



BRIDGES ACADEMY
EDUCATING THE EXCEPTIONAL²



BRIDGES ACADEMY

ANNUAL REPORT

2019 - 2021



A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Carl A. Sabatino,
Head of School



Bridges Academy is the leader in the education of twice-exceptional students. Our commitment to the continued research and development of teaching strategies for neurodiverse students in the 21st-century classroom has not waned since Bridges' founding in 1994. From our work in the classrooms and research through the 2e Center we have made significant contributions to the field. We are increasingly looked to for advice and support by new schools and programs across the country.

Strategic expansion has been a goal since the founding. Over the past few years, we have taken over the 2e Newsletter turning it into 2eMedia.com. We have produced 2eNews.com and Variations Magazine providing the 2e world with vital information. We have created the Graduate School for Cognitive Diversity in Education, offering Doctoral and master's degrees. And in 2020, we began the discussion and planning of opening a Bridges Academy in Seattle.

Solid financials are integral to the success of our school. Except for the three years of transition from renting to owning, since 2000 we have regularly balanced our operational budget and begun building formal emergency reserves. The 20-21 school year saw a slight decrease in enrollment due to COVID-19 but, because of prudent fiscal management, federal government emergency funding, and continued support of our parents we move into the post-COVID 2021-2022 school strong.



BRIDGES ACADEMY ONLINE

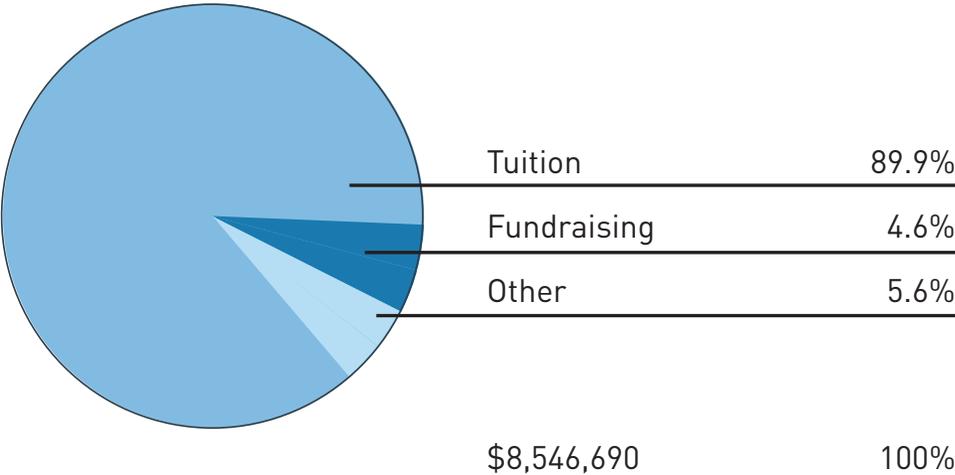
Chris Wiebe,
Assistant Head of School

In 2020 we laid the groundwork for the launch of our fully online high school, Bridges Academy Online, making our model accessible to students all over the world. As we know, there are not many schools equipped to specifically provide for the needs of 2e students, who need support in their areas of challenge as well as enrichment in their areas of giftedness and strength. As such, many families struggle in their search for the right school for their 2e children. Because of the unique nature of our program, we often receive inquiries from all across the world from families looking for the right fit for their 2e children. Some have relocated to attend Bridges, from as far away as Australia. For most families, uprooting their lives to Studio City, California, is not possible. This lack of options for many 2e families outside of our area means that we are always on the lookout for ways to broaden the reach of our program and support as many families as we can.



In fall 2021, we made a leap forward in our ability to support families beyond our local area with the launch of a BAO. The inaugural cohort includes students from Northern California, Washington, Texas, and Wisconsin. For many students, their matriculation at Bridges marks the first time they have been part of a school community that embraces them for the amazing things they have to offer. We are eager to see these students thrive in our program and grow as life-long learners poised to succeed in the future.

Operating Income, Gifts & Contributions



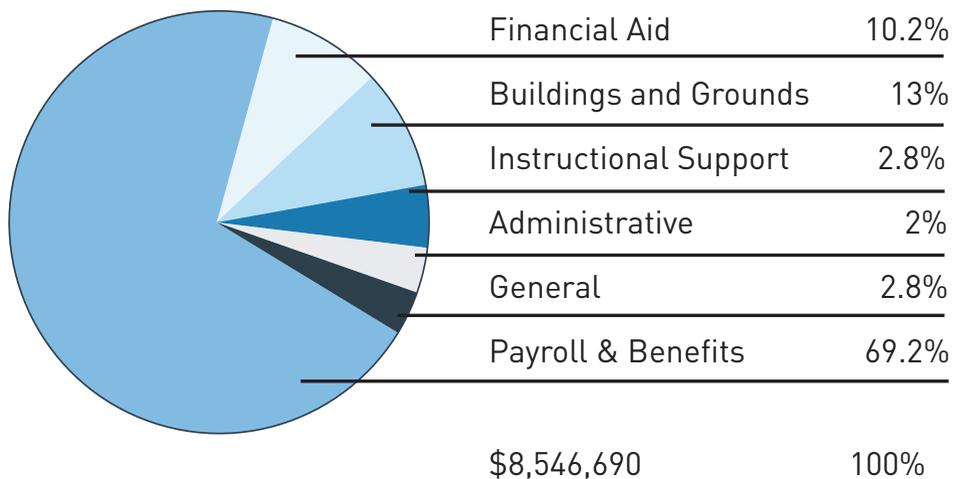
2019 - 2020

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

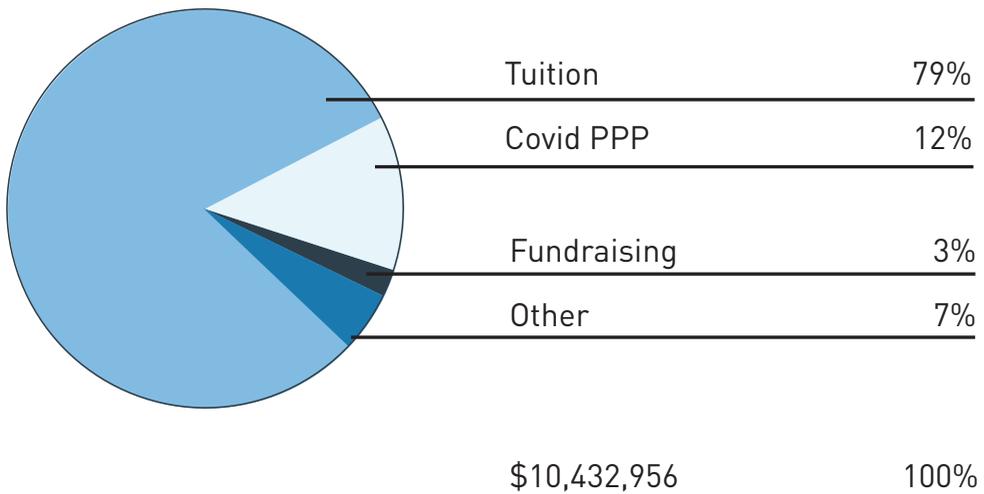
ANNUAL GIVING BY CONSTITUENCY

Board:	200%
Faculty:	100%
Parents:	96%

Operating Expenses



Operating Income, Gifts & Contributions



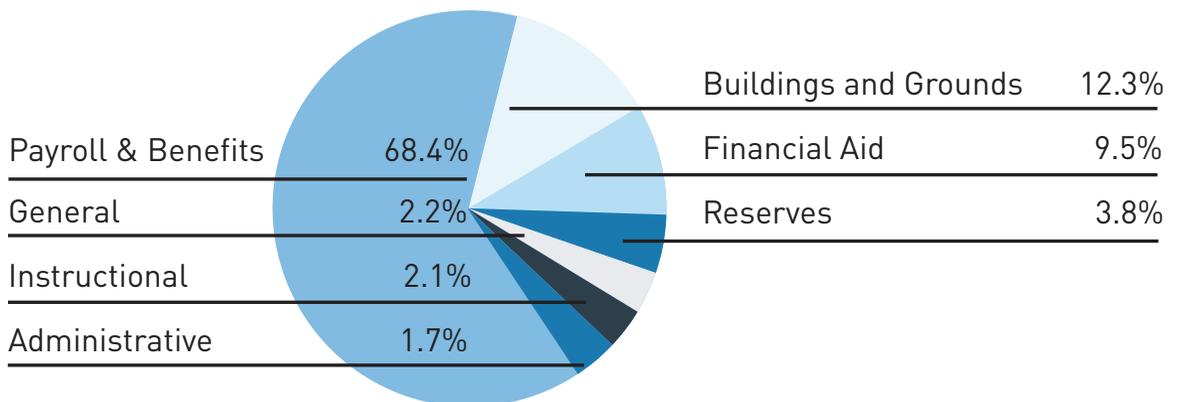
2020 - 2021

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

ANNUAL GIVING BY CONSTITUENCY

Board:	200%
Faculty:	100%
Parents:	96%

Operating Expenses



\$10,432,956

100%

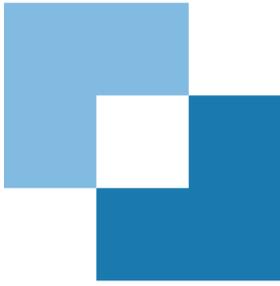


PA APPRECIATION PARENT ASSOCIATION

The 2019 - 2020 academic year was singular to say the least, filled with new challenges and circumstances that required a lot of creative work arounds. However, we were able to start the year with our traditional revelries at the Halloween Carnival and the Parade. The Halloween Parade gives all the students and faculty the opportunity to strut their costume best; from the bloody to the funny, many featured engineering feats and great craftsmanship. Halloween day during our lunch break everyone feasted on pizza and enjoyed lively performances by the Music Department's bands that delighted with rock, pop, punk, and blues tracks. The Bridges cheerleaders also delivered a sparkling performance full of pom-pom flurry.

The festivities continued at the Halloween Carnival with an assortment of games, costumes, delicious treats, animal petting zoo, music, and a movie zone that kept students and parents entertained all night. High school students chose a Greg Kaczynski, Dean of High School to be the mascot for their exclusive lounge. Thanks to Corinne Taylor-Cyngiser for mangaging the lounge constrsuction and for hosting students at the carnival. Many thanks to the Good Family, Grauman Family, Eli Family, Meredith Chinn & Scott Cymbala for sponsoring games; to Colleary Ravich Family for making an amazing raffle prize; Jim & Evelyn Dauterive, Kim & Mark Kuskin for sponsoring the HS Lounge; and to Bob Baker for underwriting the event. It was all hands on deck to make this community event a success, thanks to everyone who participated.

We held our second-annual decathlon this year. It is one day of fierce and fun competition designed to bring all the divisions together. Teams are made up of students and faculty from the phoenix, middle and high school divisions. The 15 teams competed in a variety of games including: Archery, Tug of War, Relay Races, Meltdown Inflatable, Coconut Tree Climb, Balloon Battle Royale, Sticky Obstacle Course, and Hungry Hungry Humans. This was a fun community building event that also benefited Bridges as



2019-2020

a fundraiser. The Green Team was the top fundraising team and Team England won the Decathlon events portion of the competition. The reward was a trip to Ultrazone LaserTag in Sherman Oaks.

In March when Covid-19 began the era of distance learning, all Parent Association meetings came to a halt. We continued online with our lecture and special guest series, Parenting in the Time of Covid-19. This allowed for additional communication with the administration and the community and for support and guidance from special guests. This year's Annual Gala became an online-auction only; but still benefited the community as an amazing fundraiser that will keep the Bridges Community strong in the coming year. We all missed the opportunity for the parents to come together to celebrate the accomplishments of the year and students we love. We look forward to continuing this tradition once more in the near future. Thank you to everyone who supported the online - auction by making donations and bidding on the amazing offerings provided by the community.

Many thanks to our PA co-chairs, Christine Evey and Lisa Vebber who finished up a two-year stint at the helm of the Bridges Parent Association. They brought a great deal of enthusiasm and vigor to the role and leave the decathlon as their legacy to Bridges society. Many thanks to Heather David, who chaired the Halloween Carnival and Gala Committees; she put in so much time and energy into organizing the Gala, only to pivot and recreate the experience for a Covid-19 world. Many thanks to Rachel Good & Tanja Mokran for organizing Teachers Appreciation and orchestrating the delivery of amazing packages to teacher homes. Special thanks to the Devillers (Smokey Table), Lisa Organic Kids LA and the Katers (Murchison-Hume) for helping with our teacher gifts. To Amnon David for working on the thank you video for teachers and all the many parents who contributed time, money and effort to make the whole thing happen. It did indeed make teachers feel appreciated during a difficult transition to distance learning.



Halloween Parade





Decathlon





PA APPRECIATION PARENT ASSOCIATION

This year we welcomed PA Co-Presidents, Adriana Roze and Heather David to the helm. In spite of the unusual circumstance surrounding the pandemic and distance learning, they were able to support Bridges parents by providing insightful webinars, connecting at monthly online PA meetings, and organizing on-campus activities upon the reopening of the Bridges campus.

It truly was a joy to connect in-person again for an Earth Day celebration of recycling and planting. For Teacher Appreciation week, students wrote and drew messages of appreciation for faculty that were fashioned into a tree posted predominantly on campus. Parents also provided meals and a generous goody bag that were delivered to staff at the end of the week. Many thanks to all the parents whose generosity made this possible.

The connection to community extends beyond Bridges and the need was especially high this year due to the pandemic. The PA responded by organizing a food drive to replenish local food banks in the fall and a blanket drive in the winter for unsheltered people.

We are grateful that Heather and Adriana will be renewing their leadership roles as PA Co-presidents next school year! We very much look forward to the return of our community events next year, including the Halloween Carnival, The Decathlon, and the Annual Gala!

Many thanks to the grade-level parents!

Phoenix - Anahid Koumriqian, Ben Hermes, Tina Boykin Mowrey

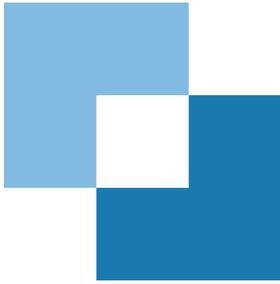
Middle School - Amanda Millett, Sharon Rosas

9th Grade - Malin Boyle, Robert Baker, Teresa Baker

10th Grade - Alexis Conrad, Meghan Mather

11th Grade - Corinne Taylor-Cyngiser, Liliana Escudero, Sabine La Folie

12th Grade - Michelle Litchfield, Leanne Mallel, Valerie Faithhorn



2020-2021



Earth Day



Teacher appreciation tree



Bridges alumni panel



DON PEAKE

HONORING A LEGEND

Eleven years ago, the Bridges Academy Music Program was struck with good fortune when former board member Mark Batterman introduced us to his friend Don Peake.

Don has had a storied career as a guitarist, record producer, and film music composer. He was the lead guitarist for the Everly Brothers and worked with legendary artists such as Marvin Gaye, Ike & Tina Turner, Ray Charles, the Mamas and the Papas, Sonny & Cher, the Beach Boys, John Lennon, the Jackson Five, and many more. He is a member of both the Music Branch of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the Television Academy. He is also in the Musicians Hall of Fame in Nashville.

After hitting it off over lunch at the Daily Grill in Studio City a decade ago, Music Program Director Kyle Wittlin and Head of School Carl Sabatino invited Don to teach and share his vast expertise in the music industry with our students in the after-school band program. What began as Don stopping by a couple hours a week has blossomed into him being with us four days a week. All of our high school bands — Jazz, Indie Rock, Pop, and Rock — get the opportunity to work with Don. The impact this has on our students will last well beyond their years here at Bridges. The knowledge he is passing on will help them live their best lives.

The most incredible part about the relationship between Don and our students is that they fill his spirit, too, and he feels blessed to be passing on his knowledge and paying it forward.



ALUMNI PROFILE:

NICHOLAS HUANG

Nicholas Huang is part of the Bridges Academy graduating Class of 2015. He came to Bridges with a passion for athletics and a special love for basketball. He was the captain of the basketball team while at Bridges and also ran track and cross-country. Nick has returned every year since his graduation for the annual Pancake Run with his fellow track and field alumni and current Bridges faculty and students. During his college years, he would come out to support the basketball team during games and practice. Nick continues to be an active participant and supporter of the Bridges community.

It's no surprise that he took that same spirited attitude to his newest alma mater, the College of Wooster in Ohio, where he graduated with a degree in Communications Studies in 2019. He was involved with two campus student groups: a co-ed Greek organization and Men's Ultimate Frisbee. He invested four years into both groups, serving a total of three years combined as Treasurer for these organizations. Nick had fun, stayed in shape, and networked. As he said, "I met many diverse people and gained some lifelong friends who I still share unforgettable memories with."

Wooster features smaller class sizes as well as a strong sense of community. "I especially had that feeling of caring with the professors in my major, with whom I built strong professor-student relationships. This was similar to what I experienced at Bridges; each teacher assisted the students to do their best in the classroom." Nick was especially interested in the high-level mentored undergraduate research program, which culminates in a Senior Thesis Project. Nick's thesis, "Covered Asians: An Examination of Asian-Americans on American Magazine Covers From 2012-2018," analyzed various American magazine covers from 2012-2018. He drew upon the method of "model minority" framing through ideological criticism along with visual interpretation. The combination of academic rigor, personally meaningful research, and his intended career goals made this an ideal project.

Once Nick got to college, he decided that he wanted to eventually work in the entertainment field. Through college summers, he worked internships for various entertainment positions. He landed his first internship working as a production assistant position that first summer through the Bridges community network. He was able to parlay that into multiple talent agency positions the following summers. It was during the talent agency internships that he discovered his passion for casting.

Currently, he is a Casting Associate for Mark Tillman Casting CSA. He started out as a Casting Assistant, and quickly worked his way up to Casting Associate. He has begun casting leads for Lifetime movies and is looking forward to continuing to advance his career. As a proud Chinese American, Nick hopes to positively influence the media landscape with a richer and more diverse vision of Asian American life. No doubt he will succeed.



YOUNG EXPERTS

2019 - 2020



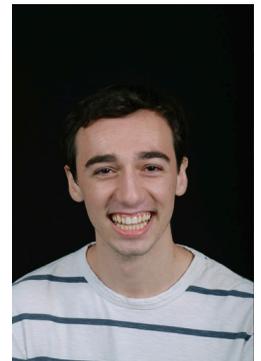
Jack Forrest Ventimilia
Drama



Nicholas Thien Pacey
Machine Learning



Jack Paschall
Narrative Media Development



Donald Blessing Rice IV
Research, Writing, and Design

2020 - 2021



Xavier Yi Jie Chan

Electrical and Mechanical Engineering
with Emphasis on Submersible Robotics



Khristian Mathew Geisse

Music



Daniel Roy Kitano Yogi

Narrative Design and Worldbuilding



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