



“He who opens a school door, closes a prison.”
- Victor Hugo -

Bridges —



“bridging the gap between school,
home, and community”

By: Jared Laberge – April 2007

BRIDGES – WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

- One of the most complex tasks in life involves “bridging the gap between school, home, and community” (Bridges).
- The bridges program is a “self-paced learning centre” to students who are experiencing behavioral or academic difficulties at a high school age level.

BEGINNINGS

- The Bridges program was initiated by Jane Massey and Sylvia Bastable in fall 2004.
- Before this, students needing extra assistance were directed to the Regional Support Program.
- A difficulty arose when “Regional Support received referrals for students who were older” (Bastable).



Sylvia Bastable

- One of the three classes at Regional Support branched off to become the Bridges Program.
- This program was originally for grades nine and ten.
- Bridges Program was initially located at 222 Manitoba Avenue.
- The program was moved in spring 2006 to 363 Eveline Street, in the old Distinctive Collectibles building.



TODAY

- The first teacher for this program was, and continues to be, Theresa Park.
- All of the staff in the program “encourage, assist, and mentor students in order to facilitate success” (Bridges).
- The curriculum followed is based on the ISPL (individual self-paced learning) strategy.
- The program has been expanded to include students age 14-17.



Theresa Park

- Students fill out personal/academic goal sheets throughout the year.

- This helps redirect them onto a path to achieving their dreams!



WHAT BRIDGES REALLY MEANS...

“I am so much better off now. I would never have gone back to school without Bridges. It helped me with my life skills and problem-solving skills.”

The words of a student.

