

# B R I D G E S

TO UNDERSTANDING



## MISSION

To empower and unite youth worldwide,  
enhance cross-cultural understanding  
and build global citizenship.

# WHAT WE DO



**Connect** teachers and students in **middle and high school classrooms** with their peers in the United States and around the world using **curriculum-based programs** that help **break down barriers, prejudices and assumptions**, allowing students to **gain a sense of empowerment** as they **explore what they can do to change the world** for the better.

# THE TOOLS WE USE

## Digital Technology The Art of Storytelling

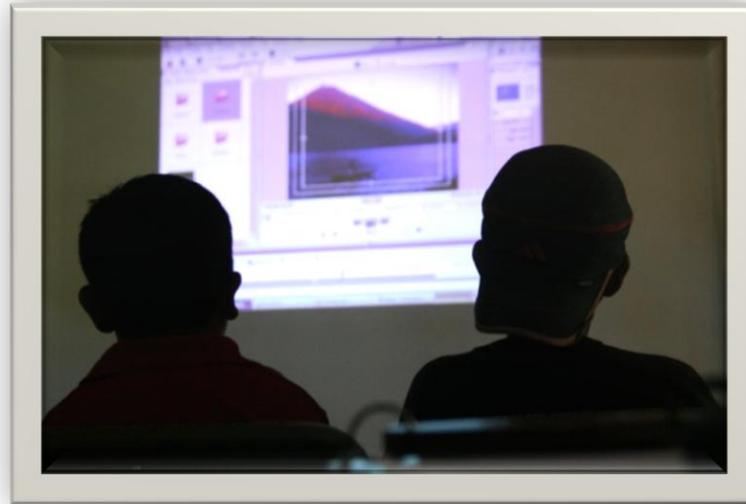


# BRIDGES CLASSROOM PROGRAMS

Developed by and for Teachers

## PASSPORT PROGRAM

- Access to 10 youth-produced **digital stories**
- Accompanying **story guides**
  - Anticipation, comprehension, discussion questions
  - Background information on the region and its culture.



# GLOBALCITIZENS PROGRAM



- Passport stories and story guides *plus...*
- Classroom participation in **online discussion forums** with global network of partner schools
- **Homepage** on website for each participating classroom
- Access to **library of youth-produced digital stories** for classroom learning, discussion
- Electronic version of nine-lesson **curriculum**
- Teachers may call on Bridges staff for suggestions on maximizing program benefits.

# AMBASSADOR PROGRAM



- **All** privileges of Global Citizens Program plus...
- Staff coaching in project planning, implementation
- Volunteer and intern participation
- Equipment loans
- Facilitation of on/off-line contact with other classrooms
- Creation, sharing of **digital stories** by small student teams
- **Service learning** projects
- Access to **online resources for educators**
- **“High touch”** *A long term relationship that we build over time with enthusiastic partners!*

# PROCESS & THEMES

- **PROCESS** of digital storytelling lends itself to
  - cultural exploration,
  - personal transformation, and
  - inspiration to act on the learning.
- **THEMES** generate deeper understanding, commitment to positive change in the world:
  - Culture and Traditions
  - Conflict and Reconciliation
  - Environmental Sustainability



# TEACHER TRAINING

## *“Bring the Power of Digital Storytelling into Your Classroom” (8 hours)*

- Walks educators through the Bridges curriculum
  - Simple ways to incorporate digital storytelling in your classroom.
  - How to assemble small student teams, assign production roles.
  - How to assess student work related to digital storytelling.
  - Tips for classroom management when teaching digital storytelling.
  - How to work with your school’s technology representative to make the best use of available technology.
  - Practice assembling a digital story with user-friendly Windows Movie Maker.

# TEACHER TRAINING *(cont.)*

## ***“HOW TO CREATE YOUR OWN DIGITAL STORY” (3 days)***

Hands-on training in:

- digital photography
- storytelling and storyboarding
- audio capture and narration techniques
- editing multimedia in MovieMaker
- organizing your classroom for media production
- integrating Bridges with your curricular goals



# EDUCATION IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY



- Educators all over the world recognize that **we must change how we teach if we are to prepare students for the world.**
- Must be **personal, encourage teamwork, develop deep problem-solving skills.**
- **Bridges' curriculum is designed to take teachers and students on this journey.**

# WHAT'S THE VALUE?



- ✓ **Increase Global Competency**
- ✓ **Teach 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Skills**

# INNOVATIVE EDUCATION STANDARDS

- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Skills
  - Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills
- Global Competency Skills
  - Council of Chief State School Officers
  - Asia Society
  - EdSteps
  - National Education Association (NEA)



# 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY LEARNING SKILLS

## GLOBAL AWARENESS

- Increasing knowledge of world events, socioeconomic, and political systems.
- Focus on building respect, understanding, and ethical behavior towards others.



- Allows students to hear stories from youth around the world
- Ask questions
- Engage in research about their own and other global communities

# 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY LEARNING SKILLS *(cont.)*

## TECHNOLOGY AND MEDIA

- Access, evaluate, use information and media.
- Create media and apply technology.



- Digital media production combining oral and written storytelling, research, photography, music, applied technology

# 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY LEARNING SKILLS *(cont.)*

## COMMUNICATION

- Communicate clearly and effectively.
- Collaborate with others.



**BRIDGES**  
To Understanding

- Students work in small, collaborative teams
- Learn to organize tasks and roles, meet deadlines, present work to a broader audience

# 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY LEARNING SKILLS *(cont.)*

## CREATIVITY, PROBLEM SOLVING

- Work creatively with others, implement innovations.
- Reason, make judgments, solve problems.

**B R I D G E S**  
To Understanding

- Reflection
- Collaborative research
- Small scale and large scale problem solving
- Service projects



# BENEFITS AND IMPACT

- Personal and artistic **growth**
- Skills in **technology and communication**
- Increased **engagement** in learning
- Realize their **interconnectedness** to others
- Learn the **power of their own stories** and actions to **affect social change**



# THE ORGANIZATION

- Founded 2001 by Phil Borges, social documentarian
  - Then....Focused primarily on connecting youth globally.
  - Now...Powerful, proven programs and curriculum that align with global competency and 21<sup>st</sup> century learning skills.



# INTERNATIONAL PARTNER SCHOOLS & NGOs

Bridges to Understanding Program Sites 2009-10



# LEADERSHIP, ACTION

- It's not just about the final product; it's about the process.
- Students have a rich growth experience in which they learn to act on what they observe and believe.
- Bridges is helping to prepare the students of today to become the compassionate leaders of tomorrow.



# Join Bridges!

- **Free: Stories** on our homepage and **Online Learning Community** of international teachers
- **\$45/year Passport Program:** Ten Stories on DVD, subtitled with Story Guides and Country Guides
- **\$200/year Global Citizens Program:** Curriculum Kit “DS in the Classroom” *plus* online student forum access *plus* classroom homepage on Bridges site *plus* access to full library of digital stories
- **\$55 Curriculum Kit:** *Digital Storytelling in the Classroom*- DVD of Stories, CD w/Photography Powerpoint and Black Line Masters
- **\$175 Teacher Training Workshop:** 8 clock hours, *Digital Storytelling in the Classroom*, includes Curriculum Kit
- **Coming in September! Online Webcasts for teacher training!**