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HOPE through HOUSING  
FOUNDATION

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# PRESS RELEASE

## **Entering EHS Freshmen Offered Free Program to Prepare them for Success in High School Thanks to Rialto Unified School District and Hope Through Housing Foundation**

*Rialto USD and Hope offer the Summer Bridge Program for graduating middle school students entering Eisenhower High School. Summer Bridge is a chance to prepare students for the challenges and expectations of high school and beyond.*

RIALTO, Calif. -- Hope Through Housing Foundation (Hope), a nonprofit organization that offers academic and enrichment services to elementary, middle and high school youth, teamed with Rialto Unified School District and Eisenhower High School to offer incoming freshmen a two-day high school orientation experience. The program is called "Summer Bridge" and prepares students for the challenges and expectations of high school. It is free to students.

"The Summer Bridge program promotes high school success with a curriculum that instills a sense of commitment to the high school experience," said Eisenhower Guidance Counselor Kathleen Cook. "Here students will learn about study skills and what learning style best fits their needs. We will discuss what happens if they drop out of high school and we teach them the array of options available after high school."

Summer Bridge is a four-day program. It will run for two weeks with a total of four groups of approximately 50 students. The first program ran from June 13 through June 17 and the second program will run from July 5 through July 8. Approximately 200 incoming freshman are enrolled and the course is taught by Eisenhower Guidance Counselor Kathleen Cook. Summer Bridge is sponsored by Hope, a nonprofit organization that has been working with youth from Eisenhower High School for the past few years.

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**“We are very appreciative that private sector organizations, such as Hope Through Housing, enhance our District’s resources,” replied RUSD Superintendent, Dr. Harold L. Cebrun. “These collaborations allow our schools to provide students the tools needed to help them reach academic achievement, and later, life success.”**

Hope is a nonprofit organization working in Rialto to offers afterschool programs to children grades K–8, a preschool located directly north of EHS, and a teen program for high school students. This is the second year it collaborated with the district to provide Summer Bridge. Enrolled students will discover their individual learning styles, as well as career and college preparation. Guest speakers have been selected to demonstrate non-traditional career paths students can consider. Other topics include how to read a transcript, graduation and college requirements, standardized testing requirements, disciplinary procedures, and extra-curricular activities.

“The program empowers students by giving them time on campus, in a safe and intimate setting, to experience high school firsthand,” said Hope Director of Youth and Child Services Susan Neufeld. “We have 50 students signed up for each orientation and we try to inspire them to succeed in high school and beyond.”

**About Hope:** Hope Through Housing Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing child, youth, and senior services in low-income communities. In Rialto, Hope is responsible for the operation of a Head Start preschool center that serves residents in the community directly north of Eisenhower High School. It also provides after school services for children grades K- 8 in the same community and an afterschool program on-site at Eisenhower High School. Elsewhere in Rialto, Hope provides afterschool services in two other locations: one at 177 W. South Street and 220 N. Glenwood Avenue. All the K-8 programs utilize the nationally renown PeaceBuilders and KidzLit curriculums. PeaceBuilders is a research-validated violence prevention and character education program. KidzLit is a reading enrichment program designed specifically for use in afterschool program settings. It increases young people’s motivation to read and builds literacy skills. Hope evaluates its programs every year and the results are published on the Hope website, [www.hthf.org](http://www.hthf.org).