

## **2016 Student Testimonials**

We asked students to answer the following 3 questions about Bridger at our February 18, 2016 Community Meeting.  
35 students responded.

### **How does the competency based model in Bridger classes help prepare you for further education or career?**

#### ***Authentic Learning:***

- It gives you the ability to actually learn the subjects rather than get a grade quickly and move on without knowing.
- It allows me to work without worrying too much about due dates.
- It helped me by the fact that when you are going through your classes, you are able to try to get better in your work and they don't let you move on until you can show you learned the standard.
- You can further your education in the topics you want. Also it gives a full understanding of the topics.
- They take the time WE need to understand the unit/concepts.
- It helps me learn the material instead of cramming for a test and forgetting everything. I can learn more and have more knowledge for college.
- It allows me to feel in control and responsible with education.
- I can really learn my material vs. cramming for a test.

#### ***Life Skills:***

- I learn how to be independent.
- It helps with self-responsibility.
- Teaches how to communicate.
- It helps me and prepares me because it is based on my performance.
- It has helped me figure out how well I can work on my own and be independent.
- I have increased my work ethic.
- I have found the tools given to me presented by the Bridger Program greatly prepare me for life in school and out.
- It helps us understand that not doing work that doesn't have weight can still be harmful to our learning.

#### ***Success:***

- Gives me a way to do my best at a pace that I can succeed at.
- It helps me complete credits without the stress of not being able to make up assignments.
- Being able to work at my own pace and get my work done.
- I think it shows that I can learn stuff rather than showing how many I missed.
- It helps prepare me for further education because Bridger isn't like other schools. It lets you work at your own pace instead of having to moving on with the class.
- Being able to work at your own pace allows you to exercise your own responsibility skills.
- By showing I can take a whole different way of learning.
- It lets you work at your own pace so that you do the best work you can. It gives you a chance to figure out what learning tactics work best for you.
- Gives me confidence.
- It allows me to feel less pressured to do school which is good because I can't work while feeling pressured.

#### ***Timely Graduation:***

- It's putting me on a path so I will graduate on time.
- It helps you graduate on time, so then you could either go to college or something else you would choose.
- The Bridger Program is helping me graduate a year early by allowing me to work at my own pace.

### **How does the flexibility of the program help meet your educational or other needs?**

#### ***Pacing:***

- I can work at my own pace through things and not be rushed.
- Because it is in a setting where you go at your speed, which ensures a better chance of learning and not falling behind.
- It helps students learn at their own pace.
- I can work at my own pace.

- It gives me that extra time, if I need it, to perfect the things I need to do.
- To help me get my work done at my pace
- It allows me to get more done faster.
- It lets me go at my own pace so I can decide.
- Being able to work at my own pace helps me learn and focus more.
- It lets me work at my own pace and I really love that.
- I was able to get a class done in less than a semester.
- It decreases my anxiety and allows me to competently move at my own pace.
- It makes it so that you can take your time where you need it and get ahead if you want.
- I have more time to work on what I need to rather than having to get it done by a specific date.

***Life outside of school:***

- It helps when family stuff comes up and I'm absent.
- I can work and go to school.
- It allows me to work and complete school. I can go to work and go home at a reasonable time.
- I can work around my school schedule because sometimes other things are more important than school.
- I was constantly sick and as a result was usually behind in school until Bridger helped me with my needs.

***Positive environment:***

- It helps keep me on track and enjoy my time at school.
- How flexible the program is releases stress on kids.
- It makes me excited to go to school and actually try.
- By not being so shy around kids and adults.
- I can be a "normal" high schooler while getting the help I need.

**How does the small learning community in Bridger help meet your educational or other needs?**

Bridger is awesome.

***Relationships with teachers:***

- It allows me to discuss problems with my teacher and have clearer communication. With a lesser amount of students, it makes this easier.
- I can ask questions and get the help I need because in big classes they do not do that.
- One on one is really important. When students are struggling, pulling their teacher to the side and addressing their problems makes it easier to come to agreements and terms with how the student may learn their standards.
- I like it because it's not big and I feel like with the small learning community you can get more one-on-one with the teachers for better understanding.
- It is better for individual help from teachers.
- More one-on-one with the teacher makes a student feel more compelled to learn.
- You get more one on one with teachers for help.
- I can get extra help if I need it and the teachers are great with getting me excited.
- You really get to know your teacher and who you're working with, rather than getting a number and ID tag then passed off.

***Community atmosphere:***

- I love Bridger because they are a healthy environment and I feel welcomed. It's easier to work in and more helpful.
- It makes a fam(ily).
- I like how close we are.
- Because we are like a big family. We all try to help each other so that we can succeed.
- I think it makes it easier for the student to pass and learn what they are being taught. Also, Bridger offers a sense of family to anyone who wants to be a part of Bridger.
- Instead of having a whole bunch of kids to pressure you, Bridger allows you to engage with people you are comfortable being around.

***Smaller Learning Environment:***

- It makes me feel like I'm not alone in this.

- For someone with social anxiety like myself, it becomes a much more comfortable learning environment when I at least recognize everyone's face.
- With less people, it puts a lot less stress on me.
- There are not too many kids so it helps a lot. It's much less confusing.
- There aren't as many students so you can be more comfortable.
- It makes the students feel comfortable with no pressure.
- Less stress.
- I personally don't like bigger schools and like the extra help. It makes me feel more comfortable in class.

***Focus on learning:***

- I don't get as distracted.
- Not as many people to distract me.
- With not so many people, I can focus more on work.
- It is less distracting.
- It allows me to better understand the topic.
- Everyone here is somewhat at the same level of things, but if someone is ahead, they can help other students to succeed if they are stuck.
- It's easier to work in and more helpful.