

**Our mission statement:**

*As leaders in Bridget's life our mission is to travel with her on her journey, providing her with support, love and encouragement. We will always believe in her, dream for her and with her and create opportunities for her to thrive. We will try to always see that being her mother and father is a privilege as well as a responsibility.*



**Bridget Brown ~ Transition from Middle School to High School**

Parents Review – Feb. 12, 2001

Bridget has had an exceptional experience at Eisenhower Jr. High. We are grateful to all the educators and staff who have gone out of their way to help her succeed. It is difficult to leave a school where we have seen so many dreams come true. Bridget's future looks bright and is filled with hope because of the many excellent people who have worked with her.

Mrs. Haley has facilitated Bridget's program and she has been instrumental in her successful inclusion. She is an excellent and caring teacher who always welcomed us and enhanced Bridget's experience. Mrs. Fernandez has worked closely with us this year, supporting Bridget by adapting the curriculum co-teaching and facilitating some of the support for Bridget. Mrs. Proloa has been a fantastic support teacher for Bridget and she supported her in Science and other classes when needed. She has provided Bridget with great academic and peer support. All the exemplary teachers have worked so hard and gone beyond what is expected. We can't even begin to express our gratitude.

Mr. Casey and Mr. Evansen have always been available to talk with us and with Bridget at times when she needed to discuss important issues.

As Bridget Leaves District 61 we are overcome with gratitude for having an educational experience that was far beyond our dreams and expectations. Dr. Freymark and all the people who have been with Bridget for the last 11 years have made a significant difference in this young girl's life. Thank you for dreaming with us and creating opportunities for her to succeed.

Thank you

Nancy and Blasé Brown

### **Our Dreams for Bridget**

*We dream that Bridget will be happy and safe throughout her life. We dream for her to have a job, be independent, continue to learn and grow, be loved, have friends, meet people with compassion, advocate for herself, and have dreams and hopes for herself. We dream that she will share her gifts with others and inspire those around her. We dream that she will be valued in her community and never looked at as a burden. We dream that she will belong, be respected, be loved and have an opportunity to love others. We dream that she will always be close with our family and that the family support will be a life line for her throughout her life. We dream that she will always be included in her school, church, and community.*

### **Our Nightmares**

*We are afraid that Bridget will disappear from the kids in her class. We fear that she will be alone, lonely, hurt or taken advantage of and have no one to stand up for her, protect her or advocate for her. WE fear that she might lose hope, have unproductive frustration, and that people might not give her the best chance to succeed. We fear that she will encounter a compassionless world and that people will ignore her, judge her, put limits on her potential or make fun of her. WE also fear that we might forget to remember that every day of her life is a miracle.*

### **Bridget's gifts**

*She is a good friend, social, great imagination, cares about others, has a compassionate spirit, outgoing, good communicator, hard worker, learns more than anyone dreamed, links information, is a good listener, funny, has inner strength, is honest with her emotions, has strong internal behavior controls, a big heart, wants to be independent, thrives in inclusive settings, has good self esteem and self confidence, and has dreams of her own. '*

### **Needs**

*Bridget needs friends, opportunities for relationships, education and life skills. She needs to be challenged, and have caring people around her, a life purpose, a strong family, hope, respect, dignity, and a sense of belonging. She needs people to not limit her, have an inclusive education, adapted and modified curriculum as needed, a circle of friends and peer guides. She needs to have dreams for her future. She needs safety skills and courage.*

**Future Search ( If it is the end of the first year of high school and we are gathered together and begin by saying "It was the best year ever" ~ what would we say?? Our ideas have to be positive and possible...**

*June ~ It was the best year ever because Bridget has exceeded our expectations. She loves high school. She is in chorus and many activities. She has friends to have lunch with and she has some peer helpers in class. She is included for most of the day. She went to a few dances and had a great time. She knows the school and gets around without assistance. The educational team has been great and includes parents. We have lots of hope for the future.*

### **Success Strategies**

1. *Future curriculum sent home in the summer (Literature)*
2. *Lesson plans sent home at least once a week before the unit starts.*
3. *Support material could include videos, tapes, books etc.*
4. *Adapted work as needed as a supplement only used when needed to preview and review*
5. *Peer guides who include and support Bridget in class*
6. *Communication between parent, student educators set on a regular basis.*

**Action Plan**

1. *Bridget will have a schedule that will offer her the most inclusive opportunities*
2. *She will join clubs that she enjoys*
3. *We will have a transition meeting before school start.(Aug. that will include all her teachers)*
4. *Supports will be in place when school starts.*
5. *Curriculum will be sent home (before the beginning of a unit of study) so she can preview the material.*
6. *Curriculum adaptations will be shared with parents Lesson plans and study guides will be available for preview and sent home in time to adapt and accommodate for her.*
7. *Peer helpers and peer guides will be identified in her classes so we can look for natural supports.*
8. *Bridget will come to school before the first day and practice transitioning*