



**Application Due:
Friday
April 20
in room 235**

Application for the *Hands for a Bridge* Program

Please read the whole application carefully!

By applying to the *Hands for a Bridge* program, you are choosing to be in a unique community with your peers, your teachers and both local and international guests. Since the fall of 2001, *Hands for a Bridge* has sought to provide authentic and transformative learning opportunities, placing the student in the role of activist and visionary. The essence of Hands for a Bridge is found in each member's efforts to form "bridges" across the chasms of race, culture, and socioeconomic circumstance. In writing this application, reflect honestly. Take your time. Fill out all parts of the application carefully, and seek out any of the HFB teachers if you have questions. We'd prefer you to type your answers, but if you need to neatly handwrite them that is fine. Your parents/guardians are also responsible for answering questions in order for your application to be complete, so please give them enough time to do this. **For students who have questions, we will hold informational meetings before school (Rm 239 at 8:10) or after school (Rm 329 at 3:40) April 3 and 5, and before school, (Rm 239 at 8:10) Tuesday, April 17**

Student Information:

Full Name _____ Gender: _____ Preferred Pronoun _____

Years at Roosevelt (including this year): 1 2 3 Grade Next Year: 11 12

2nd Period Teacher _____ Room # _____

Address: _____ Phone _____
Street address and zip code

Email (print neatly) _____

US Passport Number: _____ US Passport Expiration Date: _____

*If you do not have a US passport, or if your US passport expires before August 1, 2019, you must provide proof that you have applied for a passport or renewal by June 2, 2018.

List 3 teachers at RHS who know you best _____

Activities/Clubs/Sports/Employment committed to, in or out of school. Please indicate your weekly time commitment and which season(s).

List the places you have traveled or lived in outside the US: _____

List the places you are considering traveling to in the coming year: _____

Important notes for applying students:

How to turn in your application:

Drop off the completed application : student information section, parent and student signatures to the commitment policy, your answers to the student's questions, your parent(s)/guardian(s) answers to their section, your teacher/coach recommendation, and your art piece (please observe the 8½ x 11 size restriction) **to room 235 (Mr. Magidman) by 4:00 pm Friday, April 20th . You will be required to interview the first week of May. Interview times will be posted on Thursday, April 26.**

Upon acceptance into the program, please enroll in the Hands for a Bridge class on turnitin.com. Instructions to follow.

Class Requirement:

All HFB participants must take the year-long *Hands for a Bridge* class (period TBA) next year. You will receive LA option credit towards graduation. If selected, you will be automatically registered for this course. If there is a conflict in your schedule with the designated period, then you will have to make a choice.

Your commitment includes:

- **weekly BEFORE school meetings**
- **monthly family potlucks**
- **two weekend retreats**
- **hosting/involvement with visiting students**
- **several fundraising events**
- **two weeks of international travel in February (one week is Mid-Winter Break)**

These commitments will require significant time outside of school, particularly when we are hosting guests.

Student Questions:

For the following questions craft your answers clearly and thoroughly. Type your answers on additional pieces of paper and attach them to your application. Answers may vary in length, but take care to demonstrate as much careful thought as possible.

1. Why are you applying to Hands for a Bridge?
2. Write an informative “bio”. Imagine you are introducing yourself to an overseas peer, his/her family and teachers.
3. Considering a community in which you participate, create a metaphor for the role you are most comfortable playing in that group.
4. Discuss your understanding of the term “social justice” and how it may apply to you.
5. Tell something of you that made you proud, and something that did not.
6. A former HFB class chose these words to represent their intentions: *scholar, artist, activist, teacher*. Select one or more of these words and create an art piece that illustrates how you see this/those concept(s) in the world and your relationship to the word(s). Your art may be verbal (prose, poetry no longer than 300 words) or visual (**no larger than a sheet of notebook paper—it needs to fit in a file folder**). Be unique. **Avoid common clichés: trees, globes, flags, hands, bridges.**

Commitment Policy:

Participation in HFB requires specific commitments that we want you and your family to understand completely.

- First, you must fulfill all your obligations towards our community-building and fundraising efforts during the summer, fall, winter, and spring of 2018-2019. These include weekly before school meetings, visitations, participation in retreats and fundraising responsibilities. In all of these obligations the most important element is communication. We want to know what your hurdles are, what you're struggling with, and what exceptions you need. If you have a schedule conflict or another challenge, then you need to talk with your HFB teachers proactively (meaning *before* the event, not after you have missed the requirement).
- Second, you will not consume or be under the influence of drugs or alcohol during any HFB or school function. This is non-negotiable, as it puts the safety and well-being of the program, the teachers, and other students at risk. Should you violate this policy, in addition to school sanctions, you will be removed from all of HFB related activities, including travel. These commitments ensure that we can trust each other and become a foundation for creating a rewarding and fulfilling group experience.

I have read the above statement and agree to its conditions:

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

M	T	W	TH	F
April 2	3 Informational Meetings 8:10a Rm 239 3:40p Rm 329 Parent Informational Meeting 6:30p Rm 201	4	5 Informational Meetings 8:10a Rm 239 3:40p Rm 329	6
16	17 Informational Meeting 8:10am Rm 239	18	19	20 Application Due to Rm 235
23	24	25	26 Interview times posted	27
30 Interviews before/after school	May 1 Interviews before/after school	2 Interviews before/after school	3 Interviews before/after school	4
7	8	9	10	11 Decisions announced by email

Section (1): About Hands for a Bridge

We hope this parent section will answer some of your questions, but we encourage you to attend an informational meeting for interested families on Tuesday, April 3rd at 6:30 PM, in RM 201.

Hands for a Bridge: HFB gives Roosevelt students the opportunity to engage with students from South Africa and Northern Ireland, regions where the history of oppression and civil strife has impeded essential dialogue between traditionally separated groups. Its mission is as follows:

Hands for a Bridge provides high school youth with opportunities to explore issues surrounding social justice in their local, regional and international communities. In collaboration with established partners, students engage in intensive artistic dialogue to build bridges of understanding across chasms of race, culture, wealth and poverty. These student leaders will emerge as transformed global citizens with vision and resources to effect vital change in our world.

HFB does not travel to these regions to teach, or to “show the way.” America has its own difficult history of institutional segregation. Our students travel abroad to learn, to form questions and to participate in dialogue that helps to promote peace and understanding. Our strength is in our contextual neutrality. We are not burdened by the local attitudes, resentments and pressures created by memories of a history that runs deep. We are not current or former enemies. In that way we become the bridge.

In class, students will explore literature, history and politics, plot strategies for conflict resolution, provide opportunities for public dialogue and create a venue for artistic expression in our own communities and schools. Seattle is a city still facing issues of equity and justice along racial and economic lines. We will therefore be hosting students and teachers from South Africa and Northern Ireland to help bring the dialogue to our schools, to become our bridge.

Program Cost: The costs for the program are high; in 2017-2018 the cost was \$4,217 per student and; this cost may increase in 2018-2019. The cost per student pays for the travel to Northern Ireland or South Africa and the exchange to Seattle for our resource-poor student and teacher partners in South Africa and/or Northern Ireland. This exchange component of HFB is equal to, if not more valuable than, our travel there. The costs are high, but it’s important that HFB is not a program just for those who can afford it. By using a collective debt model, **no student is disqualified from travel or event participation because his or her family cannot afford it.**

The Collective Debt Model: This model ensures that **ALL students are able to participate regardless of their financial situation.** At the beginning of the school year we ask families to fill out a confidential form indicating how much of the program cost they can commit to paying. We add up the financial commitments from the families and the balance left is our collective debt and fundraising goal. This means as a team of families you’ll work to raise money for the entire HFB group, not your individual student. Since the program’s inception in 2001, the families have successfully raised all necessary funds to meet the collective debt.

It’s important that you understand these fundamental aspects of HFB before your family commits to this program. Please sign below that you have read and understand the following:

- € HFB Mission
- € Program Costs
- € Collective Debt Model

Printed name of parent/legal guardian

Signature of parent/legal guardian

Dated this _____ day of _____ 2018

Parent Section (2): Commitment

Our visionary inspiration, the late Professor James Clowes, once remarked that in his vast exposure to education around the world, *Hands for a Bridge* is unique in its collaborations, vision and mission, and relevant to the needs of our local and international communities. As educators, we are committed to the continuation of this program, now in its eighteenth year. In order for this program to continue to thrive, we need students and parents to share in our commitment.

Parent Commitment: Our program relies on parental involvement. Participation includes attending monthly meetings to discuss and plan travel, fundraising, visitations/ homestays, and other HFB events. Meetings are typically on the 2nd Thursday of the month from 6:30-8:30pm during the school year. In addition to these meetings because parents and students are the force behind fundraising, you will be asked to join a fundraising committee to help coordinate the HFB annual auction, car washes, and other events as needed. During visitations from our South African and Northern Irish partners you may choose to host students and participate in a number of community events.

- One parent meeting per month
- Assist in the coordination of our November Auction and at least one other fundraiser.
- Optional hosting of visiting students

An indispensable part of our collective success as a program is the community efforts of our parent team. We understand that parents work hard to support their families and may not have endless amounts of time and energy to give to HFB. Some families will be able to contribute more, others less, but we ask HFB families to figure out how they can contribute to the HFB community. We try hard to make the meetings fun, build a strong community, and support each other throughout the process. This collective effort does require some sacrifice from families but we promise you it's worth it. The HFB experience is valuable for the whole family.

Parent/Guardian Information:

Parent or Guardian Name(s) _____

Address if different from student _____

Phone _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Email addresses for parent(s): (Please, print clearly.) _____

It's important that you understand the commitment families make to the HFB program. Please sign below that you have read and understand the following:

- € Parent Commitment
- € Student Commitment (See student section)

Printed name of parent/legal guardian

Signature of parent/legal guardian

Dated this _____ day of _____ 2018

Parent Section (3): Parent Questions

It is important to us that parents are included in this application process. You are indeed the foundation of this community and without your hard work and guidance this program cannot succeed. Please answer the following questions and prompts, and feel free to include this on a separate sheet:

1. Please share your thoughts about your student applying for this program and trip. Please include to what extent you support your student's application to HFB.

2. What are your concerns about your student applying to HFB?

3. What are your concerns about the commitment level required by students and parents?

For families who have questions, we will hold an informational meeting in Rm 201 on Tuesday, April 3rd at 6:30 PM.

Teacher Recommendation Form for *Hands for a Bridge* Application

Dear Student,
Please fill out the box below, and then pass this form on to a teacher at Roosevelt High School who knows you well—your strengths and your challenges.

Teacher Name: _____ Area of Instruction: _____

Student applicant: _____

Please explain how this teacher/coach has made a difference in your life.

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Dear Teacher,

Thank you so much for taking the time to speak on behalf of this student. We try very hard to get to know these students during our selection process; consequently, your input is invaluable to us. The information that you provide will be used to select students to participate in a program called Hands for a Bridge (HFB). HFB provides high school youth with opportunities to explore issues surrounding social justice in their local, regional, and international communities. Students are asked to step beyond their comfort zones and engage in intensive artistic dialogue to build bridges of understanding across chasms of race, culture, wealth, and poverty. HFB's goal is for these student leaders to emerge as transformed global citizens with vision and resources to effect vital change in our world. With your input, we hope to select an effective group that will come to trust and support one another, and function flexibly and cohesively. PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE STUDENT IN A SEALED AND SIGNED ENVELOPE.

Please provide the best way to contact you: _____

Please answer the questions below.

1. Please describe how this student interacts with his or her peers. Please include what role this student seems to play in terms of peer group interactions.

Please turn over.

2. On a scale of 1 to 10 (ten high), how well does this student manage *deadlines and responsibility*?

3. On a scale of 1 to 10, how *reliable* is this student?

4. Are there any other qualities that you would like to call our attention to that you think would help us in making our decision?

5. Would you travel with this student (would you sit in a van next to this student for 4 hours or more)?

Yes, without reservation

Yes

Yes, but with reservation

No

If “no” or if “yes, with reservations,” please explain your concern.

Teacher Signature: _____

If you have questions, you may email them to Karen Macdonald (kamacdonald@seattleschools.org), Tom Nolet (tnolet@seattleschools.org), Kate Plesha (kaplesha@seattleschools.org) or Janine Magidman (jtmagidman@seattleschools.org).

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