

Dear Parents,

Points of 21st Century Learning Pride:

Technology, Classroom Design and Flexible Learning Spaces

I consistently remind anyone who will listen why we do what we do. We have made a promise, a covenant actually, to you, our students and ourselves that everything that occurs in this school is to prepare our students for success now, next year and beyond AND to prepare them to embrace future opportunities.

This promise creates the imperative to examine all ways we can be better for our students. We carefully study the future our students will enter. We estimate (sometimes in the absence of what has not yet been invented!) the skills, attitudes and capacities necessary to succeed.

Among those is a facility with technology. We have emphasized the integration of technology into the learning process since Day One at Bridge Point. Key to this is quality educators who pioneer and those that thoughtfully follow. Much of the transition to available and ever-changing technologies requires learning, practice and education. Your Bridge Point faculty is in a constant state of learning.

Subtly we have become one of those go-to schools. Educators from other Eanes campuses, educators from our region, and educators from all of Texas come to Bridge Point to observe teachers, learn from our implementation lessons and get face time with colleagues. We even had a crew from California this week which included the former mayor of Los Angeles who is signaling a run for governor. This happens under a district visitation program called iLEAP Academy. It generates a bit of revenue for the district but the school visitations give us a chance to show our learning and contribute to our craft. Interestingly, sharing our school with outsiders and often witnessing their sense of admiration and often, awe, reinforces to us the strength of our path.

Another part of the iLEAP visits to Bridge Point is the display of flexible learning spaces that enhance our classroom environments and make the learning space more compatible to the minds, bodies and capacities of our students. Several of our teachers took a leap. They studied, they tried, they applied. They have created model spaces leading our district and educators from all over the nation.

How does this happen? Curious, thoughtful and talented educators. Try a Marianna Ricketson, Education Technology specialist. Or try a Kim McLaughlin, our Instructional Partner (coach). Add Stephanie Cowan, former Bridge Pointer Julie Cimino, Dawn Skonieczny, Joan Hester, Jennifer Matus...uh, oh...I am in trouble now because there is no way I can list all the teachers who seamlessly apply technology and classroom design

for improved instruction. That they take a chance, thoughtfully analyze and willingly share...that is the true Point of Pride. You should be proud, too. Along with making your child feel safe and connected, our staff and their school are leaders in our profession.

Yes, very proud.

Sincerely,

M. Bradford Wirht
Principal