



Avondale Bridge Buddies

Building Relationships, Independent Development, and Growth for Excellence

Many of our students with Autism or Cognitive Impairments need extra one-on-one support either from a teacher or paraprofessional, but studies have proven that students with ASD respond better to their own peers rather than a special education teacher or a paraprofessional. The BRIDGE Buddy program allows for our students with ASD to receive those extra supports in a more natural way, by placing a non-ASD student with them.

The LINK student (non-ASD student) will sign up as a BRIDGE Buddy. The LINK student will act as a peer advocate, mentor, role model and friend for the student with disabilities. Together, the students will work toward the goal of independence and socialization. He or she will assist the student with a disability in such things as being a meaningful member of a pair or group, organization of assignments and supplies, and focusing on what the teacher is saying. The LINK student will also be with the student with disabilities every day in the assigned class for the purpose of helping them socially, academically, behaviorally and to promote independence.

LINK students will have their own learning expectations. Training will be held every other Wednesday during the lunch break. Each training session focuses on teaching students in the methodology of working with people with autism or cognitive impairment.

Bridge Buddy Club

As part of the BRIDGE buddy program, there is a voluntary after school component. During Club time student will get more time to socialize and play games and practice being a friend. Regular meetings occur on Wednesdays from 2:46 - 4:30 pm in room 307. First meeting will be October 19, 2016 and will run weekly. A separate permission slip must be completed by parents to confirm the students involvement in the Club portion of the program.

For questions or more information, please contact 248-537-6320.