Welcome to Bridges Area Learning Center

High school years may find students confronted with a range of challenges which put them at risk to not graduate. Rather than dropping out of school, students have an option to attend Bridges Area Learning Center (ALC).

Our goal is to reach all learners - especially those who struggle in traditional schools. Bridges offers personalized instruction with staff who have a flexible approach to teaching.

Students experience small class sizes and flexible school schedules. Those who complete the Bridges program graduate with a diploma from Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools.

Our Vision is to be the premier provider of alternative education to students in the Twin Cities metropolitan area and surrounding communities.

Our Mission is to help at-risk youth make successful progress toward acquiring their high school diploma, leading to gainful employment or post-secondary education.

For more information about Bridges ALC contact:

Dave Brown
Coordinator
15875 Franklin Trail SE
Suite #108
Prior Lake, MN  55372
952-226-0840
dbrown@priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us

You can also visit us online at:
www.priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us and click on “Our Schools” or scan the following code to go directly to our Bridges ALC home page.
What Does Bridges Offer?

- Tailored instruction that is adapted to the needs of the student
- Flexible approach to teaching
- Option to graduate with a Prior Lake High School diploma
- Supportive staff
- Small class sizes
- Flexible schedule with an early release option for those in a work program
- Option to take classes at Bridges and PLHS
- Open campus
- Make-up days available for students struggling with attendance
- Intervention programming including an on-site social worker, counselor, chemical health counselor and therapist
- Unique approach to credit recovery
- Welcoming, safe learning environment

Course Structure

- 7 classes/shorter school day
- Early release if the student qualifies for the work program
- Two Fridays a month are optional attendance days designed for make-up days and working one-on-one with teachers

Courses Offered at Bridges

The following is a sample of courses offered at Bridges through traditional classroom instruction and online learning. For a complete list, contact the Bridges Coordinator.

**Science**
- Physical Science
- Biology
- Advanced Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Earth Science

**Math**
- Algebra I
- Algebra II
- Geometry
- Consumer Math Skills
- Advanced Calculus

**Social Studies**
- American Government
- Economics
- Global Studies
- U.S. History
- Social Issues
- Geography

**English**
- English 9
- English 10
- English 11
- English 12
- Communications I
- Communications II
- Communications III
- English Literature & Composition
- World Literature

**General Education**
- Art
- Health
- Work Program & Vocational Work Experience
- Job Skills
- Physical Education
- SPED Reading, Math & Writing
- Fab Lab

**World Literature**

Students must satisfy Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools’ graduation requirements to receive a diploma.

Who Attends Bridges?

Students in grades 9-12 from Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools and other Minnesota school districts are welcome to attend Bridges.

The population served at Bridges includes students who:

- Have difficulty with attendance and academics
- Are behind in completing course work
- Are pregnant (or is a parent)
- Have had chemical dependency issues
- Have difficulty making connections with others
- Have difficulty with motivation
- Have difficulty in a traditional school setting
- Are older than other students

Student Expectations

- Consistent effort and positive attitude
- Commitment to learning
- Ability to work independently and in groups
- Comply with attendance and Code of Conduct policy
- Respect of self, others, and the learning environment

School Hours

8:20-2:50 (hours are flexible)

Extended day hours are available Tuesdays for those interested in credit recovery.

E-STEM

Bridges is part of an E-STEM school district. E-STEM stands for Environmental Education, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

E-STEM is an interdisciplinary approach to instruction and learning focused on inquiry and real-world problem-solving in the 21st Century, applying hands-on science, technology, engineering and mathematical practices with projects and field experiences related to the environment.

Technology

- We believe technology is a tool that can be used to improve learning, instruction, communication and student achievement. Our goal is to teach students the 21st century skills needed to prepare learners to reach their full potential in an ever-changing world.
- Some of the technology tools we use daily include iPads, Chromebooks, SMART Boards and computers.
- Students also have access to the PLHS Fab Lab, a small-scale fabrication laboratory that allows students to create almost anything using some of the same technology and equipment found in Minnesota businesses and used by today’s work force.