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Bridges Middle School Announces 2026 S.O.A.R. Soirée to Support Financial Aid for Neurodivergent Students

Annual fundraising gala set for April 18 at Exchange Ballroom with sponsorship opportunities now available

Portland, Ore., Jan. 14, 2026 — Bridges Middle School has announced its 2026 S.O.A.R. Soirée, the school's largest annual fundraiser, scheduled for Saturday, April 18, 2026, at the Exchange Ballroom in Portland. The event will raise funds for financial aid supporting neurodivergent students with learning differences including ADHD, autism and dyslexia.

S.O.A.R., representing "Strengthening Our Aspirations and Resources," focuses on expanding access to specialized education for students who learn differently. Proceeds from the evening will directly support the school's financial aid program, which currently provides nearly $210,000 annually to 35 percent of enrolled families.

"Financial aid ensures that every child who belongs at Bridges can attend, regardless of economic barriers," said Beven Byrnes, executive director of Bridges Middle School. "The S.O.A.R. Soirée is our biggest opportunity to make that possible and empower more families to experience the life-changing impact of a Bridges education."

The gala will feature cocktails, dinner and a program highlighting student success stories from the school's 27 years of operation. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., with dinner and the program beginning at 7 p.m. Event tickets will go on sale in January 2026.

Bridges Middle School serves as Oregon's only middle school specifically designed for students with learning differences, providing evidence-based education with a 12-to-1 student-teacher ratio. Most Bridges graduates successfully transition to traditional public high schools, equipped with self-advocacy skills and renewed academic confidence.

The school is currently seeking corporate sponsors, community partners and alumni sponsors for the event. Sponsorship levels range from $400 to $10,000, with benefits including event tickets, logo placement in marketing materials, social media recognition and on-site visibility. The presenting sponsor level of $10,000 includes 10 event tickets, scripted welcome message from the stage and company name featured as event presenter.

All sponsors receive recognition in event materials, social media posts and on-site displays. The school has opened sponsorship commitments through downloadable forms available on its website.

Founded in 2000, Bridges Middle School has served neurodivergent students through individualized learning approaches combining academics, social-emotional development and executive function coaching.

About Bridges Middle School

Bridges Middle School is Oregon's only middle school specifically designed for students with learning differences, including ADHD, autism, dyslexia and anxiety. Founded in 2000, Bridges provides evidence-based, student-centered education with small class sizes and individualized learning approaches, transforming how neurodivergent students learn, grow and succeed.

For sponsorship information and event details, visit bridgesmiddleschool.org/soarsoiree2026.

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