



BridgePrep
Academy

Book of Tools

STUDENT & PARENT

2025-2026 Handbook





10700 SW 56 STREET
MIAMI, FL 33165
305-271-3109

Parent/Student Handbook

www.BridgePrepSouth.com

MISSION STATEMENT

BridgePrep Academy believes every child learns best in a safe, nurturing and stimulating environment where high academic expectations, self-esteem, good character, and an appreciation for the arts are promoted. BridgePrep Academy's mission is to provide a challenging academic curriculum that will encompass an enriched Spanish language program, technology and experiences that will enable students to develop in all areas. BridgePrep Academy's goal is to educate well rounded individuals and enable students to reach their maximum potential.

STUDENTS' CODE OF EXCELLENCE

🐾 Be honest 🐾 Be kind 🐾 Be respectful 🐾 Be patient 🐾 Be proud 🐾
🐾 Be courteous 🐾 Be prompt 🐾 Be prepared 🐾 Be polite 🐾

2025 – 2026

**BridgePrep Academy Charter School
Governing Board**

Tom Sutterfield (Chair)

Lou LoFranco (Vice Chair)

Enid Weisman (Treasurer)

Leah Burton (Secretary)

Connie Arnold (Member)

Charles Davis (Member)

Board Meeting

Scheduled meetings can be found on the school website

www.bridgeprepsouth.com

Conflict Resolution

Yurien Fernandez Four, Principal

305-271-3109

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Dear BridgePrep Academy South Community,

It is an honor to welcome you back as we embark on my second year as proud Principal of BridgePrep Academy South!

As we rejoin this fall, I assure you that I share in this school community's commitment to caring for your children each day while providing them with a world-class learning environment.

As I begin my fifth year at BridgePrep Academy South, we continue to focus on students' success both in and out of the classroom as our shared goal and mission is that BridgePrep South alumni go out and make a positive impact in the world.

I look forward to many successes ahead for our students and staff and in continuing the legacy of an academically strong institution within a loving and nurturing environment. We are very proud of once again receiving an "A" rating for the 2024-2025 school year.

The 2025-2026 school year will mark my 25th year in education yet the passion for reaching each student and leaving them with the desire to be all they were meant to be never fails. I am excited about remaining connected and working collaboratively with our teachers to prepare our children to be productive and caring members of our society.

Please read carefully through the pages that follow. You will find beneficial information to our students and families.

In closing, The BridgePrep Academy South staff welcomes all of you to the 2025-2026 school year. Let us always keep our students the primary focus of our work while we celebrate their accomplishments and success.

Respectfully,

Yurien Fernandez Four

Mrs. Yurien Fernandez Four

CHARTER SCHOOLS

BridgePrep Academy South is a non-profit, self-managed entity that enrolls students residing in Miami-Dade County who qualify to attend a regular public or private school. Charter schools must be approved and monitored by the local school district; however, they are operated independently. In a charter school, the students are district students, meaning that our students are Miami Dade County students. BridgePrep Academy South is funded by state, local, and federal monies.

MISSION STATEMENT

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VISION STATEMENT

BridgePrep Academy South believes that each child is a unique individual who needs a secure, nurturing and stimulating environment in which to grow and mature emotionally, intellectually, physically and socially. BridgePrep believes in a student-centered educational philosophy that emphasizes hands on learning and students actively participating in learning. Students will be able to discover through hands on, engaging activities that will incorporate different approaches to accommodate each child's learning style and as a result, raise academic achievements.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

BridgePrep Academy South prohibits discrimination in employment, educational programs, and activities on the basis of race, national origin, color, creed, religion, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or associational preference.

CURRICULUM

BridgePrep Academy South utilizes core curricula that is aligned to the new Florida Standards. Core instructional materials meet the requirements set by the Florida Department of Education. Supplemental instructional materials are utilized to differentiate instruction and ensure that each student's needs are met. BridgePrep teaches a bilingual curriculum in which students will be taught how to read, write, and speak Spanish. **All students are required to take Spanish as part of their daily coursework**

ARRIVAL

School starts promptly at 7:45 AM for Middle School students. Middle School students will be admitted into the building beginning at 7:30 a.m. Students will go directly to their classroom. Students in grades 2nd through 5th must be seated in class ready to learn by 8:15 AM. Students in these grades will be admitted into the building at 8:00 AM. Kindergarten and 1st grade students must be seated in class and ready to learn by 8:45 AM. Students in these grades will be admitted into the building at 8:30 AM. Please note that if you must drop off students prior to the time they are admitted into the building, they may enter our school cafeteria and enjoy a free breakfast (for all students). Please note that there is no Before School Care staff in the cafeteria. Students in grades 2nd through 8th may be dropped-off a maximum of 30 minutes prior to their class starting time (7:15 for 6th through 8th grade, 7:45 for 2nd through 5th grade) and 45 minutes for Kindergarten and 1st grade (8:00 AM).

Please note that:

- Punctuality is key. If your child arrives at school after their arrival time (7:45 for Middle School, 8:15 for grades 2nd-5th and 8:45 for Kindergarten & 1st grade), parents must park in the gravel parking lot and escort their child to the main office to be signed in and your child will be issued a tardy pass.

PLEASE REFER TO OUR ATTENDANCE POLICIES FOR REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

If your child is absent or tardy to school, your child will need a note explaining the absence or tardiness. If a child does not have a note, he/she will be marked unexcused. You have three days to send in a note excusing your child's absence or tardiness, after the five days the unexcused classification will remain.

If your child is absent from school, the parent must bring a note explaining why. Without a note, the absence will be marked as unexcused. This letter can be emailed to our attendance department at attendance@bridgeprepsouth.com or the note may be dropped off at the main office. You have three days to send a note excusing your child's absence. The unexcused status will remain if a note is not submitted within three days.

SCHOOL HOURS

Grade Level	Day of the Week	Times
Kindergarten & 1 st grade	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Friday	8:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.
Grades 2 nd - 5 th	Mon, Tues, Thurs, Friday (Early Release Wed. at 2:15 pm)	8:15 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. (Early Release Wed. at 2:15 pm)
Grades 6 th - 8 th	Mon, Tues, Thurs, Friday (Early Release Wed. at 1:45 pm)	7:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m. (Early Release Wed. at 1:45 pm)

Please note that repeated tardiness to school will be subject to disciplinary measures beginning with parent contact.

DISMISSAL

1. Teachers and students must not leave the classroom before the “dismissal time” above.
2. At dismissal time, students and teachers will walk students to their designated dismissal area. Parent pick-up students will be picked-up from the Main Entrance at the underpass. Designated staff and security will monitor traffic and safety.
3. PARENTS MAY NOT PARK AT THE GRAVEL PARKING LOT AND PICK-UP STUDENTS OUTSIDE THEIR VEHICLE STANDING AT THE UNDERPASS. PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS FOR SECURITY PURPOSES. ALL PERSONS PICKING-UP STUDENTS ARE TO REMAIN IN THEIR VEHICLE, FOLLOW THE TRAFFIC PATTERN AND ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES.
4. Teachers will remain with their students for 15 minutes after the child’s scheduled dismissal time. Students that have not been picked up after this 15-minute grade period will be escorted to the St. Paul After School Care office. Parents will then have to collect their students from there. **Please note that the St. Paul After School Care program will collect a fee charged to the parent for students who are not picked-up on time from their scheduled school dismissal time.**
5. When students are dismissed, a student is expected to take with him/her all materials needed for homework and all their personal belongings.
6. Students will not be permitted to go back into their classrooms after being dismissed from school. This policy also applies for students enrolled in the ASC (After School Care) program.
7. **Parents will not be allowed to pick-up students during the 30 minutes prior to the students’ scheduled dismissal time. If you must pick your student up early from school, ensure that it is not within the 30-minute time frame from dismissal. Please note that for attendance to count for the day, a student must be present at school for a minimum of 2 hours.**
8. Students will only be dismissed private bus transportation, through car line or After School Care.
9. Students will not be released to anyone under the age of 18 years old, or anyone that is not on the emergency contact card and approved by the parent or legal guardian.

ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

When dropping off (or picking up) your child:

1. You may drive through the traffic lane into the building and along the main building sidewalk, stop momentarily at your child’s designated area and allow staff to open your car door and help your child into or out of the car. Please do not linger, but drive on, as there will be parents in other cars behind you attempting to drop off or pick up their child. If there is a lengthy line of cars waiting to drop off or pick up students, please be patient.
2. **At no time is anyone to park and leave his or her car on the drop-off, pick-up lane. Parking a car in the drive through lane will obstruct the flow of traffic and create a**

potentially dangerous situation. Please understand that parking in unauthorized areas is considered a serious offense. It is strongly encouraged that purses, electronic devices, etc. be taken out of the vehicle when it is unattended. The school or its employees are not held responsible for any stolen items left inside a vehicle.

3. Handicap spaces are to be reserved and utilized for handicapped drivers that currently have a decal indicating so. Unauthorized vehicles are not to park in those identified parking spaces.

DESIGNATED PICK-UP AREAS

Children assigned to the After School Care Program

All students going to the St. Paul After-School Care program will be picked up by St. Paul After School Care Staff.

RAINY DAY DISMISSAL

On rainy days, there will be regular dismissal times unless there is a safety concern, at which time dismissal may be delayed. It is strongly encouraged that your child has a poncho in his/her book bag.

Students will remain under the roofed areas during rainy day dismissal and will enter the pick-up vehicle under the underpass located at the Main Entrance.

PARKING AND TRAFFIC REGULATIONS RULES

- The speed limit on the school grounds is five (5) miles per hour.
- **THE USE OF CELL PHONE AS YOU ENTER THE SCHOOL CAMPUS IS PROHIBITED. THIS IS FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL STUDENTS, STAFF AND FAMILIES.**
- **Entrance into the campus is on 107 AVE.**
- Please obey the traffic signs on the property.
- **We have ONE exit; it is also located along 107 AVE. Please note that when you are exiting the parking lot, you must make a RIGHT Turn ONLY. Left turns are prohibited as posted.**
- **There is no parking permitted in the drop-off and pick-up lane.**
- Students crossing on the crosswalk to enter their vehicle on the LEFT lane have the right of way but must stop at and use the crosswalk.
- While you are in the drop off and pick up lane, please abide by the following rules:
 1. **Refrain from using your cell phone.**
 2. **Do not exit your vehicle.**
 3. **Do not allow your child to exit the car on the driver's side of the car because your child will be exiting through traffic.**
 4. **Do not place your child's belongings in the trunk of your car because this will require that the child retrieve his belongings from the trunk and place him/her between two running cars.**

PATROLS

School staff will assist during the arrival and dismissal procedures. Once our student patrols program launches (later in the school year), students from our 5th through 8th grade class will also be available to assist in the arrival and dismissal process.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance and punctuality are mandatory. Attendance and grades are connected. There are probably no factors more important to successful school progress than regular and punctual school attendance. Students who are excessively tardy or absent from the instructional program will fall behind in academic achievement. Excessive school absenteeism precedes grade failure and loss of interest and may result in students withdrawing from school. We expect our students to demonstrate excellent attendance. Please make every effort to have your child attend school on time consistently.

School Attendance: Students are to be counted in attendance only if they are present for at least **two** hours of the day or engaged in a school-approved educational activity which constitutes a part of the instructional program for the student.

Class Attendance: Students are to be counted in attendance if they are physically present in class for at least half of the class period, have been excused by the teacher on a class-related assignment, or have been requested by a member of the school support staff for an approved school activity.

1. **Students missing five or more consecutive days of school due to illness or injury are required to submit a written statement from a health care provider.**
2. The written statement must include all the days the student has been absent.
3. If a student is continually sick and repeatedly absent from school due to a specific medical condition, he/she must be under the supervision of a health provider.
4. Failure to provide required documentation within **three** school days upon the return to school **will result in unexcused tardies or absences.**
5. Students who have habitually unexcused absences shall be considered truant. Students affected by the Compulsory School Attendance Law may be referred to Children and Family Services for truancy.
6. Any K-8th student arriving after their designated arrival time will be issued a late pass and marked tardy. **After ten (10) unexcused tardies, the student will be issued a referral form that will be placed in the student's permanent record.** We understand that emergencies may arise. In such cases, we will need a letter signed by a parent/guardian explaining the reason for being tardy.
7. Parents are to contact the office if their child is going to be absent. On the day he/she returns to school, parents must send a handwritten note explaining the reason for their child's absence. A maximum of 10 handwritten notes will be accepted per school year. After 10, a referral will be issued. Students may not exceed more than 10 unexcused absences per school year. For every five unexcused absences, the student will receive a referral.

8. Make-up work and homework must be completed within 24 hours (per missed day) after returning to school. All assignments must be made-up, or the student will be issued an incomplete. Incomplete assignments may affect the student's final grade. **It is the parent's responsibility to contact the teacher regarding any missed assignments.** If a student anticipates being absent for more than two consecutive days, it is the parent's responsibility to contact the school and pick-up any class work/homework from the teacher.

Excused Absences

- A. Personal illness of the student (medical evidence may be required by the Principal or designee for absences exceeding **five** consecutive days). The written statement must include all days the student has been absent from school. If a student is continually sick and repeatedly absent from school due to a specific medical condition, the student must be under the supervision of a health care provider in order to receive excused absences from school.
- B. Medical Appointment: If a student is absent from school due to a medical appointment a written statement/note from a health care provider indicating the date and time of the appointment must be submitted to our attendance department at attendance@bridgeprepsouth.com.
- C. Death in immediate family.
- D. An approved school activity (absences recorded but not reported).
- E. Other absences with prior approval of the Principal.
- F. Attendance at a center under Department of Children and Families supervision.
- G. Significant community events with prior permission of the Principal. When more than one school is involved; the Region Superintendent will determine the status of the absence.
- H. Observance of a religious holiday or service when it is mandated for all members of a faith that such a holiday or service is observed. The religious holiday must be listed on the district's approved list of religious holidays.

Tardiness

A student is considered tardy if they are not present, in class at the designated time (Kindergarten & 1st grade: 8:45 AM / 2nd – 5th grades: 8:15 AM / 6th – 8th grades: 7:45 AM).

Please note that these times do not indicate that the vehicle is arriving at school at that time. Rather, these times stipulate the beginning of the Instructional Bell. **NOTE:** If a student is not present when attendance is taken but is present later in the school day, that student must be considered in attendance, but tardy. A student who is tardy should never remain on record as being absent.

A student who has twenty (20) or more cumulative tardies will have to meet with school administration to determine a proper course of action to ensure student timeliness. This number of tardies will impact student participation in certain events.

Please note that repeated tardiness to school will be subject to disciplinary measures beginning with parent contact.

Early Sign-outs

No student shall be released 30 minutes prior to the students designated dismissal time unless authorized by the Principal or Principal's Designee (i.e., emergency, sickness. Documentation will be required.)

Dismissal times:

Kindergarten, 1st, 6th – 8th grades: 2:45 PM (no early dismissal as of 2:15 PM). Wednesday's dismissal is at 1:45 for middle school (no early dismissal as of 1:15 PM).

2nd – 5th grades: 3:15 PM (no early dismissal as of 2:45 PM). Wednesday's dismissal at 2:15 PM (no early dismissal as of 1:45 PM)

No student shall be permitted to leave school prior to dismissal at the request of, or in the company of anyone other than a police officer with judicial authority, a court official, or the parents of the student unless the permission of the parent is provided. No parent may have access to the student or may grant permission to allow the student to leave school prior to dismissal if there is a legally binding instrument or court order governing such matters as divorce, separation, or custody which provides to the contrary. The parent who is the primary residential custodian or the parent who enrolled the student shall determine in writing, if the student may be released to individuals unless otherwise stated in a court order.

Emergency Contact Card must include those individuals who a parent/legal guardian permits the child to leave school grounds with on any day at any time. The parent or legal guardian is to ensure the Emergency Contact Card is current.

BIRTHDAYS

Parents might want to recognize their child's birthday at school. If you wish to do so, all school birthdays are celebrated 30 minutes prior to dismissal time. ONLY the student's parents may attend the celebration. In the event the parent wishes to do so, they must sign-in to the Main Office and obtain a visitor pass.

NO FOOD ITEMS (SNACKS, CANDY, CAKE, CUPCAKES, TREATS, JUICES) ARE ACCEPTED OR ALLOWED. NO PIÑATAS. PARENTS MAY ONLY BRING A GOODIE BAG CONTAINING TRINKETS IF THEY WISH TO DO SO. PLEASE UNDERSTAND THIS IS FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL STUDENTS AS WE MAY NOT BE AWARE OF SEVERE FOOD ALLERGIES.

BOOK BAGS

PLEASE NOTE THAT FOR SAFETY REASONS, NO ROLLING BOOKBAGS ARE ALLOWED.

Additionally, to enhance our comprehensive security-measures rules and regulations, clear bookbags are in effect. As of the summer of 2025, Florida law prohibits the use of any electronic devices at school.

Students are to have a book bag to transport his/her books and materials between school and home. We encourage parent(s) to check their child's book bag often to ensure necessary school materials, assignments, and communication notes are seen and returned to school. School supplies should be replenished as needed.

LUNCH BAGS/BOXES

Students who bring lunch bags or boxes from home must bring it upon beginning of the school day. Students forgetting their lunch, parents must drop lunch off no later than 9:00am. at the Main Office. Please note that students will NOT be called down to get their lunch once it is dropped off in the Main Office. Rather, a staff member will deliver the lunch to the student's class. Please note that instructional time is valuable and every minute counts.

For the safety and security of all our students, family members are not allowed to bring outside foods or order food to be delivered to the school/cafeteria. Students are not allowed to order food from any food vendor that will deliver the food at school. Students are not allowed to use food delivery services such as UberEats, DoorDash, etc. Parents are not allowed to order food delivery services such as UberEats, DoorDash, etc. for their child.)
Please remember NO peanut items.

COMMUNICATION

Parent to School Communication

A prime factor in our operation is the importance we place upon communication between home and school. The lines of communication must be always kept open so that we may be properly tuned into your child's needs.

Please notify us immediately if:

1. Your child has developed a communicable disease.
2. You will be out of town.
3. Your telephone number and/or email address (home and/or work) has changed.
4. You wish to change or add to the emergency contact numbers we are to use.

Parent to Teacher Communication

Conferences with individual teachers must be arranged by contacting the teacher via email or class dojo. Please make appointments for conferences before or after school hours or scheduled during the teacher's planning time. Parent conferences are not to be held during schoolwide events and while other families can hear information for other students as all student information is private, and we respect each of their individual abilities. **Moreover, please do not engage in parent/teacher conferences during arrival or dismissal times as the primary goal for all school staff is to maintain the safety of all students at all times.**

Always attempt to resolve issues/conflicts with the teacher(s) before communicating to the administration. Most issues can be resolved when you have open and honest communication with your child's teacher.

Order of contact to resolve an issue is:

Teacher → Counselor → Assistant Principal → Principal

School to Parents Communication

1. www.Bridgeprepsouth.com and Class Dojo, Instagram, Facebook in which information, flyers, monthly calendars and all communication is posted throughout the school year.

2. Dadeschools.net Miami-Dade County Public Schools website in which you can view your child's grades.
3. Emails and notifications will be sent home periodically informing you of upcoming activities or deadlines.
4. Class DOJO (please ask your homeroom teacher for their class code)

SCHOOL EMERGENCIES

Emergency Protocol

When, and if, an incident or any kind of threat or crisis occurs, the following procedure must be implemented for the safety and security of all students.

1. Staff member will alert the office.
2. Office staff will make necessary phone calls; 911, alert the administrative team, call security, and make an announcement. Depending on the nature of the emergency, different protocols are in place.
3. If it is safe to do so, all teachers will peek outside their doors; pull in any children in from the hallway, or nearby bathrooms. Lock their doors and shut their windows.
4. The administrative team, security, and all special area teachers available will walk the campus in search of any stray children.
5. Security will alert the PE teacher immediately.
6. PE teacher will escort his/her class to the closest classroom.
7. Support Personnel and any available teachers/staff will report to the office to assist as necessary.
8. Cafeteria staff will secure the lunch area.
9. Custodians and Dean of Operations will lock and secure all doors to the building.
10. Everyone remains in emergency mode until alerted by the office.
11. An "All Clear" announcement will be made when the emergency has passed.
12. In the event of a tornado threat students and staff will follow procedure for tornados.
13. In "lockdown" situations, the police department becomes in charge of the buildings. Families will be notified of situations once the authorities have approved for the school to do so.
14. In an effort to alleviate chaos or stress, teachers will remain calm and keep teaching in a normal manner. We need to maintain a quiet and safe environment for all of our students.

Accidents/Illnesses

Parents will be notified immediately in case of illness or an accident. In the event that a parent cannot be located, the person(s) named on the emergency contact cards will be contacted. **It is the parent's responsibility to make sure that these numbers are current and accurate.** Please notify the office immediately of any accident or injury which occurred during arrival or departure from school.

Children who are ill should remain at home to minimize the risk of passing the illness onto others. Please notify us of any contagious illness your child has so we may alert other parents. In addition, please notify the school of any chronic condition your child may have. If your

scholar is too sick to return to class, the parent/guardian will be required to pick up the child within a reasonable time frame.

Emergency Drills – Emergency drills will take place according to district/county policies and procedures. These drills include fire, tornado, code yellow, code red, bomb threat, hostage situation, and active assailant.

Intruders/Drills – We pay extreme attention to ensure our school gates are locked at all times, and our staff watches and reports strangers around our property. Our staff and students practice monthly safety drills to familiarize the students with emergency procedures in case of a real lockdown. These drills are practiced at different times on various days throughout the school year). Parents receive communication via the automated school messenger as to when these drill occur.

Family Crisis – If there is a family crisis, please call the office immediately. We will do all we can to help with the situation, including keeping your child until you can pick up.

Weather Emergency – In case of a hurricane, please follow the instructions for the Miami-Dade County Public Schools for closing and reopening of BridgePrep Academy South.

National Emergency – If there is a national emergency, or if there is a threat to our building or children, our staff will respond with our emergency plan. Your child will stay in his/her classroom with his/her teacher. The teacher will attempt to keep the classroom climate as stable as possible. Administration and law enforcement (if needed) will maintain staff and families informed. Please check the school's and website, social media, Dojo for updates. We also use an automated school messenger program where families receive phone calls, SMS messages and emails. We will keep you posted as to what procedure to follow. You will be contacted as soon as possible. Your child is our primary concern.

We, fully understand the sensitivity to such circumstances and do what is needed first to ensure our students' safety. Once all has been completed, communication will be provided to our school community.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

It is very important for us to have the name and phone number of someone who can be responsible for your child, if we cannot reach you. This person should be able to come to school and pick up your child if necessary. Please be sure that the person you list has this understanding. **If at any time your personal information changes, please notify the office immediately. This can only be done by the parent/legal guardian that registered the student(s).**

ETHICAL INTERNET USE AT SCHOOL

Please speak to your children about the importance and seriousness about making inappropriate remarks on any communication or social media platform. What is put in writing, stays in writing!

Internet Access During School Hours:

1. Student users may not use the BridgePrep Academy South's school-issued devices or Internet for any illegal activities. Students will not write messages that contain profanity, obscene comments, sexually explicit material, and/or expressions of bigotry, racism, or hate.
2. Student users are not to publish anything offensive using the BridgePrep Academy South's school-issued devices or Internet.
3. If a student gains access to any service via the Internet which has a cost involved, the student and his/her parents will be responsible for those costs.
4. Students should not reveal personal information, such as: name, address, or phone number.
5. Students may not access the school's internet on their cell phone.

Disciplinary Procedure:

1. The minimum action that will occur in the case of a violation is an Administrator/student conference and parental notification.
2. Banned from access to school-issued devices or BridgePrep Internet for an appropriate time, depending on the severity of the offense, and on how many previous offenses have been committed.
 - a. Banned from using all computer equipment, or the Internet.
 - b. In-school or out-of-school suspension.
 - c. Law enforcement notified if necessary

****It is the parent(s) responsibility to monitor their child/children's use of technology when students are not in school. Social media and internet-based games give communication abilities that we suggest parents monitor frequently. Particular issues may arise through these forms of entertainment that do not involve our school. Please know that internet related incidents on social media are the parents' responsibility to monitor and address. However, if it is a life-threatening issue, please contact the teacher and administration. ****

FAMILY RIGHTS AND PRIVACY RIGHTS

Parents have the right to inspect and review their child's educational records. All student records will remain confidential unless there is written consent from a parent to release them. In the event that there is a judicial order to relinquish records due to a court subpoena, parents will be notified. Parents must give the school office 24hours advance notice in order to facilitate the child's record for the parent to review.

Appearance and Grooming

1. Nail length must be sports/school appropriate length (Safety purposes)
2. Students are not allowed to wear make-up.
3. Students are not permitted to come to school with colored or dyed hair **of an unnatural color.**
4. Students must have neat and clean hair.
5. No facial hair is allowed
6. All students are allowed to wear a watch, a small bracelet and a neck chain. **No smart watches are allowed during school hours.**
7. **Girls are allowed to wear small post style earrings, no dangling earrings, extra piercing or extra earrings are allowed. Boys are not allowed to wear earrings.**

8. **Tattoos are not permitted.**
9. Chains that hang from the pockets and belt loops are not acceptable.
10. If a student wears excessive jewelry, the student will be asked to remove the jewelry. The jewelry will be kept in the office until a parent or designee of parent comes to the office to collect the jewelry.

The school will not be responsible for lost or stolen jewelry. The school reserves the right to restrict the wearing of any jewelry the school feels is inappropriate to the school or to the student. The school also reserves the right to restrict the wearing of any hair style that the school feels is inappropriate to the school setting and is a distraction to the learning environment.

UNIFORMS

All students must wear school uniforms. PLEASE NOTE THE NEW UNIFORM POLICIES FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR.

1. All uniforms polo shirts must be of the proper colors (BY GRADE LEVEL) with our school's logo on the left-hand side of the shirt.
2. All uniform shirts must be tucked in and not worn in a "baggy" fashion. Pants must be worn at the waist.
3. All pants that have belt loops must be worn with a belt. A belt that is long and hangs from the waist is not acceptable.
4. Skirts or polo dresses must be of a modest length. A modest length means that, if a student kneels, the skirt or polo dress must be no more than two inches above the floor.
5. **Winter jackets must be a school approved sweater/jacket or a plain navy-blue or gray sweater/jacket or fleece, with no graphics. No hoodies are allowed.**
6. No crocks, high heels, sandals, or wedges permitted
7. Sneakers / shoes should match school colors (navy-blue, white and/or black) Shoes may have laces or Velcro; socks are mandatory.

TOPS:

1. All uniforms must be of the proper colors with our school's logo on the left-hand side of the shirt.
2. All boys' shirts must be tucked in and not worn in a "baggy" fashion.
3. All sweaters worn must be the school sweater (or plain navy or gray with no graphics or letters of any kind), which can be purchased at the school or through Ibiley. Non-school sweaters must be of the approved colors. No hoodies allowed.
4. The acceptable tops and colors allowed are as follows:

Elementary (K-5):

- Polo- Navy blue
- Long Sleeve Rugby
- Navy dress
- School spirit shirt (sold at school)
Only to be worn on designated days (please see the monthly school calendar) and school field trips

Middle School (6th – 8th):

- Polo - Light grey
- School spirit shirt (sold at school)
Only to be worn on designated days (please see the monthly school calendar) and school field trips

BOTTOMS:

1. The acceptable bottoms and colors allowed are as follows:

*****Navy blue and Khakis ONLY*****

SKORTS (KINDERGARTEN – 5TH GRADE ONLY)

PANTS (ALL GRADES)

No leggings, joggers or denim

BERMUDA SHORTS (KINDERGARTEN – 5TH GRADE ONLY)

No denim

NO SKIRTS, SKORTS, SHORTS, OR DRESSES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS

If a student is not in the required school uniform, the student will be sent to the office. In the office, the parents/guardians will be called and asked to bring the required uniform to school. Students will not be permitted to go to class without their uniform. A student will receive a uniform violation form/infraction if not wearing the appropriate uniform.

Uniform Referral

- After 3 uniform violations, a referral will be issued.

Uniform Purchase

Visit Ibiley Uniform Store to purchase your BridgePrep Academy South uniforms. All polos must be purchased through Ibiley Uniforms. Uniforms packages are available; you can purchase them in person at the Ibiley Uniforms and More stores located throughout Florida or purchase your uniforms online at www.ibileyuniforms.com and search for BridgePrep and locate our campus.

GRADES

Instructional staff uses evaluative devices and techniques as needed to report individual achievement in relation to school goals, acceptance norms, and student potential. Student grades, unsatisfactory work notices, parent reports on state assessment, and/or standardized testing, parent conferences, and adult/student conferences should serve as the primary means of communicating student progress and achievement of the standards for promotion.

A student's academic grade reflects the teacher's most objective assessment of the student's academic achievement. Students have the right to receive a conduct and an effort grade consistent with their **overall** behavior and effort.

Specific guidelines for grading student performance and for reporting student progress are

provided below and detailed in the *Student Progression Plan*. To view the plan, go to <http://ehandbooks.dadeschools.net/policies/93.pdf>.

Academic Grades

Academic grades are to reflect the student's academic progress. The grade must provide for both students and parents a clear indication of each student's academic performance as compared with norms that would be appropriate for the grade or subject. Grades will consist of classwork, quizzes, tests, all assignments, projects, technology programs and presentations.

Plagiarism

Examples of plagiarism and academic dishonesty include but are not limited to the willful giving or receiving of an unauthorized, unfair, dishonest, or unscrupulous advantage in academic work over other students. Consequences for any plagiarism will be applied as required in the MDCPS Student Code of Conduct.

The academic grades of "A," "B," "C," "D," or "F," are not related to the student's effort and conduct grades. Grades in all subjects are to be based on the student's degree of mastery of the instructional objectives and competencies for the subject. The determination of the specific grade a student receives must be based on a teacher's careful consideration of all aspects of each student's performance during a grading period.

Kindergarten Grades	Verbal Interpretation
E	Outstanding/ Exceeds Expectation
G	Successfully Meeting Standards
S	Not Demonstrating Consistently
M	Needs Attention
U	Unsatisfactory

1ST– 8th Grades	Numerical Value	Verbal Interpretation
A	90 – 100%	Outstanding progress
B	80 – 89%	Above average progress
C	70 – 79%	Average Progress
D	60 – 69%	Below average progress
F	0 – 59%	Not passing

Grade and Grade Point Equivalency

A=3.50 or above

B=2.50 – 3.49

C=1.50 –2.49

D=1.00 –1.49

Parents, please understand, that it will be mandatory for every 3rd through 8th grade student that receives a Level 1 or 2 on state exams, and/or EOC to attend After School Tutoring Academy at the school and participate in reading interventions throughout the school day.

Effort Grades

Effort grades are utilized to convey both to students and their parent(s)/guardian(s) the teacher's evaluation of a student's effort as related to the instructional program. These marks are independent of academic and conduct grades. In assigning an effort grade, the teacher must consider the student's potential, study habits, and attitude. Kindergarten students do not receive effort grades.

There are three numerical grades used to reflect effort in grades 1st through 8th:

Grade	Verbal Interpretation	Indicators
1	The student consistently works to the best of his/her ability.	- Completed all tasks. - Tried a task again to improve the results. - Consistently attends to assigned tasks until and generally exerts maximum effort on all tasks.
2	The student's effort is satisfactory.	- All work is approached with an appropriate degree of seriousness. - The student usually finishes assignments on time and usually stays on task.

		The student usually works at a level commensurate with his/her ability.
3	The student shows insufficient effort.	Little attention is paid to completing assignments.

Conduct Grades

Our school will follow the Miami-Dade County Public schools Code of Student conduct. The Code of Student Conduct describes regulations and due process procedures are designed to protect all members of the educational community in the exercise of their rights and responsibilities.

These rules apply to any student:

1. On the school property.
2. In attendance at school or any school-sponsored activity.
3. Whose conduct at any time or in any place has a direct and immediate effect on maintaining order and discipline in the school.

CONDUCT GRADING SCALE:

1 st – 8 th Grades	Numerical Value	Verbal Interpretation
A	90 – 100%	Good
B	80 – 89%	Above Average
C	70 – 79%	Average
D	60 – 69%	Needs Improvement
F	0 – 59%	Unsatisfactory

Gradebook Categories:

Tests/Assessments – 40%

Quizzes – 20%

Classwork – 30%

Homework – 10%

Homework must be purposeful and aligned to standards taught in class. Feedback on the homework must be provided during Differentiated Instruction and/or Teacher Led Instruction.

Assessments should be monitored and checked by administration for standards alignment, rigor as delineated by the cognitive complexity of the standards, and adherence to BPA grading policies and expectations.

Two grades per week should be given: Formal (consisting of exam, presentation, project etc.) and Informal (HLA, technology, classwork, supplemental work) in ELA/Reading and Mathematics.

Projects should be evaluated by the use of a rubric, aligned to global standard, and include a presentation. If multiple grades are given for a project, each grade must evaluate different components of the project with the use of a rubric for each component (for example: written report, presentation, research, neatness, creativity, individual participation, etc.) Projects may fall under the category of Classwork or homework – depending on how they are assigned by the teacher.

GRADING PERIODS

	Ending Date
First Grading Period	October 17 2025
Second Grading Period	January 15, 2026
Third Grading Period	April 2, 2026
Fourth Grading Period	June 4, 2026

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

1. Physical Education is a daily 30 minute class (ELEMENTARY GRADES).
2. All students must participate in P.E. unless otherwise directed by a physician and communicated to the teacher(s). **If this is the case, a written notification from the physician must be provided.**
3. Please ensure your child has comfortable sneakers daily to avoid injuries.
4. Students are not required to wear a P.E. uniform.

HOME LEARNING

Home Learning Assignments are an important part of learning since they reinforce concepts learned. BridgePrep Academy South's policy is to assign homework EVERY night. This keeps the academic flow and a means of involving parents aligned with our curriculum goals.

Parents' responsibility for completing home learning assignments:

1. Provide your child with a quiet place which is conducive to studying and to learning.
2. Show an interest in your child's home learning assignments by providing assistance and reviewing completed work.
3. Do not complete the home learning assignments for your child. If your child is having difficulty, try to help them with their assignment and notify the teacher.
4. Read with or to your children daily.

Student responsibilities for completing home learning assignments:

1. Students are responsible for recording and completing all Home Learning Assignments independently. Parents may provide assistance, but students must complete the work on their own.
2. Home Learning Assignments should be done in a quiet place with good lighting and minimal disturbances.
3. If there is a problem in understanding how to complete Home Learning Assignments, students are to do the very best job possible. If a student does not understand the assignment(s), they are encouraged to bring it in the next day and ask the teacher for assistance. In this case, the home learning should be completed that evening along with the regular Home Learning Assignments.
4. If a student is having difficulty in managing their time for home learning, ask the teacher for assistance with home learning time management.
5. Make-up work is to be completed within 3 days of absence.

Grade Level	Frequency of Assignments	Type
K – 8 th grade	Daily (5 days per week)	Paper/hard copy assigned by the teacher
		iReady Reading/Math
		Reading for 30 minutes

CODE OF EXCELLENCE

We believe that a safe and orderly school is of primary importance. When children behave in a respectful, responsible, and safe manner, they learn more and develop into responsible children whose “character counts”. The BridgePrep Academy Code of Excellence is a school wide plan, which clearly outlines student expectations.

Proper behavior is recognized, and consequences are given for breaking our code. Each parent must take an active role in supporting this plan. We want our children to learn and to be responsible citizens. It is in the children’s best interest that parents and staff work together to ensure a happy, safe, and productive learning experience. The school’s Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program we implement allows for students who have earned Bulldog Bucks to receive a reward for displaying positive behaviors during school days.

Students' Code of Excellence

🐾Be honest 🐾Be kind 🐾Be respectful 🐾 Be patient 🐾 Be proud 🐾🐾Be courteous 🐾Be prompt 🐾 Be prepared 🐾 Be polite 🐾

STUDENT CONDUCT

The Code of Student Conduct delineates the behavior expected from students.

1. Students who commit violations of the Code of Student Conduct may be subject to suspension.
2. Based on the severity of the violation, students may additionally be recommended for administrative placement to an opportunity school, or expulsion.
3. For detailed information on the Code of Student Conduct please review it at Dadeschools.net, Code of Student Conduct.

Proper Language

BridgePrep Academy strives for a higher standard of behavior. **We do not permit cursing** or name calling in school. Students who speak inappropriately to another student or staff member will not be permitted to return to class until a parent/administrator conference is held.

Fighting

1. We use words to get our point or opinions across to other people.
2. BridgePrep Academy has a **zero tolerance** for aggression; if a student is involved in a physical altercation, the student will be sent to the office with a referral and the parents will be called. At this time, disciplinary measures will be discussed.

HARASSMENT/BULLYING

Florida Statute 1006.147, also known as The Jeffrey Johnston Stand Up for All Students Act, requires school districts to adopt an official policy prohibiting bullying and harassment of students and staff on school grounds, at school-sponsored events, and through school computer networks.

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose. This definition includes cyber bullying. **BridgePrep Academy has a ZERO tolerance for bullying in any form.** A student who bullies another student or staff member will not be permitted to return to class until a parent/administrator conference is held. At this time disciplinary measures will be discussed.

1. This policy ensures that all individuals will enjoy a safe environment free from unreasonable interference, intimidation, hostility, or offensive behavior on the part of school personnel, students, parents or visitors to the school.
2. BridgePrep Academy South acknowledges that harassment, sexual or otherwise, is against the law and will not be tolerated.

3. The term "harassment" includes, but is not limited to, slurs, jokes, and other verbal, graphic or physical conduct relating to an individual's race, color, sex (including same sex), religion, national origin, citizenship, age or disability.
4. Bullying is harassment. Bullying includes, but is not limited to; unwanted name calling, teasing or physically touching a person.
5. Harassment and bullying can be verbal, physical or using technology.

Sanctions

The Administration will apply any of the following sanctions to deal with unreasonable conduct.

1. Counseling with the offender(s).
2. Probation, with a warning of suspension or recommendation for expulsion for continuing or recurring offenses.

Acts of disorderly conduct may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Classroom tardiness
- Dishonesty
- Acting in a manner that interferes with the education process
- Abusive language between or among students
- Failure to complete assignments or carry out instructions

Possible Sanctions:

- Verbal and Written Reprimand/ Referral/ Student Case Management Form (SCAM)
- Contact with parent
- Loss of privileges
- Detention/s
- In-school/Outdoor suspension

GLOSSARY

Administrative Detention: a corrective strategy wherein a student must spend time in the school office (time to be determined by the administrator).

Consequences: a result of one's actions.

Discipline: a set of rules that develops self-control and orderliness in students by providing logical consequences for both appropriate and inappropriate behavior; the goal being a safe and orderly environment for all students.

Disrespect: to be rude or discourteous to another person.

Expulsion: a corrective strategy that means your child is no longer able to attend your current school.

Referral: Students may be issued referrals for tardies, absences, uniforms and/or severe disruptive behavior. Written warning given to students who have violated the code of conduct or school rule.

Respect: to be courteous to those around you, to show consideration

School Suspension: a corrective response to serious behavior to avoid where the student is not permitted to attend school from one to ten days.

Teacher Detention: a corrective strategy where the student must spend time in school detained by the teacher (time to be determined by the teacher).

Classroom Consequences:

- 1stconsequence: Verbal Warning
- 2ndconsequence: Detention/ Loss of privilege
- 3rdconsequence: Parent contacted/ Referral note sent home

Administrative Consequences:

- 4thconsequence: parent is called, and Administrative Detention is given.
- 5thconsequence: In School Suspension (ISS)/ Referral completed

Severe Clause: extremely disruptive behavior(s) (fighting, profanity, disrespect, sexually explicit behavior, destruction of property) results in immediate removal from class. Disruptive behavior will result in issuing a referral and an administrative review for possible immediate suspension from school (OSS). Parents will be called to pick up the student from school.

BridgePrep Academy South students are expected to show respect for themselves, for other students, and for their teachers. Students are expected to behave in ways that are acceptable to classmates and conducive to learning.

Misbehavior on the part of students can be generally corrected when home and schoolwork together. Teachers and students must foster mutual respect. Teachers will never use corporal punishment or offensive language toward a student. According to the Code of Student Conduct, methods of positive reinforcement/rewards and/or loss of privileges are utilized.

HEALTH GUIDELINES

If your child is injured or becomes ill at school, you will be notified immediately. **PLEASE KEEP US CURRENT REGARDING YOUR PHONE NUMBERS BOTH AT HOME AND WORK.** This information is vital should an emergency arise.

HEALTH EXAMINATION

No student will be admitted to school without presenting tangible documentation that health requirements have been met. The Florida School Health Services Plan provides that a health examination shall be administered within 12 months prior to initial entry into a Florida school.

Parents/legal guardians of all students (PK-12) must present tangible evidence of a health examination complete with Tuberculosis Clinical Screening and follow-up on the appropriate DH Form (3040) prior to initial entrance into a Miami Dade County Public School. The health examination must have been performed within the past 12 months.

IMMUNIZATION

NO STUDENT WILL BE ADMITTED TO SCHOOL WITHOUT PRESENTING TANGIBLE DOCUMENTATION SHOWING THAT IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN MET.

- The Florida School Health Services Plan and Florida Statutes require prior to a child's entry into school that each child entitled to initial entrance into a Florida public school present and have on file a Florida Certification of Immunization, DH Form 680, from a health care provider.

ILLNESS

- If you suspect that your child is not well, please keep him/her at home, regardless of his/her desire to come to school. We ask that you do this out of consideration for his/her classmates.
- If your child has had a fever, his/her temperature should be normal for twenty-four (24) hours before returning to school.
- If your child has a cold, is coughing, and has a runny nose, please consider that he/she may be contagious to others. Please keep him/her home or make arrangements for his/her care until he/she recovers.
- If your child has a rash, please keep him/her home and contact your doctor to find out the cause.
- Our school staff only administers prescription medication prescribed by a doctor to children upon completion of a medication request form.

Medication Policy

Every attempt must be made by the student's parents and physician to have medications administered at home **during non-school hours**. If this is not possible, a completed **Medication Authorization Form** must be provided to the school for **each** medication to be administered during school hours.

No medication may be administered by school personnel unless the parent presents the school with a completed Medication Authorization Form, signed by the physician and parent.

The Medication Authorization Form must be **renewed each school year** and placed in the student's cumulative folder.

Any changes in the type, dosage or frequency of medication administered will require a new Medication Authorization Form to be completed.

The Medication Authorization Form must be current. The Medication Authorization Form will be filed in the student's Cumulative Health Record.

In an emergency situation a Medication Authorization Form can be emailed to the physician and returned by email to the school. A copy should be made of the form, as fax copies fade. An original must be obtained from the physician and include parent/guardian signatures within 24 hours in order to continue administering the medication.

Administering Medications

State rule FL Statute, 1006.062 Administrative Rule, 64F-6.004 states that school personnel may assist students in the administration and/or dispensing of prescribed medication in compliance with the following procedures:

All medications will be administered by the school principal or his/her designee.

Medications may be administered by the school Principal or his/her designee when there exists an illness or disability that requires maintenance-type medication and when failure to take prescribed medication could jeopardize the student's health and when the medication administration schedule cannot be accommodated before or after school.

If the parent/guardian has completed the Medication Authorization Form correctly and has met the requirements of the District, it is the obligation of the school to see that the student is medicated at the appropriate time indicated on the Medication Authorization Form.

Only the parent/guardian should deliver medications and pick up unused medications.

***Guidelines for administering medication will be followed very strictly.**

There are several illnesses that are common occurrences in school-age children. Children will not be admitted to school and will be sent home if they exhibit any symptoms of illness. Please help us control and minimize the spread of infections to others by providing care for your child when he/she is sick and keeping them at home while doing so.

GO GREEN

BridgePrep Academy South will strive to "Go Green." In order to promote our Go Green School, we will be utilizing more mass emails, telephone messaging, our school website, and Social Media. Therefore, check your emails and text messages daily to receive the latest updates and news from BridgePrep Academy South.

LOST AND FOUND

A lost and found area will be designated in the Main Office. To minimize the quantity of lost and found articles, we ask that you please write your child's name on everything he/she brings to school. It is the student/parent responsibility to check lost and found each month to locate a lost item. At the end of each month, BPA reserves the right to donate all items remaining in lost and found as we cannot store items for an extensive time.

BREAKFAST & LUNCH

1. It is required that all students eat a healthy and nutritious breakfast and lunch.
2. A student may bring their pre-packed meals to school. For the 2025-2026 school year, students at BridgePrep Academy South will receive FREE Lunch by Elior.
3. Students who bring lunch bags/boxes must bring them upon arriving to school. **NO NUT ITEMS PERMITTED ON CAMPUS FOR ANY STUDENT.**
4. Students forgetting their lunch, parents must **drop lunch off no later than 9:00 a.m.** For the safety and security of all our students, family members are **not allowed to bring outside foods or order food to be delivered to the school/cafeteria.** Should an emergency occur, parent/legal guardian must leave the lunch bag/box in the school's main office by 9:00 a.m.
5. NO Door Dash/Uber Eats etc allowed on campus.

CAFETERIA RULES

1. Students are to enter the cafeteria quietly.
2. Once seated, students need permission to leave their seats.
3. Food trading is not permissible.
4. Students are responsible for all items on their trays. Food is not to be thrown. It must either be eaten or discarded properly along with trash items.
5. Students are responsible for leaving their area, including the floor, free of trash.
6. Students should engage in quiet conversation only. There is to be no yelling or shouting.

Students who do not uphold values and respect during lunch, will be subject to disciplinary action.

MEDIA COVERAGE

During the year, it is possible that your child will have his/her picture taken or videotaped. These pictures may be taken at class celebrations, field trips, school-sponsored events, or other unique events/activities. These pictures may be used for promotion, in the local paper, on the website or in the yearbook. **Please sign the picture/Media Release Form**, so we can use your child's picture for these publications or events. If you do not desire to have your child's picture used for these publications, please write that on the picture/Media Release Form.

PAVE HOURS (Parents Active in Volunteering in Education)

PARENT ACTIVITIES

The goal of our school is making every child's potential a reality through a strong collaboration of parent/teacher/community partners. The goal of our school is to bring into closer relation the home and the school; so, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth. We urge all parents to actively participate in all school activities, together we make a difference, together our children will grow stronger and self-reliant. Join PALS (Parents as Liaisons/Bulldogs in Action) to be up to date on school events and activities.

Volunteers Information

Volunteer Requirements, Options, and Guidelines

1. At BridgePrep Academy, each family is encouraged **to complete 20 volunteer hours prior to the last day of the school year.** Students enrolled at BridgePrep South remain active students of Miami-Dade County Schools and retain entitlement to all applicable policies.
2. Due to mandates from Miami-Dade County Public Schools, all parents wishing to volunteer must be cleared by our Raptor clearance system. **This mandate includes clearance for volunteers in school events, such as book fairs, fundraising activities, etc.**
3. **Parents must also be cleared to chaperone on any fieldtrip(s).**
4. It is the responsibility of the parent to communicate with their child's teacher to complete the hours required by BridgePrep South.

Earning PAVE Hours

1. It is the parent's responsibility to track, record and acquire authorized signature for their hours. Parents may do so by maintain a log. Teachers and office staff may initial or sign-off on the hours.
2. Parents may complete hours by any of the following:
 - Assist the teacher
 - Be a guest speaker
 - Chaperone field trips
 - Virtual opportunities
 - Participate in PALS (Parents as Liaisons/Bulldogs in Action)
 - Organizing special events
 - Tell/read stories
 - Make educational games

Any parent/guardian who would like to volunteer in the classroom must inform the classroom teacher **prior** to volunteering. Approval from the administration must be confirmed before parents will be allowed to enter any classroom(s). **ALL Volunteers MUST be cleared by the Raptor Clearance system. To do this a volunteer MUST present their Florida ID (Driver's License) at the Main Office where it will be scanned. Objection to do this will prohibit the individual from participating in school events.**

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Please do not allow your child to bring to school any personal belongings; this includes toys, electronic equipment (including cell phone or personal electronic devices of any kind) or the latest fads. However, if the teacher chooses to host a "Show and Tell" or other activity of that sort, your child may bring to school **one item**, display/use the item for the activity, and then return the item to the book bag. Please understand that the school cannot be responsible for lost or stolen items. Also, please put your child's name on these items.

Please label all your child's belongings (lunch boxes, books, sweaters, etc.) with his/her name in permanent ink or marker to lessen the chances of items being lost.

Please do not send your child to school with expensive jewelry. The school will not be responsible for lost or stolen items.

PROHIBITED ITEMS IN SCHOOL

If a student is found to have any of the items listed below, the item will be taken from the student. The item will be given to an administrator and a parent must come to the office to pick-up the item.

- Cell phones
- Smart watches
- Ear Pods
- MP3 players or any entertainment equipment
- Electronic games
- Sharpies markers
- Candy or chewing gum
- The School Board enforces the Florida Department of Education **Zero Tolerance** Policy on school violence, crime, and the use of weapons. As an approach to reducing school violence, the intent of the policy is to provide a safe school climate that is drug-free and protects student health, safety, and civil rights. This policy requires the school district to impose the most severe consequences provided for in the Code of Student Conduct in dealing with students who engage in violent criminal acts and or are found in possession of the following:
 - Knives or sharp objects
 - Guns
 - Mood altering drugs

FortifyFL

This suspicious activity reporting tool allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials. You will be able to provide a description of the threat, share pictures and videos, and have the option to post anonymously. Students are given training during the first week of school on how to access this application when necessary. This application can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play.

False Threats & Student Safety

Please speak with your child about the seriousness of making false threats or jokes about school violence.

- Any verbal, written, or digital threat—even if intended as a joke—is taken seriously and will result in disciplinary consequences and potential legal action.

- All threats disrupt learning and cause fear, stress, and trauma within our school community.

Creating a safe school environment is a shared responsibility. We encourage open conversations at home about digital behavior, social responsibility, and the importance of reporting concerns to a trusted adult.

Student Cell Phone & Earpods Use, Clear Backpacks & School Safety –

Per Florida Statute §1006.07, cell phones and ear pods are not permitted for students to have or use during school hours 8:00am-6:00pm. In certain situations, the student will be allowed to inform the teacher, and he/she will be sent to the main office to use the school phone in order to contact parent/legal guardian.

To support this law and maintain a safe, distraction-free learning environment:

Cell Phone Policy:

- Cell phones, earbuds, and smartwatches must be powered off and stored away.
- Unauthorized use may result in confiscation and/or disciplinary action.
- Students are not permitted to use phones during bathroom breaks, hallway transitions, or lunch.

Smart watches **are not permitted** for use during school hours.

******Any students that violate the cell phone policies in their classroom and/or throughout school are subject to the removal of their cell phone until end of day. Parent pick-up will be required******

*****Any cellular phones, electronic books and/or games brought to the school are not the school's responsibility should they become lost or stolen.***

Clear Backpack Requirement:

To help ensure compliance with this policy, students will be required to use clear backpacks. This allows school staff to quickly and safely verify that cell phones and other restricted items are not being carried or used inappropriately.

We ask for your partnership in checking your child's backpack daily and reminding them of the rules.

SAFETY & SECURITY

Our school operates on a security-minded approach. There will be a security monitor on our premises from arrival through dismissal of students. All visitors entering our building must check in at the school main office for approval to be in the building. Children traveling throughout the building must travel in twos and with a pass from the teacher. Anyone without business to conduct in the school will not be allowed to remain on the premises.

***Please do not leave children unattended in your cars, when picking up or dropping off a BridgePrep South student. Also, please do not leave your purse, wallet or other valuables in your car when you come to pick up or drop off your child. The school cannot be responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items.**

Student and employee safety is a primary concern of BridgePrep Academy Schools. Access to our campuses will be limited, monitored and secured at all times that students are present in

the building. A school safety plan was created to provide school personnel with the necessary leadership skills and knowledge needed to respond to critical incidents or other related emergencies that may occur in our school communities. All schools have a site-specific plan to address all types of critical incidents. These plans address the individual needs of the school and provide guidelines for devising methods for communicating with the staff, students, parents/guardians, and the media during a critical incident or an emergency. We ask your cooperation in working with school administration teams to adhere arrival/dismissal procedures as well as visitor check-in to ensure student safety.

During emergencies, some protective measures may include the evacuation of students/staff from the building(s), and if necessary, the relocation of students/staff from the school campus, lockdown procedures, and holding/dismissing students during school and community emergencies. School administration will communicate with parents as needed, always prioritizing student safety first.

Lockdown and Partial Lockdown Events- In the event of an emergency, the primary responsibility of all school personnel is to ensure the safety of all students. In the event a school administrator announces a possible threat to students and staff safety exists within the community (partial lockdown), or an imminent threat to students and staff safety exists within the school (full lockdown) students, faculty, and staff will comply with all the procedures outlined in the School Safety Plan and remain on lockdown until a school administrator makes an “All Clear” announcement.

TEXTBOOKS

Students will be issued books at the beginning of each school year. Students must immediately inform teachers about any lost or damaged books so that they can be replaced. Parents will be responsible for the cost of the replacement book. The same rule applies for lost class library books. Please speak to your children about maintaining the integrity of the text books and not purposefully damaging them.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation to and from school should be provided or arranged by the parent or guardian. BridgePrep Academy strongly believes in the daily communication opportunities created with your children while commuting to school.

VISITOR PASSES

Any person needing to visit the school throughout the day, must report to the main office and pick up a visitor’s pass. All Visitors will be required to show identification. The safety of our students is our primary concern. If a parent must drop off a forgotten lunch box or homework assignment, please drop it off at the main office and allow the office staff to deliver said item to your child. We are attempting to keep the learning environment as undisturbed as possible.

NOTE: Violations of parent contracts shall not result in the student’s involuntary transfer, withdrawal, dismissal or forfeiture of current or future enrollment. The school shall not condition a student’s enrollment on the parent signing any contracts that include any of the above-referenced conditions. Additionally, BridgePrep South reserves the right to modify this handbook as needed throughout the school year.



PARENT/STUDENT AGREEMENT OF COMPLIANCE 2025-2026

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM TO YOUR CHILD'S HOMEROOM TEACHER

I have read on-line the BridgePrep Academy South Parent/Student Handbook, including uniform policy and the Student Code of Conduct and agree to cooperate with all of the policies contained therein.

Please note: all students enrolled in BridgePrep Academy South are students of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, subject to applicable policies and entitled to same rights.

As a parent I understand the importance of the Student Code of Conduct, which can be accessed on the school website and is available in the school's main office.

I agree to abide by all of the contents in the BridgePrep South Student/Parent Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct.

Name of Student: _____

Teacher: _____ Grade: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian Date

You must fill out a compliance form for every child registered at BridgePrep South and submit it to each child's homeroom teacher.

NOTE: Violations of parent contracts shall not result in the student's involuntary transfer, withdrawal, dismissal, or forfeiture of current or future enrollment. The school shall not condition a student's enrollment on the parent signing any contracts that include any of the above-referenced conditions.

BRIDGEPREP ACADEMY SOUTH CHARTER SCHOOL
PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK AGREEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM TO YOUR CHILD'S HOMEROOM TEACHER
within the first week of school

I have read on-line the BridgePrep Academy Parent/Student Handbook, including the following sections:

- School Hours (*arrival, dismissal*) _____ (*parent initials*)
- Arrival and Dismissal procedures (*traffic/parking rules, early pick-up*) _____ (*parent initials*)
- Attendance Policies (*tardies, excused/unexcused absences*) _____ (*parent initials*)
- Internet/Cell Phone use (*appropriate use, rules/regulations, consequences for violations*) _____ (*parent initials*)
- MANDATORY Uniforms (*including shoes, jackets*) _____ (*parent initials*)
- Grooming (*hair, jewelry, piercings*) _____ (*parent initials*)
- Emergency Contact Information and Procedures _____ (*parent initials*)
- Students' Birthday Party Policies _____ (*parent initials*)
- School-wide Discipline Policy _____ (*parent initials*)
- Zero Tolerance for Bullying and Harassment _____ (*parent initials*)

As a parent I understand the importance of the Student Code of Conduct, which can be accessed on the school website and is available in the school's main office. Additionally, I have read the Student Code of Conduct and agree to cooperate with all of the policies contained therein.

Please note: all students enrolled in BridgePrep Academy South are students of Miami Dade County Public Schools, subject to applicable policies and entitled to same rights.

I agree to abide by all the contents in the BridgePrep Academy Student/Parent Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct.

PRINT Name of Student: _____

HOMEROOM Teacher: _____ Grade: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

*** You must fill out a Parent/Student Handbook Agreement of Compliance form for every child registered at BridgePrep Academy South Charter School and submit it to each child's homeroom teacher.**

NOTE: Violations of parent contracts shall not result in the student's involuntary transfer, withdrawal, dismissal, or forfeiture of current or future enrollment. The school shall not condition a student's enrollment on the parent signing any contracts that include any of the above-referenced conditions.