

KNIGHTS

NAPERVILLE
DISTRICT 203
Bridge School





The Mission Statement of Naperville District 203 affirms

“Our mission is to educate students to be self-directed learners, collaborative workers, complex thinkers, quality producers and community contributors.”

To help support this statement of beliefs for all of its diverse student population, Naperville 203 and Abraxas Youth and Family Services forged a partnership in the creation of the Naperville Bridge School. In August of 2009 Naperville School District 203 and Abraxas entered into an agreement to provide education services to fifty (50) students designated to be in need of Special Education services or an Alternative Learning Opportunity Program (ALOP). Throughout this partnership Naperville 203 and Abraxas have linked to provide a seamless delivery of educational and behavioral interventions that have led to measurable positive outcomes for an extremely challenging group of students.

Abraxas has worked together with Naperville District 203 to provide students with the necessary education and social skills to make positive changes in their lives through a flexible, resource rich program. With the flexible resource model, we address a wide variety of social issues, diverse learning styles and educational needs to direct students toward more responsible lifestyles and commitment to their education. Abraxas and District 203 administrative staff recognized that students who would attend the program would require individually crafted approaches and special attention in order to assist them in their academic success.

NON-PUBLIC DAY SCHOOL

The Naperville Bridge Day School Program is designed to service 20 youth, ages 14 through 21 (grades 9-12), who have a primary eligibility of emotionally disabled, behavior disordered, or other health impaired and may have a secondary eligibility established due to a learning disability.

ALTERNATIVE LEARNING OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM (ALOP)

The Naperville ALOP program is designed to serve 30 students, grades 9 through 12, who meet enrollment criteria established by Naperville District 203 and who meet the definition of the Illinois State Board of Education as “at risk of academic failure”. A student is considered “at risk of academic failure” if he or she:

- ▶ Is at risk of failing to meet the Common Core Standards or failing to graduate, or
- ▶ Demonstrates a need for educational support or social services beyond the regular school program.

ACADEMICS AND CURRICULUM

Our school provides an educational program focused on active learning with an emphasis on differentiated instruction, individualized direction, a safe learning environment, and celebration of personal accomplishments.

Classes are taught by highly qualified teaching staff and receive the support of an in-room intervention specialist assisting the students with their own personal progress on social and emotional goals.

Staff are certified or licensed by the State of Illinois. Rigorous in-service is provided to all personnel to enhance professional credentials and ensure program fidelity. The Bridge utilizes District 203 curriculum, textbooks and supplemental materials in all of its classes. We seek to replicate District 203 content, but with additional individualized support to meet the unique needs of our students.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

Students participate in Character Education groups as part of their daily schedule. Staff focus on Interpersonal/Social Skills training (**following directions, communicating effectively, dealing with aggression, handling immaturity, improving manners, accepting “no” for an answer, accepting responsibility for one’s own misbehavior, increasing self-control and developing empathy for others**). Age appropriate drug/alcohol and tobacco education is also provided for targeted students.

CAAEL (Chicago Area Alternative Education League)

The Chicago Area Alternative Education League (CAAEL) is a not-for-profit organization that provides academic and athletic programs for troubled youth attending Illinois’ Alternative Schools. Sports activities that will be offered include chess, scholastic bowls, annual art fair, basketball, flag football, volleyball, soccer, bowling, softball, and more. The goal of CAAEL is to:

- ▶ Develop successful peer relationships
- ▶ Promote sportsmanship
- ▶ Provide positive alternative activities for youth who are at-risk





THERAPEUTIC ENVIRONMENT

Therapeutic support is grounded in having teachers, social workers, and intervention specialists who collaboratively deliver emotional growth services and social skills training to our students. Within the Naperville Bridge, the goal of therapy with adolescents is to help each student understand their behavior and its effects on others. Whether the youth presents with acting out, rebellious and willful behavior or is introverted and non-social, each student receives the prescriptive treatment that allows them to examine their behavior and make positive changes.

RELATED SERVICES

The Naperville Bridge Program provides all related services required based on the youth's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Therapeutic services are provided by appropriately certified/licensed Social Workers (Type 73), Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselors (CADC), and Licensed Professional Counselors (LCP) employed by the school.

Other related services, such as speech therapy or occupational therapy that may be needed, are contracted through the local school district or appropriately credentialed individual.



SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

School social workers at the Naperville Bridge, through their unique training and practice, provide a variety of professional services which foster students' physical, social, emotional, and academic growth. These services include providing crisis intervention and counseling, strengthening and supporting parent and family involvement, planning and developing school-based interventions with educators, engaging community resources, and the delivery of prescribed I.E.P. goals.

ART THERAPY

Art therapy is the therapeutic use of making art. It is based on the belief that the creative process involved in the making of art is healing and life-enhancing. Art therapy at the Bridge provides a creative outlet for pent up emotions and allows students the opportunity to explore these emotions in a non-threatening, supportive environment. It provides our students with an opportunity to achieve personal growth through improved self-awareness, and explore the unresolved emotional conflicts. Feeling good about who they are enables students to learn more effectively, helps them to cope with life's stresses and inspires them to create a better future for themselves.





READING SPECIALIST

The goal of the reading specialist at the Naperville Bridge is to improve the reading achievement of the students through the use of scientifically based instruction, as well as to serve as an academic coach to the content area teachers. The reading specialist strives to eliminate reading failure by improving the students' skills and foundations in reading. Together with the content teachers, the Bridge reading specialist fosters a love of reading in students by building on their instructional backgrounds and interests.

SERVICE LEARNING

To further instill the importance of "Community" in schools, we provide service learning opportunities through organized activities that are designed to meet the needs of the Naperville community.

Students are given the opportunity to learn the importance of "Giving Back" to their community and its residents. This coordinated effort with community agencies, religious organizations, and civic groups facilitates community immersion and the experience of making a difference in another person's life.

DESIGN AND SERVICE DELIVERY

Our program focuses on four integral areas of service: Education, Behavior Modification, Social Skills Acquisition (Emotional Support), and Re-Integration/Transition. Our approach is to tailor services to best meet the targeted outcomes desired. To that end, the Bridge creates an individualized approach and system of services that best meet the specific needs of our students.

THIS INCLUDES:

- ▶ Personalized education options for students with low motivation, difficulty maintaining appropriate school behavior or lacking personal confidence in their academic abilities.
- ▶ A focus on success for specific students who represent the greatest risk of either early withdrawal or expulsion from school.
- ▶ Specific social-emotional development support for improving effective pro-social skills, healthy self-concept, and personal success.
- ▶ Personal management skills that assist students in assuming greater skill and responsibility for acquiring positive behavioral attitudes.
- ▶ A small learning community that is diversified by individual needs, but ensures acquisition of basic grade-level competence in specific academic subjects.
- ▶ A program that meets or exceeds all district and state requirements for grade-level advancement and meets graduation expectations.
- ▶ Services with a focus on preparing the student to return to their home school.
- ▶ School-based drug and alcohol abuse education and intervention (for identified students).
- ▶ Parental support and education.
- ▶ Truancy management support and intervention.
- ▶ Special Education Services for students with severe and chronic emotional and behavior problems.



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To inquire about our programs
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