

# Thank You Mr. Bridgeforth



[Presido Hills elementary school, San Francisco, 2018]

Dear Mr. Bridgeforth,

I would like to thank you for coming to our school to share your life story with us. I think you were so brave to go to Mississippi. It was fascinating when you sat in an all white only section in a movie theater. I enjoyed hearing about your time working at SNCC. It was so kind to sacrifice your education to do it. It is amazing that you were the project director at only nineteen years old. I really appreciate that you fought for the greater good of the world, and you fought for the next generation could live in a safe environment. Some questions I still have are, when you worked at SNCC who was the closest person to you there and why? I just wanted to thank you again for everything you did.

Love,

Ruthie

2/1/18

Dear Mr. Bridgeforth,

I appreciate that you took your time of your day to come to our school, to share some information about your life and some Civil Rights information. I enjoyed hearing that you met Stokely Carmichael because me and a friend are studying him in school. Another thing I enjoyed hearing is that you joined SNCC when you were 19! And am fascinated that you went to Mississippi when the people in Compton thought that it was not a good idea. Thank you Mr. Bridgeforth for changing The United States of America.

Sincerely,

Brandon

Dear Mr. Bridgeforth,

Thank you for taking time out of your day to come to Presidio Hill School and tell us about you and what happened back then. I appreciate that you left school to help stop segregation by going to Mississippi and joining the organization SNCC. Even though you got expelled for going to Mississippi you didn't care because you wanted to end segregation. I also thought that was nice and kind to not get your education so you can fight for the rights of black people. I really enjoyed listening to you while you were speaking because not every day you get to sit in front and listen to a person who helped end segregation. Even though I didn't ask a question it was really cool seeing you and answering questions. But now i'm going to ask you some questions. What do you think the world will be like if you and the other people from your school didn't help end segregation? Do you think the world would be more segregated or would it be the same as it is now?

From,  
Ryan Munkh-Orgil

Dear Mr. Bridgeforth,

Thank you so much for coming to our school. Your presentation really amazed me. Your life story is so fascinating. My family was also very interested. Learning about Civil Rights activists really interests me also. I have learned a lot from you and your work. Especially to never give up. I wonder if I will be a Civil Rights activist someday? Also, I have two more questions for you. When did you decide that you wanted to be a Civil Rights activist? Also, did you know Dorothy Height? Because I am doing a project on her. Once again, thank you so much for teaching us and for your hard work.

Sincerely,

Mia

Dear Mr. Bridgeforth,

Thank you for going out of your way to come and teach me about your exciting life story. I appreciate how you gave me a complete answer when I asked you a question. I enjoyed hearing your life story with all the details. I am fascinated by how you were treated when you were in Tennessee. A question I still have is “are you still fighting for racial equality?”.

Warmly,

Eli (kid with A.HAM hat)



Dear Mr. Bridgeforth,

Thank you for coming to our school and speaking the true story of what happened in your own eyes, and how you felt during the hard times for the African Americans. I enjoyed hearing about the sit in at the movie theater! Did you feel like you accomplished something after this movement? Thank you for staying strong even when they put you down. Thank you for your service and ALL your hard work and dedication you put into the work you did. Thank you again!

Sincerely,

Nadirah

*Dear Mr. Bridgeforth,*

Thank you so much for taking time off your day to come talk to us about your life. I appreciate your willingness to talk about your life openly and answering our questions truthfully and thoughtfully. I was fascinated when you told us the story about you and your friend going to the movie theater. I thought this was very brave of you because you put yourself in danger. I admire how risked your life for other people's right to vote and education. I can't thank you enough for giving us the opportunity to meet you and learn about you. I hope you will keep visiting school so other kids can have the enjoy you like I did.

Best Wishes,  
Maddy



Dear Mr Bridgeforth

Thank you so much for coming to are school to educate us on the Civil Rights Movement. It has been an honor to meet you and I appreciate how much you have done for this country to make it a better place. I also enjoyed hearing all about your life and how it was back then. But I am fascinated that I just got to meet you and to just hear about how the world was then is pretty amazing so just thank you for teaching and telling us in depth about your life story. But once again I just want to say thank you and it has been a honor to meet you.

From,  
Jack

Dear Mr. Bridgeforth,

Thank you very much for sharing your stories with the us. I appreciate you coming here to Presidio Hill School and giving answers to our questions. I enjoyed hearing about your life and all the sacrifices you made. How you sacrificed your education for what you knew is right. You may not have thought yourself as brave as the freedom riders, but that action you did was pretty brave.

I am fascinated by how you stood up against the unfair laws in Mississippi. You even went to jail for it. That didn't stop you from scouting out Mississippi for SNCC. A question I still have about you is how did you survive in Mississippi with all the laws against you?

Although you aren't mentioned in the books you still had a hard job and great accomplishments that helped out SNCC.

Sincerely,

Evan

Dear Mr.Bridgeforth,

I really appreciate that you came to our school and talked about all of the fantastic thing you did. I enjoyed hearing about all of the great things you did and how you changed America to a better place to live for all people. I really appreciate what you did because I don't think I would be brave enough to go to Mississippi at that time. What you have done is one of the most amazing things in the world. A question I still have is, what was it like to risk your life in Mississippi?

Sincerely,

Abraham

Dear Mr. Bridgeforth,

I cannot thank you enough for your presence at our school, telling us your incredibly meaningful stories. I will have trouble expressing how much I appreciate all the work, care, and heart you put into the problem of unequal rights. All that you did was unbelievably important and I appreciate your inspiring work more than I can say. When you told us your mind-blowing stories, I could feel your passion and amazing selflessness. You are very well-spoken and when you spoke, I could feel your respect for others. Just in that forty minutes I could tell you are witty, determined, incredibly intelligent and kind, and an amazing person to be around. Your stories were full of heart and I will never forget the name Mr. Bridgeforth, what he did, and the time we had together. Thank you again.

Love,

Natalie

P.S. I asked you about if life now is how you imagined when you were younger and if not, how is it different. I have another question; if you had to do something now to change racial equality, what would you do?

2-1-18

Dear Mr. Bridgeforth,

I really appreciated how you took your time off and came to Presidio Hill School. Thank you for sharing your life with us. I really enjoyed listening to you and your music. You are very brave to travel to so many places to help make sure everyone could vote. Also to make sure that everyone was treated equally. I know that it would be very scary for me at any age. I am very amazed at how you can remember so much about your journey. I can't even remember when i was five years old! It was a great honor talking and listening to you.

Sincerely,

Mia

Dear Mr. Bridgeforth,

My appreciation to you can not very well be expressed in words, but I hope what I write will give you some idea of the appreciation I have for you. I loved hearing your fascinating stories, and I will remember your inspiring words for the rest of my life. Thank you for your selflessness, and passion you showed in the hope that someday people will be able to look passed the color of a person's skin, and see the beauty that all people have. Thank you for never giving up so the next generation can have the world you dreamed of. I know I speak for the whole clase when I say our appreciation for you is beyond writing.

Sincerely,

William

Dear Mr. Bridgeforth,

Thank you for taking time off your day to come talk about your life with the forth and fifth graders. I appreciate how you are so open about sharing what happened in your life and the pros the cons about your lifetime. I also appreciate how you took a big chunk of your time to hand type all the answers to our questions and how you really took your time for each and every question. I am fascinated how you walked into a white theater and when you left there was a mob outside protesting. I enjoyed hearing all of your stories and how detailed they were.

Sincerely,  
Desmond



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2018

Dear Mr Bridgeforth,

Thank you for coming to Presidio Hill School, and telling us all about your experiences during the Civil Rights Movement. I appreciate that you took time off from your day to come and talk to us about your life, also how you were comfortable telling us about many things that happen to you when you were young. I enjoyed hearing all about when you and your friend went to a movie theater, your journey to get home after that happened, your experiences in prison, and everything that happened to you after you did that. I am fascinated by how brave you were, and how you put your life in danger just so that black people could have their rights. A question I still have is how do you feel now about all the work you did and accomplished? I had an amazing time learning about your experiences as a Civil Rights activist.

Sincerely,  
Maia W.  
5th grade

Dear Mr. Bridgeforth,

Thank you so much for coming to our school and educating us on your experience during the Civil Rights Movement. I appreciate how thoughtfully you answered our questions, and answered in a ton of detail. Your experiences really inspired me to stand up for what I believe in, and to never take anything for granted. I really enjoyed hearing about the way you lived your childhood, and the way that you found out about segregation really interested me. I also appreciate that you spent your time to write all our questions down, and sent the the answers back to us. All your responses were both informative and intriguing. I loved hearing your perspective on everything that went on during the Civil Rights Movement, along with little inputs on your mother's thoughts, which included humor.

Thank you again so much for coming to our class!

Sincerely,

Katie

Dear Mr. Bridgforth,

WOW! It was an honor to meet you. This would definitely be an amazing fifth grade memory. You have change the way I think and feel about these types of things. Now I feel more appreciative of what you and other Civil Rights leaders have done to the United States of America. I'm fascinated by how you fought for Civil Rights. It makes me wonder how and what I do to make this world better for everyone. It also made me imagine what it felt like in your place. I was the person who asked you what gave you hope throughout your journey. I thought your response was very meaningful you said.... "you" and I think that's an amazing response. I also thought it was amazing how you remember every single person in your stories and I know not a lot of people can do that. I love when you said "Mississippi changed me more than I changed it" because think in those few words it tells a story. Thank you for that great experience.

Love,  
Aydin

Dear Mr Bridgeforth,

Thank you so much for coming to our school to teach us about the past. It was an amazing opportunity for me and my classmates. I really appreciate that you came to our school and that you took time of your day to come and talk to us. I really enjoyed hearing the music you to you played for us and how you explained what the Civil Rights Movement was like so we could understand it. I learned so much from what you talked about and I hope to learn even more. It was an amazing experience. I am still fascinated by the fact that someone who was in the Civil Rights Movement came to our school! A question I still have for you is do you have any family besides your wife? Do you have any children or grandchildren? Thanks again!

From,  
Capri

Dear Mr. Bridgeforth,

Thank you for taking time out of your day to come to Presidio Hill School to tell us about your experiences. I appreciate how you told us just the right amount of details about your experiences. I enjoyed hearing about how hard you worked to achieve your goals. I am fascinated by how you were brave enough to go to Mississippi even though you didn't know what you were going into. A question I still have what is it like to go into an unknown place like Mississippi? I really enjoyed getting to meet you!

Sincerely,

Ananda

2/1/18

Dear Mr.Bridgeforth,

I really appreciate you came to our school share your amazing story with us. I really admire how you never fought back with violence. I could never have done what you did leaving your home at 19 years old to go to a place that is completely unfamiliar to you. I enjoyed hearing about what made things harder and easier for you along the way. You were brave and you never gave up so because of you the united states is a much better place. I will always cherish the memory of you coming to our school forever.

Thank You Mr.Bridgeforth!!

Love,  
Riva