

Dear Parent/Guardian for Classes of 2021 and 2022,

The NJ State Legislature adopted A4142 which establishes a three-year Bridge Year Pilot Program for certain students who were impacted by the public health state of emergency caused by the COVID-19.

Each district with a high school shall offer students in graduating classes of 2021 and 2022 the opportunity for a bridge year immediately following their senior year in high school. The program is to offer students an additional year to address learning loss and missed opportunities in extracurricular activities, specifically spring sports which occurred spring 2020.

Bridge students are required to follow Dwight Morrow High School's student code of conduct, athletic code of conduct, and any other applicable district policies, regulations, codes, or rules that other students participating in the spring sport or extracurricular activities at Dwight Morrow High School are required to follow.

Program participation parameters:

- **Graduation:** Students who are interested in the program must have met all high school graduation academic, assessment and attendance requirements by the end of their senior year. Students participating in the bridge year program are entitled to attend graduation ceremonies with their class. However, your Dwight Morrow High School diploma will be withheld until completion of the bridge year.
- **Age Restriction:** Regular education student shall be 19 years of age or younger and shall not turn 20 years of age at any time during the bridge year (2021-2022 school year), except that a special education student shall be eligible to participate if the student will turn 20 years of age during the bridge year due to services provided pursuant to the student's individualized education program.
- **Post-secondary enrollment restriction:** Student may not be enrolled in a four-year college or university and participate in the Bridge Program.
- **GPA requirement:** Students must maintain an academic grade point average of 2.0 while enrolled in the bridge program.
- **Associated Fees:** A student participating in a spring sport or extracurricular activity during the bridge year shall pay applicable student athletics and activities fees. Community college tuition, fees, and transportation are the responsibility of the student. Financial aid may be applied for by the Bridge family.
- **Athletic Restrictions:** A student pursuing a bridge year shall not be eligible to participate in any fall or winter sport sanctioned by the NJSIAA.

Process:

1. Student remains enrolled in Dwight Morrow High School as a fifth year, post graduate student.
2. Student and counselor will meet to develop an individual learning plan- course work at Dwight Morrow High School and Bergen Community College must be coordinated to prepare the student for high-skill, high wage, or in-demand occupations.
 - a. Define academic and cocurricular goals
 - b. Detail activities for meeting the goals
 - i. Including counseling, academic support, coursework and co-curricular/athletic participation
3. During fall semester of bridge year students have a choice to be enrolled in three/four courses at DMHS (PE/Health and two elective courses) or enrolled as a non-matriculated student at Bergen Community College for nine and twelve credits. Athletes may not be deemed a full-time college student.
4. During the spring semester the student shall take between nine and twelve credits at Bergen Community College. Spring sports participants must enroll in less than 12 credits and can't be deemed a full-time college student.
5. If a student decides to stop participation upon completion of the fall semester and prior to the spring semester, this student will receive an updated transcript and not be eligible for participation in any high school spring sport or extracurricular activity.

Seniors who are interested in a bridge year must submit their request for consideration no later than the first day of the second semester, February 5, 2021 by completing this form [Microsoft Forms](#):



Microsoft Forms

Student requests will be reviewed and approved by the administrative team based upon the criteria.

Please direct all questions regarding the Bridge Year Program to Monica Heinze at mheinze@epsd.org.

Sincerely,

Ben Suro, Principal