



Summer 2022 Information for Parents/Guardians

We are excited to welcome your student to Bridges – as well as YOU and your whole family! We know how important you are to your student’s success, and we want to work with you over the coming years to be the best possible resource and support system for our Bridges students, and their families.

We encourage you to take an active role in your student’s academic progress and with Bridges. We have three year-round staff members, listed below. Please email, call, or text with any questions or concerns.

Staff Contact Information

Director of Bridges	Carrie Silver	carrie.silver@furman.edu	864-887-5823 (cell)
Bridges Foundations	Cole Foster	cole.foster@furman.edu	864-270-0887 (cell)
Crossing the Bridge	Rose Nickles	rose.nickles@furman.edu	803-331-4023 (cell)

Bridges Foundations Schedule: Summer 2022

Friday, June 17

Omegas and Alpha2s: Move-in 5:00-6:00pm to Gambrell Circle

Beta2s: Move-in 6:30-7:00pm to Gambrell Circle

Dinner will be provided for students once everyone arrives.

Parent meetings will be held at 5:30, 6:00, and 7:00pm.

Sunday, July 3 - UPDATED

Students will be picked up between 8-10:00am in Gambrell Circle.

Students return to Gambrell Tuesday, July 5, between 8-10:00am.

Sunday, June 26

Family members may come visit campus and/or take student off campus, 9:30am-2:00pm. To take a student off campus, you must be an approved guardian.

Family members can eat in the Dining Hall free of charge (with a meal ticket from staff).

Saturday, July 9

Each Bridges class will host a car wash to raise money for a cause of their choice.

Sunday, July 10

Family members may come visit campus and/or take student off campus, 9:30am-2:00pm. To take a student off campus, you must be an approved guardian.

Family members can eat in the Dining Hall free of charge (with a meal ticket from staff).

Our summer Talent Show is scheduled for 7:00-9:00pm.

Saturday, July 16

All students to be picked up at Gambrell Circle 8:00-10:00am.

Frequently Asked Questions for Parents/Guardians:

How much does Bridges cost?

Nothing! Participation is completely free, thanks to grants and donors.

How long is the Bridges program?

Once a student enters in the spring of ninth grade, the student stays with Bridges through college graduation. The three years of the high school program are much more active, with Bridges Foundations in the summer, Saturday College during the school year, in-school visits, and other optional activities. We have a residential get-ready-for-college program called Crossing the Bridges held the summer before students go to college; from there, we are more hands-off as far as programming but still 100% supportive of your journey toward a college degree and adulthood.

Can I communicate with my student during Foundations?

Yes. Students turn their phones in at check-in, and they will have access to them each evening to call home. We do not let students have phones during the day so they can focus on classes and building relationships. If you have an emergency during the week, you may call a staff member's cell phone and we will make sure you are connected to your student asap. You also have the option of Sunday visits.

Are students supervised while on campus?

Yes. Safety is our top priority. Students will never be on their own while on campus with Bridges. We dedicate a week to train counselors, and they live in the residence halls with the students as a 24/7 resource. These counselors walk with students anywhere they travel on campus. Supervision also comes from our staff and teachers. We do not allow anyone to wander away from the group, and we have strict rules about staying on their own hall in the residence hall.

What does a day look like during Foundations?

The days are packed. We dedicate the mornings to classes taught by Greenville County certified teachers. After lunch, students have some down time, followed by college planning classes and electives. After dinner, depending on the day, students will participate in workshops or fitness activities. Fridays are field trip days, and weekends are filled with community service, teambuilding, and fun.

What is my student required to do to remain in good standing with Bridges?

We expect students to attend Summer Foundations each summer of high school, and six out of the eight Saturday Colleges (held one Saturday a month during the school year). Students participate in a one-on-one meeting with staff in their school each semester. And students are expected to maintain a 3.0 GPA and avoid disciplinary issues at school; should either of these standards not be met, the student will be on probation work with the director on an individualized success plan.

How can I help my student excel in Bridges?

The more students put into Bridges, the more they get out! You can help your student by encouraging them to stay active with Bridges and to take advantage of every opportunity the program presents. And we want families to stay involved, too!

Is my student required to attend Furman after graduation?

No. We focus on working with students to find the best college fit for them. While some students decide to attend Furman, we have students attend all kinds of schools, all over the country. We want each student to find the best path for them.