



BRIDGE

WELCOME TO  
FAMILY WEEKEND

**Being in BRIDGE has changed my life.** I have had the opportunity to grow in my relationship with God and there have been many moments where I was able to enhance my academic skills. The type of environment which I was placed in has made all the difference. For the first time in my life, I am surrounded with kids my age who have the same or similar backgrounds as me and who are on fire for God like me.

I am really thankful for being given the opportunity to be at BRIDGE. The academics have pushed me beyond my limits. The Bible studies and worship nights here have brought to light how true and precious God's love for me really is. The different team building activities here have allowed me to step outside of my comfort zone to try new things. Most important the friendships and people I have met here will forever be in my heart. I am thankful to God for each and every person here. I have also realized that no matter how bad I think life is, there is always someone out there who's had it tougher.

- Aaliyah M.

*Aaliyah is a rising junior, who loves to play basketball. She is also involved in her school's book club.*

### **Coming to BRIDGE, you learn about yourself and your family.**

Your family being your friends at BRIDGE; they are there for you every step of the way. You start to appreciate them as the days pass on. You feel a connection with them knowing that they went through the same hardships and obstacles in life as you did. They need you, just like you need them. With every minute, hour, day, and week that passes you gain trust in them. What I have in front of me is a family and a place I can proudly call home. Here at BRIDGE, the community is one. No one is left out. We are all equal.

We went to a ropes course and I expected it to be scary because it was really high up. You could easily trip and "fall" except you aren't really falling, because you have a harness. The harness is there to support you if you do trip and it helps you get back onto your feet. That's how friendship is in this program. That's how everyone is—your

RAs, TAs, and the students. We all support and listen to each other. The ropes course was hard, but within arms length we had our partner. My partner was patient with me and didn't yell at me; we supported each other. We were also supported by our other team members as well. I can't imagine what it would be like if I didn't have anyone by my side. I would have "fallen" and given up. If there was no one there to push me, I wouldn't have kept on trying new obstacles.

- Vanessa G.

*Vanessa is a rising junior & she is involved in the Latino Leaders club at school. She aspires to study music one day.*



"This is the most Christian thing I've ever done. I am minuscule in the Sun."

- Mo H.,  
Residence Assistant



"I had to stand on this platform and fall back while the rest of the group had to catch me. That was amazing because we had to really trust that our team members wouldn't drop us. I think we learned what it was like to be a team in those woods. Actually it was more like a family."

- Elise L.

**I think that one of the best aspects of BRIDGE would have to be the community.** I feel like I can go to anyone with anything. I feel very comfortable here and I can trust everyone. I've met so many new people, and I know that these friendships will last more than a summer. These friendships will last a life-time.

At BRIDGE, I've learned a lot about myself. At the ropes course I was really scared to go on any of the obstacles. As soon as I got on the course I wanted to cry and get right off of it. I was shaking because I was so scared, but that is where the community encouragement came in. I had people telling me that I could go on the course and that I would be fine. My peers' faith in me allowed me to have faith in myself. I believed that I could overcome the obstacle and I did. I learned that day that if I have faith in myself I can overcome anything.

**"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity."**

— Matthew 25:40

The sociology class has also impacted me greatly. I have learned to see things in a different way. I see the bigger picture in situations and ask "why?" When asking "why?" I can see that a lot of personal problems we face today are actually global problems that many people face around the world. In this class, I learned that sociology can find the root of the problem, but without God, the problem cannot be changed or solved. Only God changes things. "Sociology without theology is powerless, but theology without sociology is blind."

- Miranda W.

*Miranda is a rising senior and she is involved in Student Council at school. She wants to one day be a bilingual elementary school teacher.*

**Ever since I got here I've been able to meet wonderful people who were willing to get to know me and open themselves up to me.** Now I have nineteen close friends that are faithful, true, and with different backgrounds than mine. Being here has helped me to get ready for college life academically, socially, and spiritually.

So far in BRIDGE we have been digging into our books, building a community, and having fun. Our first week of class with Dr. Kim, who was an extraordinary teacher because he kept class involved with his jokes, and taught us "how to think and not what to think" which is something critical to make it through college. During the week we had Bible studies and worship night. Boy, these nights were great! Bible study changed me and showed me that what God wants me to do will happen not what anyone else says, and if you trust in God he will lead you down the right path. Worship night was great. I just felt as if I was in the presence of the Lord with just two guitars and our voices singing as a choir

for God. We went to a ropes course which helped build our community and even our self-confidence by working as a team and encouraging ourselves and others to their best.

- Ricardo P.

*Ricardo is a rising senior who is involved in football and track. He wants to study pharmacy.*

**"In our first week of BRIDGE, we learned about sociology."**

- Prisca T.

This class helped us "think outside the box." It helped us understand why things happen or why people have different beliefs in multiple issues. We constantly asked the question "why?" to understand a cause. Before this class, most of us students witnessed the struggles of racial discrimination and never understood why they happen. This class has helped us put terms to reasons why things happen in society. Most importantly, we learned how to apply what we learned to the world around us through class discussions.

*Prisca is a rising junior who is involved in the international club at school. She aspires to be a writer.*

