

## 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 165,000 members play in 3,300 clubs and more than 1,200 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](http://www.acbl.org)

or contact the ACBL Education Department at 662-253-3161 or [education@acbl.org](mailto:education@acbl.org)



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# Bridge



# for Youth

# Information



# for School Officials



## School Bridge Lesson Series Program

The American Contract Bridge League introduces the game of bridge to students.



**"It's a game you can play at any age. If you take it up young, you have fun doing it the rest of your life. A lot of games don't have that depth. This one does."**

**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 can provide a lifetime of challenge and camaraderie. It is 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. When you provide the classroom, we provide the bridge teacher, the lesson plans and the materials.

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

### **PROGRAM FEATURES**

#### **Teachers**

Individuals who teach the School Bridge Lesson Series program (16 hours of beginning bridge lessons) may qualify to 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. A free manual is available at [www.acbl.org](http://www.acbl.org).

#### **Free Textbooks and Cards**

Students are provided textbooks 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 hats 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**

Junior members (students age 25 or younger) may join the ACBL for \$15 per year. The Junior Membership includes a subscription to the Bridge Bulletin, free entry to the Youth NABC and much more!

### **Scholarships**

Bridge provides unique opportunities for scholarships, awards and recognition of accomplishments. Students are eligible for a variety of other scholarships as Junior Members.



### **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 bridge 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.