

MORE THAN A PROGRAM: A FAMILY!



Puente is more than an English class, and more than a road map to college...Puentistas are FAMILY!

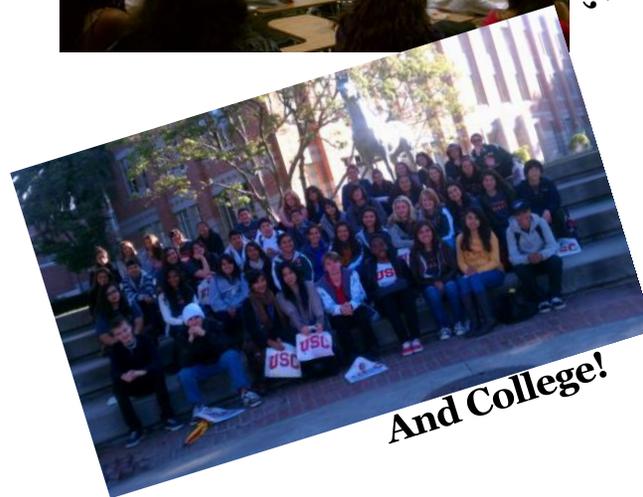
As students begin to travel the journey from high school to college, Puente students (or Puentistas) learn that they are not alone on their travels. They learn to work cooperatively and collaboratively, providing support for one another as they each set their goals and work to attain them. The Puente teacher and counselor are there to support the family along the way. Even better, Puente welcomes parents in to the program, making sure each parent has the insight and information needed to help his/her son or daughter achieve their goal of becoming a college graduate!

In Puente, the road lies ahead, but the bridges that connect us will never be lost.

Bridging
Cultures,



Community,



And College!

RIVERSIDE POLY HIGH SCHOOL

Puente Program
5450 Victoria Avenue
Riverside, California 92506

For more information, contact:
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**BRIDGING
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COMMUNITY, AND
COLLEGE**

Now Recruiting !

Phone: (951) 788-7203 ext. 64232

WHAT IS PUENTE?



Bridging Culture, Community, and College for ALL

The 9th Grade Puente Honors English course is the foundation of the Puente program at Poly High School. The Puente model combines academic enrichment, counseling, mentoring, and community support. Puente involves students beginning in 9th grade with an enriched curriculum that integrates Latino and

multi-cultural literature into the RUSD core curriculum.

Students enrolled in the Puente program stay with the same Puente-trained English teacher for both their 9th and 10th grade college-preparatory Honors English classes. Students are immersed in a pedagogy that builds on their experiences, bridging academics, family, and community.

Puente classes function as families, or *familias*, with students acquiring competency in various genres including autobiography, reflection, research, persuasion, literary analysis, expressive, and community-based writing. Students are taught techniques for collaborative peer review and create portfolios of polished assignments. Puente's writing program not only builds language arts skills, but also teamwork, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills, all of which are key to enabling college enrollment and

success.

The Puente counselor works hand-in-hand with the Puente teacher to function as an interdisciplinary team, meeting regularly and as needed with Puente students both inside the classroom and out. The Puente counselor also works closely with parents, providing regular parent workshops throughout the school year. The Puente team of teacher, counselor, and parent all work together and become empowered advocates for students' educations.

The Puente model provides students with field trips and informational sessions focusing on college, as well as mentors, role models who meet with students and assist them in their educational endeavors.

Course Description

In this class, we will expand our understanding of the world and the variety of experiences, perspectives, and voices it has to offer. Through our examination of literature and the development of our writing, we will continue to take steps towards mastering formal, Academic English while developing our own unique style and voice. In our writing and in our class discussions, we will focus on improving and developing our analytical ability as we examine literature.

We will be reading all of the required literature for 9th grade along with the Puente curriculum. Some of the novels to be read during freshmen year include *House on Mango Street*, *A Place Where the Sea Remembers*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *Romeo and Juliet*. We will also read poetry, short stories, and non-fiction during our year together.

Our writing will cover a variety of different genres: narrative,



autobiographical, descriptive, analytical, reader response, issue/commentary, and poetic.

This Puente freshmen year will be the beginning of a journey, both to discover more about ourselves as readers and writers, but also about the world and our place in it.



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