



Summer 2021 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. Feel free to email, call, or text us if you have questions or concerns.

Staff Contact Information

Director of Bridges	Carrie Silver	carrie.silver@furman.edu	864-887-5823 (cell)
Bridges Foundations	Dean Bailey	dean.bailey@furman.edu	864-451-2845 (cell)
Crossing the Bridge	Daphnie Glenn	daphnie.glenn@furman.edu	864-395-0867 (cell)

Bridges Foundations Schedule: Summer 2021

Because of Covid, we have a different schedule for this summer than past summers. We usually have all 75 high schoolers living on campus for four weeks, but that would violate Furman University regulations and protocols regarding Covid. So, this summer each class will have it’s own week living and learning on campus, followed by a final week of day-only activities for all classes. Here is the general schedule:

Week 1: Alpha2s (rising sophomores) move in evening of June 20, move out morning of June 26

Week 2: Omegas (rising juniors) move in evening of June 27, move out morning of July 3

Week 3: Psis (rising seniors) move in morning of July 5, move out afternoon of July 10

Week 4: We will have a great week of day-only workshops and activities for all classes

We will communicate details regarding move-in, including campus maps and what to pack, closer to that date.

We will also provide activities and ways to connect (mostly virtual) during the weeks students are not on campus. Those will be posted on our summer website: <https://www.bridgessummer2021.com>.

Get text updates by texting @bbfparents to the number 81010.

Mark Your Calendar:

Wednesday evenings during program: We are planning virtual events for students and their families. All events like this will be on our summer website calendar.

Thursday, July 15, 5:30-7:30 Family fun night at the Greenville Zoo!
Bridges is renting out the zoo for our students, their families, our alumni, and our summer staff. We want your whole family to join us! We will have a short program at 6pm and dinner will be available.

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 the summer program Bridges Foundations, Saturday College, in-school visits, and other optional activities. We have a residential get-ready-for-college program 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.

Can I communicate with my student during Foundations?

Yes. Students are not allowed to bring their cell phones during the weeks they live on campus. We want them focusing on building relationships and what they are learning. Students will have access to phones in the evenings to call home. And, if you have any emergencies during the week, you may call a staff member's cell phone.

Are students supervised while on campus?

Yes. Safety is our top priority. Students will never be on their own while in campus with Bridges. We train counselors to live in the residence halls with the students to be a 24/7 resource, and these counselors walk with students anywhere they travel on campus. Supervision also comes from our staff and teachers. We do not allow anyone to wonder away from the group.

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 fun workshops or fitness activities. During normal summers, Wednesdays are field trip days, and weekends are filled with community service, teambuilding, and fun.

What is my student required to do to be in Bridges?

We expect students to attend the summer Foundations program and Saturday College (held one Saturday a month during the school year). Students are allowed two absences for Saturday College per year when communicated with staff. We also come to each school to meet one-on-one with each student during each semester. Any student whose gpa falls below a 3.0 or encounters any disciplinary issues at school is put on probation, requiring the student to come up with a plan for success and to have extra meetings with staff.

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 you to stay involved, too! We want you to be part of this Bridges journey.

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. And, we work with students to complete financial aid and find scholarships to cover as much of the cost of attendance as possible.