

BENEFITS OF BRIDGE

Here are just some of the ways bridge contributes to intellectual and social development.

- Improved memory.
- Improved concentration.
- Improved ability to develop and modify plans.
- Development of judgment.
- Development of teamwork.
- Development of logic and analytical skills.
- Increased social skills.
- Lifetime enjoyment.
- Inclusion of all age, gender and ethnic groups and persons with physical limitations or disabilities.



"Bridge should become a mandatory subject in school ... Children who learn bridge, learn logic, math and concentration, and they have fun while they're doing it."

Larry Cohen

Author of "To Bid or Not To Bid"

(The best-selling bridge book in the world, with 100,000 copies sold in seven languages)

American Contract Bridge League

Founded in 1937, the ACBL is a not-for-profit membership organization charged with promoting the great card game of bridge. Its 160,000 members play in 3,200 clubs and more than 1,100 annual tournaments across North America.

ACBL Education Department

Learn more about the ACBL's teaching programs by visiting the web site at

www.acbl.org

or contact the ACBL Education Department at 901-332-5586, ext. 1264 or education@acbl.org



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Bridge



for Youth

Information



for School Officials



School Bridge Lesson Series Program

The American Contract Bridge League and ACBL Educational Foundation introduce the game of bridge to students.



"Bridge offers the kind of mental acuity that is handy for everything you want to do with excellence. Bridge keeps your mind very, very active."

Bill Gates
Microsoft Founder & ACBL Member
Microsoft's Gaming Zone features a popular bridge-playing site

The World Bridge Federation is a Recognized Federation of the International Olympic Committee.



BRIDGE FOR YOUTH

The game of bridge can be learned early in life and provide a lifetime of challenge and camaraderie. It's fun and inexpensive entertainment that also hones skills ranging from mathematical probabilities to social perception.

The American Contract Bridge League brings the game to schools through a fully funded program that provides teachers, textbooks and more. Read on for how your school and your students can benefit from what is widely regarded as the world's greatest mind sport.

THE SCHOOL BRIDGE LESSON SERIES PROGRAM

Introducing bridge to your students is easy. You open the classroom — we bring the teacher, the lessons and the materials.

The School Bridge Lesson Series (SBLS) is a fully funded program co-sponsored by the ACBL and the ACBL Educational Foundation to introduce young people to the game. Founded in 1989, the program serves more than 5,000 students annually.

PROGRAM FEATURES

Teachers

The program features 16 beginning bridge lessons given by professionally trained bridge teachers. Many teachers also are certified school teachers. Teachers receive stipends from the ACBL for their work.

Teaching Manual

The SBLS Teacher Manual uses proven lesson plans created by world champion bridge player Kitty Cooper. The manual is available at www.acbl.org.

Free Textbooks and Cards

Students are provided with free textbooks by acclaimed Canadian educator Audrey Grant that complement the lesson plans. Special decks of cards also are available that correspond to the lesson plans.

Prizes

Lessons lead to a mini-tournament with a trophy for the winner and T-shirts for the participants.

Flexibility

The bridge lessons can be held during school time as part of a math or enrichment program, as an alternate to study hall or as an after-school program.

Membership

Participating SBLS students under 19 may join the ACBL for just \$5 per year. These Junior Members may participate in the ACBL Junior Camp and other junior activities throughout North America.

Scholarships

Some scholarships are available for Junior Members. See the BridgeisCool.com web site for details.

HOW SCHOOLS PARTICIPATE

Sponsor Teachers and Student Aides

A sponsoring teacher or student aide should be assigned to work with the bridge teacher to recruit students, help with supervision, set up a student bridge club and communicate with the school and parents.

Facilities

The teacher needs a room with tables for each group of four students. Desks can be converted into card tables if necessary. The teacher brings all supplies.

Incentives

Enthusiasm for the lessons will increase if the school agrees to offer additional bridge opportunities — a school bridge club, a game with another school or a field trip to a local bridge club or tournament.