



Leonardo Da Vinci  
Twice-Exceptional Artist & Inventor

Bridges' students are twice-exceptional (2e), gifted or highly gifted with learning differences. Our program provides students with learning experiences that engage their immense intellectual and creative capacities while supporting their different learning styles.

Our high school purposefully integrates four essential, student-centered elements: the liberal arts core, electives, talent development which includes the Young Expert Program, and support services. Our curriculum prepares students for the 21st century by fostering skills in critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity. We also emphasize proficiency with technology, as its effective use is a requisite skill in higher education and the workplace. Through engagement in our program, students develop the skills, habits, attitudes, expertise, and emotional intelligence they need to become accomplished adults.

## STAFF

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Bridges Academy's CEEB code is 050859

## LIBERAL ARTS CORE

In a content-rich world, it is important to provide students with the broadest possible liberal arts experience while fostering their ability to explore, understand, analyze, and apply new information throughout their lives. The Bridges high school program implements the liberal arts core through a block schedule. Students take courses in humanities, math, science, foreign language, and physical education, delving deeply into the content and skills of the discipline and developing the habits and routines of a successful student. Each discipline has a four-year scope and sequence that covers required content and skills, emphasizing the interdisciplinary nature of all knowledge. Grading is based on a standard 4.0/A-F grading system. Bridges offers a number of honors courses in various disciplines, and no AP classes, although some students choose to advance their knowledge through AP or college coursework alongside our curriculum.

As part of our student-centered and project-based learning approaches, seniors take an Integrated Science course. This is a lab course which allows which allows students to delve deeply into specialized interdisciplinary topics in science. In this course, students conduct research while gaining a broader understanding of the nature of experiment design and problem solving, and of the inherent considerations of data collection.

## THE YOUNG EXPERT PROGRAM

Twice-exceptional students often have strong interests that are in line with their talents and that make them well suited for advanced work. Under close guidance from faculty mentors, students in the Young Expert Program design their own courses of study, maturing into self-driven learners as they absorb complex and expansive information, identify and solve problems, and poise themselves to make original contributions to their fields of interest. Students have the opportunity to complete badge work—noted as specialized courses of independent study on transcripts. Badges are earned through interdisciplinary investigation, resulting in expert-level coverage of the topic. Students who demonstrate disciplinary expertise through concentrated work in a field-related cluster of badges (and additional work required by their professional mentors) may earn formal certification as a Young Expert on their high school transcripts. *Young Expert certification is our highest academic honor.*

## ACADEMIC SUPPORT AND ADVISORY

Our Academic Support and Advisory (ASA) program provides students with the support they need to reach their full potential. Within advisories, students build interpersonal skills and are provided support for managing classes and developing as self-advocates. Advisors promote growth in prioritizing and organization, help students navigate complex social interactions, and encourage students to cultivate their strengths, interests, or gifts. educational ecosystem. Events cover relevant contemporary themes, life-skill development and careers, and topics related to students' interest and research. These symposia expose students to new interest areas, further knowledge of a particular domain, build interdisciplinary awareness, model what scholars and career professionals think about and do, and inspire intellectual curiosity.

## ACCREDITATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS



- ◆ Western Association of Schools and Colleges
- ◆ California Association of Independent Schools
- ◆ National Association of Independent Schools
- ◆ Educational Records Bureau
- ◆ California Interscholastic Federation
- ◆ California Association for the Gifted
- ◆ National Association for the Gifted
- ◆ Western Association for College Admissions Counseling
- ◆ National Association for College Admission Counseling



## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- ◆ English-4 yrs
- ◆ Mathematics-4 yrs
- ◆ Lab Science-4 yrs
- ◆ Social Science-4 yrs
- ◆ World Language-3 yrs
- ◆ Physical Education-3 yrs
- ◆ Electives-6 yrs
- ◆ Visual/Performing Arts-1 yr

## COVID RESPONSE

As a result of state orders due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, classes were immediately transitioned in March 2020 to a fully synchronous online format. Daily schedules were maintained in order to provide structure and support while academic standards remained in place. Our small classes and strong student-teacher relationships provided a platform for teachers to model grit and resilience, allowing students to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Bridges Academy continued educating students using a fully synchronous online format during the 2020-21 school year, resuming some hybrid instruction in the Spring of 2021, and full in-person instruction in August of 2021.

## ELECTIVES AND TALENT DEVELOPMENT

In conjunction with the Young Expert Program, students pursue talent development through core courses, electives, and involvement in co-curricular programs. Our electives acquaint students with fields such as computer programming, music production, engineering, photography, drama, film criticism, debate, creative writing, and art. Students have opportunities to develop further skills and talents through involvement in rich after school programming in athletics, music, art, and robotics as well as an ever-evolving range of student-driven lunch-time clubs. Bridges does not view these activities as “extra” or “add-on,” but as vital learning experiences that allow students greater breadth for personal growth and intellectual curiosity.

Seminars, documentaries, and visits from guest speakers, artists, and musicians are a regular part of our educational ecosystem. Events cover relevant contemporary themes, life-skill development and careers, and topics related to students' interests and research. These symposia expose students to new interest areas, further knowledge of a particular domain, build interdisciplinary awareness, model what scholars and career professionals think about and do, and inspire intellectual curiosity.

## LIFE AFTER BRIDGES

Self-advocacy is a key to all post-secondary pursuits, but it is an especially important skill for students with learning differences. Throughout their tenure at Bridges, students are taught to build their interpersonal skills through negotiating classroom and peer relationships. Junior and Senior Seminar provide students with direct support for this transition through a curriculum that features post-secondary counseling, social emotional guidance, and concrete life skill acquisition.

## FINDING THE PERFECT FIT - Acceptances for the classes of 2021 & 2022



Albion College	Columbia University	Otis College of Art and Design	University of Arizona
Arizona State University-Tempe	Creighton University	Paris College of Art	Universities of California at
Bard College	Denison University	Pasadena City College	Davis
Bennington College	Goucher College	Pasadena City College (x2)	Irvine
Brandeis University	Harvey Mudd College	Pennsylvania State University- Altoona	Los Angeles
California Institute of Technology	Hofstra University	Pennsylvania State, Altoona	Merced
California Institute of the Arts	Humboldt State University	Pepperdine University	Riverside
California Lutheran University	Indiana University--Bloomington	Pratt Institute	Santa Barbara
Cal Poly Pomona	Kenyon College	Reed College	Santa Cruz
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo	Knox College	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	University of Denver
California State Universities at:	LA Mission College	Rhodes College	University of Nebraska, Lincoln
Channel Islands	LA Valley College	Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology	University of Oregon
Dominguez Hills	Landmark College	Santa Monica College	University of Puget Sound
Long Beach	Lawrence University	Sarah Lawrence College	University of San Francisco
Monterey Bay	Lewis and Clark College	School of the Art Institute of Chicago	University of the Arts London
Northridge	Los Angeles Valley College	School of Visual Arts	University of the Pacific
San Marcos	Loyola Marymount University	Seattle University	Villanova
Carleton College	Macalester College	Soka University	Virginia Polytechnic Institute
Champlain College	Make-up Designory-LA	Sonoma State University	Washington University in St.
Chapman University	Marquette University	Southern Oregon University	Louis
Clark University	Maryland Institute College of Art	Stevens Institute of Technology	Whitman College
College of the Holy Cross	Menlo College	Syracuse University	Whittier College
College of Wooster	Mercyhurst	The College of Idaho	Willamette University
Colorado College	Nova Scotia College of Art and Design	The New School	Woodbury University
Colorado School of the Mines	Oberlin College	University of Alabama	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Colorado State University	Occidental College		