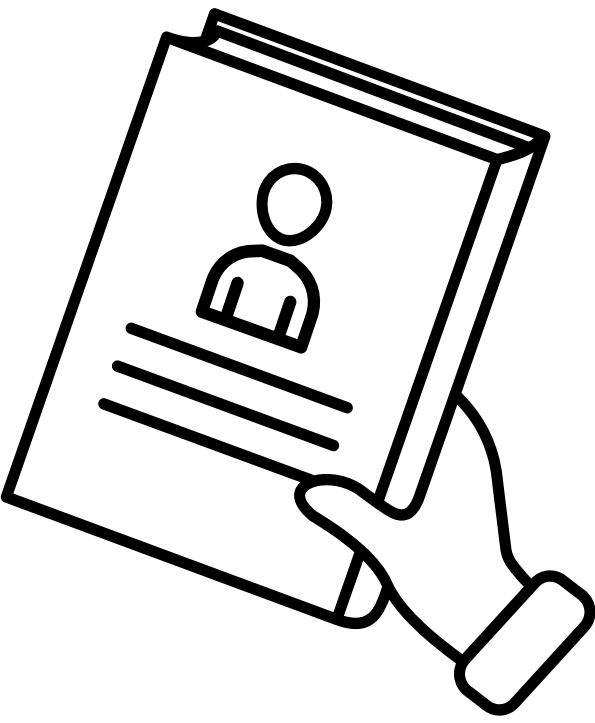
Cell Phone Policy

Teachers will indicate when cell phones / personal electronics are allowed and when they are not.

Students will receive 3 asks:

1. First Ask- Teacher will remind students to put devices out of sight.
2. Second Ask- Students will be prompted to put devices in an alternate location (pocket chart/back pack/ teacher desk). Teacher will contact the parent/guardian.
3. Third Ask- Student turns in their device to administrator for the day. Administrator will communicate with the parent/guardian.





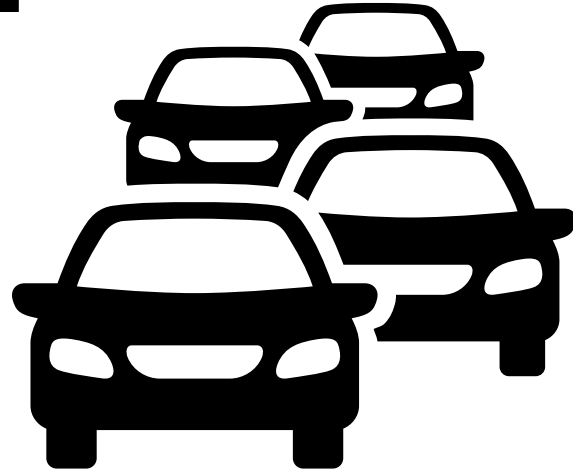
Handbook Highlights

COMING YOUR WAY

Full Handbook [HERE](#)



Parking and Driving



All vehicles must be registered at the office



Students are not allowed to drive at breakfast



10th - 12th grade students in good standing may leave at lunch with family and admin permission



Parking is a privilege



A Message of Hope from Your Teachers

As we begin Quarter 3, we want to share our hopes for each of you. These aren't just wishes – they're our genuine belief in your potential and our commitment to supporting you on your journey.

We hope you'll find the strength to persist through these winter months. Yes, this quarter can feel long and challenging, but remember: every assignment completed, every class attended, brings you one step closer to graduation. That goal might sometimes feel distant, but you're making progress every single day.

We hope you'll discover joy in learning. School isn't just about sitting in a classroom because you have to – it's about taking charge of your own education, asking questions that matter to you, and letting your curiosity guide you. When you're engaged and interested, learning becomes so much more than just checking boxes.

Your wellbeing matters deeply to us. We hope you'll make time to take care of yourself: getting outside on sunny days, spending time with family, friends, and pets, pursuing hobbies that bring you joy, and getting the rest you need. Your physical, mental, and emotional health are just as important as your academic progress.



As you continue growing into independent young adults, remember that independence doesn't mean going it alone. We're here to support you, answer your questions, and help you navigate challenges. Our school is meant to be a place where everyone feels welcome, and we hope you'll both benefit from - and contribute to - that atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding.

During the long stretch of Quarter 3, we hope you'll show compassion – to others and to yourself. It's good to strive for improvement, but remember to grant yourself grace when things get tough. Instead of getting caught up in negativity online or elsewhere, we hope you'll seek out positive experiences and connections that help you grow.

You have a unique opportunity here at our school, and we hope you'll make the most of it. Each of you brings something special to our community, and we're committed to helping you succeed – not just in earning your diploma, but in building a foundation for a fulfilling life ahead.

Remember, we believe in you. We hope you'll do well, yes – but more than that, we hope you'll live well, learn deeply, and find joy in your journey.

Sincerely,

Your Teachers and Staff

JUMP DAYS



- JUMP DAYS ARE SCHEDULED DAYS (FRIDAYS) THAT ALLOW BRIDGES STAFF TO PROVIDE FOCUSED INTERVENTION AND ENRICHMENT
- STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE A TICKET WEDNESDAYS PRIOR INDICATING IF THEY SHOULD BE IN-PERSON OR CAN CONDUCT THEIR LEARNING ASYNCHRONOUSLY BASED ON ACADEMIC, ATTENDANCE AND/OR SKILL DEVELOPMENT
- IN-PERSON REQUIRES STUDENTS TO BE PRESENT AT BRIDGES. ABSENCES WOULD APPLY TO ATTENDANCE POLICY
- ASYNCHRONOUS TICKETS REQUIRES STUDENTS TO CONDUCT LEARNING AT HOME THROUGH SCHOOLOGY AND/OR EDMENTUM DIGITAL CURRICULUM CLASSES

Q3 JUMP DAYS: Feb 14 and 28. Mar 14 and 27₁₁



Conferences: Feb 13 5PM-8PM

JUMP Day: Feb 14 and 28, Mar 14 and 27

Caring and Committed Conversation:

Feb 12

Early Release: Feb 5 and March 5

No School: Feb 17th

End of Quarter: Mar 27



STRIVE =
Students Taking Renewed Interest in the Value of Education

STRIVE is the partnership with Bridges and PL Rotary to provide mentors to support our students progress during the year and when done with high school. We have partnerd with PL Rotart since 2010

Save
The
Date



Bridges Senior Recognition Banquet

Tuesday, June 3rd 530pm

Twin Oaks Middle School





HEALTH OFFICE

When should my student stay home from school?



If your student has a fever of 100°F or higher, they should stay home for 24 hours after their temperature is normal without fever-reducing medicine.



If your student has vomited or had diarrhea, they should stay home for 24 hours after the last episode. They can return earlier if a doctor confirms the issue is not from a contagious illness.



If your student has a rash with a fever or behavior changes, or if the rash's cause is unknown, check with a doctor before sending them to school.



Students should stay home if they're too sick to participate in normal school activities.

BRIDGES STAFF

Administration



David Brown -
Administrator

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952-226-0843



Jennifer Powers -
Admin Assistant

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Teachers



Ms. Berg
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Mr. Bloom
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Ms. Nelson
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Ms. Olson
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Ms. Serefeas
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Student Support



Mr. Wild

Counselor
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952-226-7993



Ms. Kortuem

Counselor
Grades 11-12
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952-226-0846



Mr. Wagner

Social Worker
kwagner@plsas.org
952-226-0849



Ms. Ward

Chemical Health Specialist
kward@plsas.org

Not Pictured:

Ms. Wander

School Nurse
awander@plsas.org

Ms. Peterson

School Nurse
nataliepeterson@plsas.org

Ms. Brown

School Custodian
danabrown@plsas.org

INDEPENDENT STUDY



Here at Bridges we offer a flexible online based program to support students in need of credit recovery. After a student determines the credit need (usually through the student's guidance counselor), simply register online, complete needed forms, bring them in to Bridges ALC and meet with the independent study teacher, Mr. Lawson, and they are ready to go within minutes. Each student is enrolled in a class through a web-based program called Edmentum. The program runs October 1st through May 16th, 2025.

Each class a student signs up for requires a total of 13 hours of seat time here at Bridges and/or PLHS. This can be done after school on Mondays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m @ PLHS and @ Bridges Tuesday through Thursday from 3:30 to 5:30pm. Once the attendance piece is completed the student will finish the course(s) on their own time. I've had many students get caught up, back on track, or even finish up for their diploma through Independent Study. It's a great program and it provides a great service to our students.

More information and online registration can be found on our webpage:
<https://www.priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us/our-schools/bridges-area-learning>

If you have questions please feel free to reach out to our Independent Study Coordinator:

David Lawson: dlawson@plsas.org





**INSPIRING AND EMPOWERING STUDENTS
TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL**

