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## GHS Students Participate— **Building Bridges Program**

Thirty-nine Grandview High School students are participating in the Building Bridges program this semester. Building Bridges is a community-based intergenerational program in the Greater Kansas City area. It was developed by Dr. Nina Chen, human development specialist at the University of Missouri Outreach and Extension.

A total of 47 schools, nursing homes, and senior citizens centers have participated in the program. The purpose is to provide opportunities for youth

and senior citizens to have meaningful interactions and experiences.

The students visit the residents from the Life Care Center of Grandview every other Monday. They do a variety of activities during the visits such as helping residents get ready for breakfast, playing games, telling stories, reading, talking, etc. Before their first visit, the students learned about aging awareness and preparation for nursing home visits.

Suzan Smith and Rochelle

Koerselman, family and consumer sciences teachers from the high school have integrated the Building Bridges program concepts into their family life classes. These learning opportunities will help youth increase their understanding about aging issues and different life stages and have a positive perception about being old.

For more information about the Building Bridges program, contact the University of Missouri Outreach and Extension Center at 816-252-5051.

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