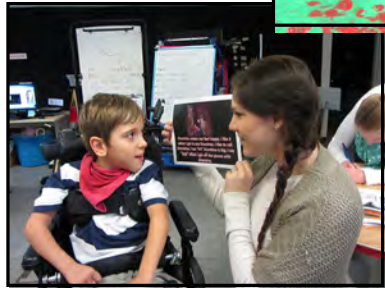




Is The Bridge School the Right Program for My Child?



The Bridge School is a non-profit organization whose mission is to ensure that individuals with severe speech and physical impairments achieve full participation in their communities through the use of augmentative and alternative means of communication (AAC) and assistive technology (AT) applications and through the development, implementation and dissemination of innovative life-long educational strategies.

How is The Bridge School Unique?

School-Based Setting: The Bridge School is a school-based setting providing access to and participation in a comprehensive standards-based curriculum. The Bridge School was created to serve children who have complex physical and communication needs. They typically require innovation solutions in the areas of:

- Communication
- Participation in the general education curriculum
- Physical access to instructional materials and the environment



Transitional Placement: Bridge School is a transitional program, not a long-term placement. While students are at The Bridge School they are given access to highly trained staff who implement innovative and creative educational strategies that support the development of effective communication systems.



Our goal for our students is an efficient and effective transition back to their home school district with skills and tools to support their success. Planning for transition begins when a student first enrolls in our program and is built on our ongoing relationships with the school districts we serve in the Bay Area. When students transition, our staff continue to provide support to help ensure the student's active participation in their educational placements.



Individualized Intervention: Once enrolled at The Bridge School on-going comprehensive assessment and trials are conducted to help identify those unique strategies and assistive technology supports each individual student will need to be successful. Assessment and strategies address augmentative and alternative communication; assistive technology; adaptations to the curriculum; seating and positioning; independent hands-free mobility to enhance the student’s access to the learning environment; and specialized intervention for students with cortical visual impairments.

Curriculum: Our comprehensive educational curriculum draws from:



- Common core state standards
- Specialized curricular areas that are especially critical for children with severe speech and physical impairments who use AAC including:
 - self-determination
 - mobility and assistive technology
 - communicative competence



Inclusion: Bridge School is on a public elementary school site, which affords us the opportunity to provide inclusion experiences and meaningful participation, both academically and socially, with grade-level peers. These opportunities complement our unique classroom settings that are designed to develop skills individually and in small groups with AAC-using partners.



Social Networking: Expanding our student's social networks is achieved by providing training for communication partners in a variety of settings including school, home and the community at large. Using both student-centered and family-centered planning approaches that honor student and family preferences and priorities is a core value of the program.



Parent Partnership: Parents are considered integral partners in their children's education, and as such are encouraged to actively participate in planning their children's Individualized Education Program (IEP), volunteering for various activities, and participating in fundraising and outreach endeavors. In addition, a formalized program for parents is provided which includes trainings, informal discussions, family mentors, school visits, home visits and resources to families.



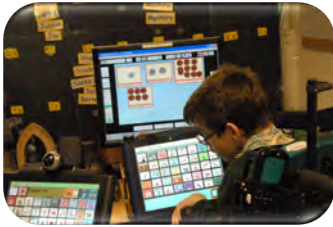
Parents and school districts have many options for their children or students, and only by knowing what our program offers will you know if Bridge School is a good fit.

Staffing and Expertise: Our highly interdisciplinary staff (including special education teachers, speech-language pathologists; assistive technology specialists; rehabilitation engineers; occupational therapists; vision specialists) work collaboratively across all levels of the organization. In addition, Bridge School accesses a network of nationally and internationally renowned experts from relevant fields to provide consultation and training for our staff and families. Consultants with specialized knowledge and expertise in areas such as augmentative and alternative communication, adaptive seating and positioning, independent mobility, technology access, adaptive play, language and literacy development, and cortical visual impairment work alongside our staff and students and also lead focused group discussions with both staff and family.





Technology: Bridge School's staff have access to a large library of software and on-line educational programs, assistive technology tools, hands-free walkers and augmentative and alternative communication tools with which to explore and customize to meet each student's unique needs. Working relationships with vendors, manufacturers and researchers in the area of technology, both general and assistive, ensure we remain "state of the art" in our resources.



Facilities: Bridge School's specially designed facilities are part of a shared campus on a public elementary school site. Students follow a traditional school year calendar and a daily schedule that supports our selective inclusion approach in general education classrooms on our shared campus [all inclusion is supported by Bridge School staff]. Access to our local community allows for frequent field trips and hands-on learning opportunities that tie to our classroom's thematic units.



Is The Bridge School the Right Program for My Child?

To find out if your child shares those unique characteristics with the children we serve, which of these descriptions fit...

- My child has a severe physical disability (primary motor impairment, e. g., cerebral palsy)
- My child has a speech disability related to the physical impairment
- My child's communication needs cannot be met through natural speech alone
- My child gets frustrated when communication attempts are not successful
- My child is between the ages of 3-10 years
- My child participates successfully in small group activities (e. g., playgroups, preschool, school)
- My child's medical needs do not negatively impact participation in daily school routines
- My child's behavior does not significantly interfere with social or educational interactions



Is The Bridge School What I Want for My Child?

Check the following list of Bridge School characteristics to see if it matches what you want in an educational placement for your child...

- I am interested in a day program as opposed to a residential placement
- I prefer an educational approach rather than a medical model
- I would like an intensive, short-term transitional placement, not a long-term situation
- I believe my child would benefit from small group instruction
- I want a situation where my child has an opportunity to be included in a general education classroom



What do I do if I'm interested in the program for my child...

Link to our website for comprehensive information about our programs...

www.bridgeschool.org

Schedule a site visit to observe our classrooms in action and talk with our Director of Education. To schedule a visit contact:

Kathleen Carr, Assistant Director of Education and Outreach

650-696-7295

kcarr@bridgeschool.org

The Bridge School is located on the site of North Elementary School, a public elementary school in Hillsborough, California.

The Bridge School
545 Eucalyptus Avenue
Hillsborough, CA 94010

Application process...

We accept and review applications for new students throughout the year, however most new students are accepted for enrollment at the start of the upcoming school year.

We consider the characteristics and educational needs of each applicant individually. Our decision-making process also must factor in the characteristics and instructional needs of our continuing Bridge School students and projected classroom configurations.

For more information about the application review process and what must be submitted with an application, please visit our website at:

<http://www.bridgeschool.org/education/eligibility-and-admissions/>

The Bridge School does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. These activities include, but are not limited to, selection of students, hiring and firing of staff, selection of volunteers and vendors, and provision of services. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our student population, staff, volunteers, subcontractors and vendors.

