

# Bridges to Community

## Cross-Cultural Youth Exchange, Language Program & Community Building

### OVERVIEW

Youth leaders and scholarship students from Nicaragua will come together with high school students from the Winchendon School to build relationships, practice language skills, engage in meaningful dialogue, and develop youth-led community building initiatives.

### GOALS

1. To build cross-cultural connections, communication skills, and empathy.
2. For participants to mutually help one another to learn and teach English and Spanish.
3. To learn about different cultures and life experiences.
4. Connect and Engage students from both counties in community led projects in Nicaragua and the US.

### SPECIFICATIONS

Each week students will delve into a theme for discussion sharing and learning including:

1. **Yo Soy-Nosotros Somos (I am-We are)**  
Identity, life maps, family, interests
2. **Mi Cultura (My culture)**  
Values, food, traditions, activities
3. **Mi Comunidad/País (My Community & Country)**  
Tours, Maps, Events, History, current events
4. **Mi Futuro (My future)**  
Community Projects

Based on the theme students will have virtual conversations, create videos and other forms of virtual communication. The program will culminate in the students jointly selecting a common issue to focus that impacts the local communities of the students in both countries. They will then work on designing solutions to fit the needs of their local communities and support each other in the process of implementation.

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Equity and inclusion will be at the center of our processes. Translation services,, internet and tech support will be provided when needed to make sure all students can participate fully in activities and discussions. .

Bridges community in-country Program Directors Ivania Gomez and Kenia Ramirez will coordinate the Nicaraguan students. Miranda Jennings, Dean of Community, Leadership and Service, will coordinate the students from the Winchendon school through her Spanish level 4 class..

The work of the Nicaraguan students will connect directly with the already existing projects and programs of Bridges to Community. . The work of the students and Winchendon will connect with the town wide initiative called HEAL Winchendon.

## **TIMELINE**

- SEPT-OCT: Unit 1
- NOV: Unit 2
- DEC-JAN: Unit 3
- FEB-APRIL: Unit 4

## **Unit 1: Yo Soy-Nosotros Somos (I am-We are)**

- 1) **[DUE 10/8] Introduction video:** Each student will make a 3-5 minute long video about themselves. The videos should include:
  - a) Name
  - b) Age
  - c) Where you're from
  - d) Your favorite food
  - e) 2 interesting facts about about yourself
  - f) 2 hobbies or interests you have
  - g) Something your afraid of
  - h) Show and explain something or someone important to you and why.
  - i) Give a tour of your house (or dorm room) and your family or your friends who are with you on a daily basis. If your family is far away, show some photos in the video.

**Upload your video to the Google Drive Folder here:**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15H4jHqFlgtCLqa9Cgl7ngwQe9dxwAkmo?usp=sharing>

- 2) **[10/15 @ 11:30-12:20] Live exchange! Intercambio en Vivo!**
  - a) Interviews in pairs [10]

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- b) Share your identity circles chart! [5]
  - c) Question & Answer free style! [20]

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2035351784>

3) **[10/22] Life maps:**

- a) Make a map of your life that includes at least 10 important events in your life that have shaped who you are. The events on your lifemap can be happy, sad, challenging, inspiring. Don't be afraid to get personal!
- b) Over a Video Whatsapp call, explain your lifemap to your partner Don't be afraid to get personal!
- c) Put a photo of your lifemap in the folder.

**Upload your video to the Google Drive Folder here:**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15H4jHqFlgtCLqa9Cgl7ngwQe9dxwAkmo?usp=sharing>

## **Unit 2: Mi Cultura (My culture)**