

## Information and Services for Bridges Christian Academy- a hybrid school AND Bridges Homeschool Connects- a Co-op

### Bridges Christian Academy

#### What is Bridges Christian Academy?

Bridges Academy is a hybrid parent-partnered alternative to traditional private schooling. It offers a unique model where parents who want a significant role in their child's education can partner with the school. While Bridges provides the curriculum and instruction, parents maintain substantial input and control over their child's learning needs, blending the benefits of structured education with parental involvement.

#### How does a hybrid school work?

A hybrid school like Bridges Academy operates by combining on-campus and at-home learning. Here's how it works:

1. **On-Campus Learning:** Students attend the campus four days a week. They receive instruction in core subjects three of these days.
2. **At-Home Learning:** Parents take an active role in their children's education by guiding them through schoolwork at home for two days each week. This part of the curriculum is flexible, allowing parents to choose when to conduct these lessons.
3. **Enrichment Activities:** On Thursdays, academy students join with full-time homeschool families for chapel services and participate in age-appropriate electives and enrichment classes, enhancing their educational experience and social interaction.

This model allows for a balanced approach, integrating professional instruction with parental involvement and peer interaction.

### GENERAL QUESTIONS

#### Who are we?

- An education support ministry that encompasses two independent groups under one umbrella to join resources and enrichly build a broader community.

#### What denomination are you associated with?

- Bridges Christian is a non-denominational Evangelical Christian group
- Please see our website for our Statement of Faith.

#### Where are you located?

- We rent space from a local church in Hillsboro, Oregon

#### What grades do you serve?

- 1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades Please inquire if you have young children you'd like activities for.

## What are the academic goals of Bridges Christian Academy?

The academic goals of Bridges Christian Academy are centered around a holistic approach to education, aiming to develop students in multiple ways:

1. **Academic Excellence:** Providing a high-quality academic program that fosters intellectual growth and critical thinking.
2. **Spiritual Development:** Ensuring that students gain a solid understanding of the Word of God and encouraging them to make a personal commitment to follow its teachings in their lives.
3. **Personal Growth:** Encouraging development "in wisdom and stature," which implies nurturing both mental and physical growth.
4. **Preparation for the Future:** Equipping students with the necessary skills to pursue further education, careers, and the specific paths that God has planned for them.
5. **Community Engagement:** Teaching students the importance of community involvement and preparing them to contribute positively to society and life.

Through these goals, Bridges Christian Academy seeks to educate the whole child in a supportive, faith-based environment.

## Are you a college prep school? Can my child have what they need to go to college?

Bridges Academy provides a well-rounded education that prepares students for various paths after graduation. Bridges encourages the exploration of different career paths to help students discover their passions and strengths.

## Are you a Special Education School?

Bridges is an inclusive Christian school that supports students with varying learning needs by working closely with their families, rather than a specialized special education institution. We focus on providing an educational environment that accommodates all students.

## IS IT HOMESCHOOLING?

### Do I have a place with Bridges if I'm exploring homeschooling or know I don't want to?

Yes, you certainly have a place with Bridges. It is not required to be a full-time homeschool family to be a part of a program Bridges offers.

Bridges Christian Academy & Co-op is committed to supporting every parent in their involvement with their child's education, tailored to meet the needs and circumstances of each family. The core belief of Bridges is that all parents can teach and train their children, but how this looks is unique to the family.

However, Bridges also recognizes that deciding to full-time homeschool involves many factors that make that option

**(continued on the next page)**

### **Are you accredited?**

Bridges collaborates with Enlightnium Academy to provide fully accredited classes but does not use the entirety of Enlightnium's curriculum. Instead, Bridges' teachers develop their classes based on their expertise and materials they believe will best support their students, along with parent feedback. Enlightnium ensures that these courses meet graduation and accreditation standards so that the credits are valid.

### **Will my student receive a diploma? What about credits?**

Yes, students who complete their high school education at Bridges will receive a high school diploma. For details on different diploma options, you can contact [jcastillo@bridgeschristian.org](mailto:jcastillo@bridgeschristian.org). Additionally, Bridges accepts transfer credits from public schools, other private schools, and homeschooling families. To transfer credits, official transcripts must be submitted for evaluation.

### **Are you NCAA-approved?**

Yes, the academy is NCAA-approved. To ensure that your child meets the specific NCAA eligibility requirements, please inform the academy of this need so they can provide the appropriate guidance and support.

**'CONTINUED**

difficult for some. They are prepared to support you in whatever educational decisions you make for your family. This includes providing resources, guidance, and community support to ensure that you feel empowered and informed in your role as a parent in your child's education.

Whichever side of the bridge you come from Bridges desires to create an inclusive and welcoming environment for all families, while upholding the Word of God.

## Bridges Homeschool Connects Co-op

### What is Bridges Connects and what do they hope to do?

Bridges Connects is an independent homeschool cooperative that operates as a ministry of Bridges Christian Academy. Its mission is to provide support to full-time homeschooling families. The cooperative aims to offer:

1. **Weekly Encouragement:** Helping families stay motivated and connected with others in the homeschooling community.
2. **Support:** Offering resources and assistance to enhance the homeschooling experience.
3. **Chapel Services:** Providing spiritual enrichment and community worship opportunities.
4. **Enrichment and Elective Classes:** Facilitating additional learning opportunities in diverse subjects to complement the core homeschool curriculum.

Overall, Bridges Connects seeks to enrich the homeschooling experience by providing a supportive community and additional educational activities.

### When do you meet and who teaches the classes?

Bridges Connects meets every Thursday from 8:45 AM to 3:00 PM. The classes and activities are led and taught by parents who are part of the cooperative, leveraging their skills and knowledge to enrich the homeschooling community.

### My child has special needs, can they come?

Yes, your child with special needs is welcome at Bridges Connects! The cooperative supports the entire family, including those with special needs. To best accommodate your child, it would be important to have an open conversation about their specific needs and discuss creative ways to effectively include them in the learning environment. This ensures that they receive the support and resources necessary to thrive alongside their peers.

### What do I get if I join this co-op?

Joining the Bridges Connects co-op provides several benefits and resources for member families, including:

- **Structured Weekly Meetings:** Access to all activities during the Thursday meeting times, which include chapel services and three elective and enrichment classes each week.
- **Field Trips:** Participation in educational and recreational field trips that are announced throughout the year.

- **Community Social Events:** Involvement in various social activities such as fall and spring teen socials, game and movie nights suitable for all ages, retreats, and more, which help build a strong, supportive community.
- **Educational Support:** Access to tutoring and special support services tailored for learners with special needs, including assistance in subjects like reading and math, as well as life skills classes.

Overall, joining Bridges Connects offers a comprehensive support system and enriching experiences for homeschooling families, fostering both academic growth and community engagement.

### **Our family wants to meet other kids and families, is this something you provide?**

Yes, by bridging our two groups together once a week Bridges Connects actively facilitates opportunities for families to meet and build relationships with other like-minded families who share similar values focused on faith and education. The cooperative not only provides structured activities during connects days but also encourages families to connect outside of these times. This approach helps create a large, supportive network and community, enhancing the homeschooling experience through shared learning and growth in faith and Christ.

### **Is this a drop-off program or do I have to stay?**

Unlike Bridges Academy, Bridges Connects is primarily NOT a drop-off program, as it emphasizes the role of parents in the education of their children, in line with its faith-based values. HOWEVER, the cooperative understands the unique challenges faced by some families, such as those with single parents, and offers limited slots for students to be dropped off on Thursday's co-op day, provided we have sufficient adult support to properly care for all students.

To maintain a supportive and involved community, the program encourages parents, when possible, to volunteer or arrange for a grandparent or friend to assist and participate in cooperative activities. This involvement helps foster a strong, collaborative environment for both the children and the broader community.