

BridgeAtSchools, Inc.
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Tel: 302-765-9799 Fax: 302-765-2147
"Giving Youth a Hand for the Future"



Fall 2002

Thank you for your interest in researching a new program which uses the game of bridge to dramatically improve educational and developmental outcomes in young people. Our lesson plans – aligned to the national educational standards (K-12) for math, critical thinking, and social skills – introduce children to the basics of bridge and are designed for use by staffed teachers, even those unfamiliar with card games. If the school desires, local bridge volunteers can provide support at school. They can serve as mentors to teachers and children during lessons, answer questions arising from the curriculum, and prepare and coach children for the inter-school events hosted by local affiliates of the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL), the main sanctioning body for duplicate bridge in the US boasting some 165,000 members.

Research Study

The research question that BridgeAtSchools, Inc. wishes to answer has two components, one dealing with the benefit to children, the other to the effectiveness of the new curriculum:

Do children exposed to five or more months of bridge lessons and regular practice show more improvement in math, critical thinking, and social skills than students who don't learn bridge, when taught using the BridgeAtSchools, Inc. curriculum, even when the teacher has no prior experience in the game of bridge?

Acceptance of this hypothesis using statistically-valid testing procedures will result in a breakthrough program that improves children's outcomes and that schools can administer.

Subjects

The curriculum is written for grades 4-8. Open enrollment is suggested as the game integrates and rewards participants of all abilities and backgrounds, and participants can learn at their own pace in the midst of the larger group. A sustained enrollment of at least 12-20 is paramount since some of the math concepts dealing with distributions are difficult to illustrate with fewer participants.

The instructor must be a staffed teacher who will utilize the BridgeAtSchools, Inc. lesson plans. Prior knowledge of bridge is not required; however a brief orientation to duplicate bridge which we provide on our bridgeatschools.org website is highly recommended. The password-protected lessons are available via the teacher page at our website. Classes can be begin at any time during the school year and proceed at whatever pace the teacher finds appropriate, but measurable improvements in test scores might not be seen until the children have had at least 5 months of regular bridge lessons.

Data Collection

BridgeAtSchools, Inc. wishes to assess participants' improvement in math, critical thinking, and social skills because the curriculum is specifically designed to address these areas in a comprehensive way. Since students are typically tested in the spring, we could compare scores from a test and control group of students in the spring to similar tests taken in the fall or

previous spring. Participants' names are not needed or even desired; however, we would need demographics such as age, gender, race, and other variables that we would like to consider from your database. We would also want to mention the school in our research reports and whether the instructor had prior knowledge of bridge.

Materials and Supplies

Sign and return this letter and application form (fax 302-765-2147). We will order materials and supplies based on your expected enrollment. You will receive many decks of playing cards, but also other equipment and supplies that are unique to the game of duplicate bridge. During our research phase, copyrighted lessons plans and student worksheets will be available on the bridgeatschools.org website. Schools should check regularly for revised lessons and new additions posted on the website.

Interested schools are asked to do the following to get started:

- ♣ Enroll 12-20 students into the bridge program
- ♣ Locate a staffed teacher unfamiliar with bridge to use our lesson plans
- ♣ Find a meeting place with card tables and chairs, or small tables for four, or a regular classroom with flattop desks that can be pushed together
- ♣ Determine a regular weekly time (an hour per week for at least 20 weeks recommended) and a desired start date (can begin virtually anytime)
- ♣ Pay for an initial quantity of bridge supplies and materials (approximately \$300)
- ♣ Be amenable to accessing our website for lessons and student worksheets

As BridgeAtSchools, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) corporation dependent on the support of schools and communities for our programs to exist, we hope that the school is able to pay for the applicable supplies and materials. If assistance is needed, BridgeAtSchools can work with the school to obtain additional funding for the program start-up costs.

Marketing

Schools may copy from our website informational flyers for parents and students intended to interest them in participating in the program and attending 2-3 inter-school competitions. These tournaments captivate youth and stimulate a heightened interest in the game, which we believe will promote positive outcomes. This program is ideally suited for family involvement, and it is advantageous for parents to understand this from the start so that they can make every effort to learn at the same time as their children and to allow them to attend the competitions that make the program exhilarating and truly rewarding for the children. Throughout the year parents and children will be informed of opportunities to attend these events.

Please call 301-912-3801 if there is other information you need. We all look forward to working with you on this exciting research and giving kids a rewarding and enjoyable education.

Sincerely,

David Idleman
Marketing Director, BridgeAtSchools, Inc.

Principal Consent: I am willing to have my students in grades ____ thru ____ participate in the BridgeAtSchools, Inc. research study as an in-school _____ after-school _____ program.

Principal _____ Date _____

Application for Participating in BridgeAtSchools, Inc. Research Study

To be completed by school principal or other authorized personnel

General information

School name _____

Mailing address _____

Principal (name, number, email) _____

Beginning on _____ (MM/DD/YY), bridge club/class will meet every _____

for _____ minutes starting at _____ AM/PM.

Will school buy and own the bridge materials and supplies needed to run program? _____

Marketing the Program

Date school distributed information about bridge program to students _____

Date school distributed information about bridge program to parents _____

If program offered to exclusive group, please indicate _____

Expected enrollment in bridge (provide reasonable range) _____

Teacher Orientation

Bridge Teacher (name, number, email) _____

Does bridge teacher already know the basics of bridge? YES _____ NO _____

If NO, then please indicate dates teacher completed following orientations:

Review Duplicate Bridge Overview (bridgeatschools.org) _____

Download "Learn to Play Bridge" (acbl.org/information/game of bridge) _____

Review Lesson 1 of BridgeAtSchools curriculum (bridgeatschools.org) _____

Please send signed acceptance letter and completed application form to BridgeAtSchools, Inc., P.O. Box 9885, Wilmington, DE, 19809-9885 or fax to 302-765-2147.