



BASIS @ FAME

Spring 2007 Class Schedule and Newsletter

Dear Families,

We are pleased to announce the opening of our new learning center in Brentwood at 181 Sand Creek Rd, Building 3, Suite C. We are very excited to have this beautiful space in the Sand Creek Business Park with its convenient location in central Brentwood and the greater Brentwood/Antioch area. Over the course of the semester, we will be building the curriculum library and adding more small group classes to the Brentwood Learning Center schedule.

We are also pleased to announce that Lorraine Urfer, independent study teacher based in Hayward, will now be coordinating our field trips and events. Lorraine has some interesting field trips scheduled for spring semester (listed in the field trip section of this newsletter) and will also be coordinating the end of year school fair.

This packet contains a class schedule for both Dublin and Brentwood Learning Centers, registration instructions, and a wealth of information regarding events and services offered this semester. If you have questions about any of the information in this schedule/newsletter, please call the Dublin Learning Center at 925-875-9900 and our staff will be happy to answer your questions or direct your call to someone who can.

Happy Learning!

What's Inside?

	Page #
Information About Learning Center Classes	1-2
Learning Center Classes Dublin and Brentwood	2-3
How to Register for Classes	3-4
Class Size, Waiting Lists and Cancellations	4
Class Fees and Student Budgets	4
Dropping a Class	5
Events and Information Section	5-6
Learning Centers Office Hours	5
Field Trip Offerings	6-7
Important Dates to Remember	7
Registration Form	8

Learning Center Classes

Families choose home study as the primary mode of instruction for their students for a variety of reasons. We all know the many advantages to independent study, yet we also know that many students thrive given the opportunity for small group classes and cooperative learning activities. We think it's important for children to learn how to work in a group environment. We think it's a better educational experience for our high schoolers to have access to qualified teachers that teach subjects our parent educators struggle to provide for at home. We've recruited a group of highly qualified teachers to provide supplemental instruction in a variety of subject matter across all grade levels. Our class offerings will start with a few this year and grow based on the needs of our community. We look forward to talking with you about what classes you would like to see offered at our Learning Centers.

New Class Offerings

No new class offerings are available at this time. If we are able to offer new classes spring semester you will receive a mailing with new class listings and registration information. **There is space available in the continuing classes for new students.**

Continuing Classes

What follows are the class names and descriptions of all of our continuing classes organized by location, grade level subject matter. All classes listed below are continuing classes. We have space available in all classes and invite you to enroll your student for spring semester. There are no prerequisites for any classes with the exception of the Algebra 1 classes.

Brentwood and Dublin Learning Center Classes

Grades K - 5

Play and Learn Enrichment Class		Teacher: Tacy Howell
<i>Who:</i> grades K-2		<i>When:</i> Tuesdays, 1:00pm-2:30pm
<i>Class Fee:</i> \$180	<i>Text Fee:</i> No Text	<i>Equipment and Supply Fee:</i> \$30
<i>Start Date:</i> 1/30/07		<i>End Date:</i> 5/29/07
<i>Location:</i> Brentwood Learning Center		
<i>Class Description:</i> This is a project based enrichment class where a central theme is explored through a variety of discussions and hands-on activities. The students will engage in many language arts, science, math and social studies projects and activities. Students make new friends and learn how to work together through their participation in the projects. There is also a food preparation project and sharing of snack each week.		

Discovering Art		Teacher: Nancy Roberts
<i>Who:</i> grades K-2		<i>When:</i> Tuesdays, 11:00am-12:00pm
<i>Class Fee:</i> \$180	<i>Text Fee:</i> No Text	<i>Equipment and Supply Fee:</i> \$30
<i>Start Date:</i> 1/30/07		<i>End Date:</i> 5/29/07
<i>Location:</i> Brentwood Learning Center		
<i>Class Description:</i> Art is fun! In this class students create beautiful, colorful original artwork while exploring a wide variety of materials, themes and techniques. Basic art skills and concepts are introduced in a playful, encouraging setting.		

Exploring Art		Teacher: Nancy Roberts
<i>Who:</i> grades 3-5		<i>When:</i> Wednesdays, 11:30am-12:30pm
<i>Class Fee:</i> \$180	<i>Text Fee:</i> No Text	<i>Equipment and Supply Fee:</i> \$30
<i>Start Date:</i> 1/31/07		<i>End Date:</i> 5/30/07
<i>Location:</i> Brentwood Learning Center		
<i>Class Description:</i> Express your creativity with a wide variety of fun materials and themes. Projects introduce fine art techniques, art history and multi-cultural inspirations.		

Grades 6 - 8

Before Shrek		Teacher: Cheryl Townsend
<i>Who:</i> grades 6-8		<i>When:</i> Thursdays, 10:00am-11:30am
<i>Class Fee:</i> \$180	<i>Text Fee:</i> \$30	<i>Equipment and Supply Fee:</i> \$30
<i>Start Date:</i> 2/1/07		<i>End Date:</i> 5/31/07
<i>Location:</i> Brentwood Learning Center		
<i>Class Description:</i> Students in this class will strengthen their ability to analyze and interpret literature by studying folk tales, fairy tales, adventure stories, legends, myths, fables, and other (often surprisingly and impressively weird) lore from around the world. Expect roundtable discussion at every class meeting, along with occasional small-group activities and projects, in-class writing assignments, in-class movies, and maybe a field trip or two. One formal two-four page essay will be required toward the end of the semester. Not worry! There will be lots of instruction given on how to write an essay		
<i>Special Notes:</i> Most of the assigned reading must be done on your own time. A useful rule of thumb when budgeting study time is to set aside three hours of reading time outside of class.		

Young Artist's Studio		Teacher: Nancy Roberts
<i>Who:</i> grades 6-8		<i>When:</i> Thursdays, 11:45-1:15 *Please note the time change.
<i>Class Fee:</i> \$180	<i>Text Fee:</i> No Text	<i>Equipment and Supply Fee:</i> \$30
<i>Start Date:</i> 2/1/07		<i>End Date:</i> 5/31/07
<i>Location:</i> Brentwood Learning Center		
<i>Class Description:</i> Expand your skills and build confidence as you explore a wide variety of media and themes. Projects combine traditional fine art techniques, historical and cultural tie-ins with fun and creative experimentation.		

Grades 9 - 12

Talking About Literature

Teacher: Cheryl Townsend

Who: grades 9-12

When: Thursdays, 12:15-1:45 ***Please note the time change.**

Class Fee: **No Class Fee**

Text Fee: \$30

Equipment and Supply Fee: \$30

Start Date: 2/1/07

End Date: 5/31/07

Location: **Brentwood Learning Center**

Class Description: When asked to respond to a work of literature, many of us think, "But I don't know what to say!" This course will equip students with skills and strategies they can use to perform the hard and genuinely satisfying work of literary analysis. We will explore many literary genres, including poetry, short stories, plays, and novels. We'll do plenty of close reading and be exposed to literary criticism, history, and biography along the way. Expect roundtable discussion at every class meeting, along with occasional small-group activities and projects, in-class writing assignments, in-class movies, and maybe a field trip or two.

Special Notes: Almost all of the assigned reading must be done on your own time. A useful rule of thumb when budgeting study time is to set aside three hours each week. This class is considered supplemental and is therefore part of a 5 credit English course plan put together with the student's IST. Your IST will be notified as to the course content and how much work is being assigned outside of class.

Algebra 1

Teacher: Margie McKenzie

Who: grades 8-12

When: Wednesdays, 3:45pm-5:15pm

Class Fee: **No Class Fee**

Text Fee: No Text Fee*

Equipment and Supply Fee: \$10

Start Date: 1/31/07

End Date: 5/30/07

Location: **Brentwood Learning Center**

Class Description: This course will cover the basics of solving equations and all major topics, (e.g. slope, simultaneous equations, factoring) found in the Basis @ Fame high school course description for Algebra I. Emphasis will be placed not just on using formulas but on understanding the concepts behind them. Geometric concepts will be integrated into this course when appropriate.

Supplies Needed: Please bring a three ring binder, paper and pencils to class each week.

*There will be a text fee of \$80 for new students only.

Basic Math Skills

Teacher: Margie McKenzie

Who: grades 8-12

When: Thursdays, 3:45pm-5:15pm

Class Fee: **No Class Fee**

Text Fee: \$80

Equipment and Supply Fee: \$10

Start Date: 2/1/07

End Date: 5/31/07

Location: **Brentwood Learning Center**

Class Description: This course will focus on building a strong foundation in the basic math skills needed to be successful in algebra 1 and the skills needed to pass the California High School Exit Exam.

Supplies Needed: Please bring a three ring binder, paper and pencils to class each week.

Algebra 1

Teacher: Patricia Hierro

Who: grades 8-12

When: Wednesdays, 10:00am-11:30am

Class Fee: **No Class Fee**

Text Fee: No Text Fee*

Equipment and Supply Fee: \$10

Start Date: 1/31/07

End Date: 5/30/07

Location: **Dublin Learning Center**

Class Description: This course will cover the basics of solving equations and all major topics, (e.g. slope, simultaneous equations, factoring) found in the Basis @ Fame high school course description for Algebra I. Emphasis will be placed not just on using formulas but on understanding the concepts behind them. Geometric concepts will be integrated into this course when appropriate.

Supplies Needed: Please bring a three ring binder, notebook paper and pencils.

*There will be a text fee of \$80 for new students only.

Advanced Art

Teacher: Nancy Roberts

Who: grades 9-12

When: Thursdays, 1:45pm – 3:45pm ***Please note time change.**

Class Fee: \$180

Text Fee: No Text Fee

Equipment and Supply Fee: \$30

Start Date: 2/1/07

End Date: 5/31/07

Location: **Brentwood Learning Center**

Class Description: Expand your skills and build confidence as you explore a wide variety of media and themes. Projects combine traditional fine art techniques, historical and cultural tie-ins with fun and creative experimentation.

Special Notes: This class is considered supplemental and is therefore part of a 5 credit elective or fine arts course plan put together with the student's IST. Your IST will be notified as to the course content and how much work is being assigned outside of class.

How to Register for Classes

Enrollment in classes must be discussed with your IST as part of the student's overall learning plan. We will be checking registration requests with ISTs during the registration process. We understand the window of opportunity for discussion is short but please make sure you discuss class enrollments and cost with your IST to avoid any confusion regarding your student's budget and courses of study. Please read the directions below carefully for instructions on how to register.

For Continuing Students

If you are currently enrolled in classes at either of the Learning Centers, please complete the registration form in this packet and send it to class with your student no later than February 2nd. **If you do not turn in a registration form before February 2nd your child's enrollment may be given to another student waiting to register.**

For New Students

Open registration begins Monday, January 29th. Please complete and return one registration form to the Learning Center where your student will be attending classes. You will need to make copies of the blank registration form if you are registering more than one student. Each student will need to be on a separate form. Anyone turning in a registration form during open registration will be enrolled in classes on a first come first served basis. Registration forms can be turned in after the open registration period but space is limited so it is in your best interest to get your registration forms in the first day of open registration. You may turn in your registration form in one of the following ways:

1. **By Mail:** You can mail them to the Dublin or Brentwood Learning Centers anytime during open registration. Forms mailed to us prior to the first day of registration will be processed on January 29th. Please send completed enrollment forms to :
BASIS @ FAME Brentwood Learning Center
181 Sand Creek Rd. Suite C
Brentwood, CA 94513
or
BASIS @ FAME Dublin Learning Center
6400 Village Parkway, Suite A
Dublin, CA 94568
2. **By Fax:** We will accept faxes beginning January 29th and process them in the order they are received starting at 9:00am. Any registration forms faxed prior to this time will be processed at noon on January 29th. **If you fax, please call and confirm that your fax was indeed received.** This is very important! The fax number is 925-875-9554.

If a class is full or closed we will let you know, otherwise attend the first day of class with the supplies listed in the class description. Some classes will fill up quickly. You will be notified if a class you registered for is full. The cost of the classes will be deducted from the student's account upon registration so please choose your student's classes carefully.

Class Size, Waiting Lists and Class Cancellation

Classes need a minimum enrollment of 10 students. Maximum enrollment is 15. If we have less than 10 students enroll in a class we will most likely cancel that class. Classes are considered closed at the point at which 15 students enroll. At that time a waiting list will be established and students will be entered in the order their enrollment form was received. If we have enough interest we will do our best to offer another section of the course.

Class Fees and Student Budgets

Each student enrolled in BASIS @ FAME is given monetary units that may be used to purchase educational materials and classes from our school store. Your teacher helps you budget this allocation and requests the materials and classes needed for your student's program. The costs listed in the class description will be withdrawn from individual student accounts at the time of registration. Once we deduct those funds, we cannot put them back so please pay attention to this detail.

The IST and parents are responsible for ensuring that a student's core curriculum needs are met through independent study, using student funding as it is made available each semester. If a family wants their student to take classes at the Learning Center beyond the amount of funding in their budget or chooses to save available funding for other services, they may choose to pay out of pocket for class fees along with text and materials fees at the rate published in the schedule. Class registration must be approved by the student's IST whether paid for by the school or the family. See the instructions listed on the registration form if you are paying out of pocket for classes.

Dropping a Class

If your student chooses not to attend the class before the first scheduled class session you must fill out a drop form on behalf of your student and turn it in to the Learning Center where you would have attended. You may also call the office and we will fill one out with you over the phone. Please notify us as soon as possible so we can place students from the waiting list. Your student must also fill out a drop form if dropping a class at anytime throughout the semester. There will be no refunds for materials or class fees after registration.

Events and Information

Dublin Learning Center Library and Office Hours

Dublin is the main office for BASIS @ FAME. Please contact this office for enrollment information or questions about our program.
6400 Village Parkway, Suite A
Dublin, CA 94568
Telephone: 925-875-9900, FAX: 925-875-9554
Office Hours: 9:00-4:00 Monday - Friday
Library Hours: 9:00-1:00 Monday-Thursday, and by appointment on Friday

Brentwood Learning Center Office Hours

181 Sand Creek Rd, Suite C
Brentwood, CA 94513
Telephone: 925-513-3440, FAX: 925-513-3342
Office Hours: 9:00 – 5:00 Tuesday – Thursday
*Please call prior to your visit if it is unplanned as the office will close 1 hour for lunch each day.

School Website – www.famecharter.org

We are very happy to be in the final stages of our new website, which should go live by the beginning of spring semester. The website will include sections for each of our programs, academic and events calendars, contact information for teachers and support staff, links to educational resources and websites, high school guidance information, the parent handbook and much more.

NWEA Assessments

After a rocky start this fall, we are implementing the NWEA assessment. So far, feedback has been positive. Our teachers appreciate the detailed assessment and the resources provided by the results. Many students found the assessment “fun” and “user friendly”. For more information about the NWEA assessment please see their website at <http://www.nwea.org/>.

The NWEA assessment is administered two times a year – in September and again in February – for all students in grades 4 – 10. This computer based assessment takes most students about 2 ½ to 3 hours. You should have received a letter over winter break providing you with the location and time for your family. If you have not received this letter, please contact our test coordinator, Anita Blount, at 510-687-9111 ext. 104.

California High School Exit Exam Math Classes and Tutoring Support

We are currently offering Exit Exam math classes at our Dublin and Brentwood Learning Centers in preparation for the February 6th and 7th administration of the test for our 10th graders. Our Learning Center math teachers may also be available for private tutoring. They will give preference to BASIS @ FAME students wishing to work with them individually or in small groups in preparation for the Exit Exam. **There are no fees deducted from student budgets for these classes and/or tutoring.** If you have concerns about your student’s readiness for the 10th - 12th grade administration of the exam in February or March, please call the Brentwood or Dublin Learning Center to inquire about current classes being offered and/or tutoring.

STAR Tests

The STAR testing program is made up of both the California Standards Tests (CSTs) and California Achievement Test (CAT/6). The CSTs are a major component of the STAR program and measure progress toward California's state-adopted academic content standards. All students in grades two through eleven are required to take the multiple-choice CSTs. Students in grades four and seven also take the STAR writing test administered in March.

In addition to the CSTs, all students in grades three and seven are required to take the CAT/6 Survey for Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics and Spelling. The CAT/6 is a normed test, which allows a comparison of California students against students from across the nation. It is administered along with the CSTs. For more information about the STAR testing program, please see the following web sites:

<http://www.startest.org/> For information on CSTs

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/resources.asp> For more information and sample questions.

The BASIS @ FAME STAR test schedules are as follows:

STAR writing test - 4th and 7th grade students

The locations for the Star writing test will be as follows:

March 6: Berkeley, Brentwood, Stockton, Fremont, Pleasant Hill, and Dublin.

March 7: There will be make-ups at the Dublin and Stockton sites only.

You will be receiving a letter by the last week in January providing you with the location and time for your family. If you do not receive this letter, please contact our test coordinator, Anita Blount, at 510-687-9111 ext. 104.

STAR Multiple Choice Test – 2nd through 11th grade students

The dates and locations for the Star Multiple Choice test will be as follows:

May 1-4 – Fremont, Pleasant Hill

May 9-11 – Brentwood, Livermore

May 14-18 – Berkeley, Stockton

You will be receiving a letter by the last week in March providing you with the location and time for your family. If you do not receive this letter, please contact our test coordinator, Anita Blount, at 510-687-9111 ext. 104.

Early Assessment Program for 11th grade students (voluntary)

The Early Assessment Program (EAP) is a collaborative effort between the California Department of Education (CDE), the California State University (CSU), and the State Board of Education (SBE) designed to assess students for college readiness in their high school junior year. The EAP is a voluntary eleventh grade assessment that combines CSU placement standards with California high school standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics. This early assessment identifies whether a student is prepared for college at a point when students have the time to gain the needed preparation during the high school senior year. Additionally, students may earn exemptions from CSU-required English and mathematics placement tests.

More information on the EAP may be found at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/ps/eapindex.asp>.

The 11th grade EAP will be held on March 6 at the same locations as the STAR writing assessment: Berkeley, Brentwood, Stockton, Fremont, Pleasant Hill, and Dublin.

Please contact our test coordinator, Anita Blount, at 510-687-9111 ext. 104, if you would like your 11th grade student to take this test.

Physical Fitness Test (PFT)

All school districts in California are required to administer the California Physical Fitness Test (PFT) annually to all students in grades five, seven, and nine. The PFT provides information that can be used by students to assess and plan personal fitness programs and by parents and guardians to understand their children's fitness levels. This program also provides results that are used to monitor changes in the physical fitness of California students. The PFT assesses a student's aerobic capacity, body composition and muscle strength, endurance and flexibility.

For more information about the California Physical Fitness Test, please go to:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/pf/overviewqa.asp>

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/pf/documents/parentbrochure.pdf>

Locations and dates for the PFT will coincide with the STAR multiple-choice test. This information will be included in the STAR test letter that will be sent out the end of March.

Spring Semester Field Trip Offerings

Below is a list of confirmed trips and we are waiting for confirmation on several others. For more information about these trips please ask your IST for a detailed flier, call Ellen Gave at the Dublin office at 925 875-9900 or email Lorraine at lorraineu@basischarter.org

Sun Gallery Art Class and Tour
1015 "E" St., Hayward
www.sungallery.org

Wednesday, February 14th from 11:30am-1:00pm
Grades K-6 & parent (no younger sibs)
Half Museum tour/half art class for 30 students.

Chabot Space and Science Center**10000 Skyline Blvd, Oakland**

www.chabotspace.org/visit/

Thursday, February 22, 2007 from 9:30am-1:45pm

Grades 6-8+. Class size: 32 students (+ 6 chaperones. Parents may need to pay.)

An exhibits/show/class event – see flyer for details

Blackhawk Auto Museum**3700 Blackhawk Plaza Cir, Danville**

http://blackhawkmuseum.org/

Thursday, March 15, 2007 at 10:00am (a 90-minute tour)

Size limit: 40. Cost: Free to everyone in the group.

A unique look at the historical, social and artistic impact of the automobile!

Sulphur Creek Nature Center**1801 “D” St., Hayward**

sulphurcreek@haywardrec.org

Wednesday, April 18, 2007 Tour and Wildlife ClassesGrades K-6 -- **TWO** Classes: choose from 9:30-10:30 or 10:45-11:45.**New United Motor Manufacturing****45500 Fremont Blvd, Fremont.**

www.nummi.com

Date: In May – TBA Automobile Manufacturing Plant Tour

Ages 10-18 = must be at least 10 year old to attend. (Call Lorraine = March 2 tour.)

Please email your interest to Lorraine.

Monterey Bay Aquarium**886 Cannery Row, Monterey**

www.mbayaq.org

Date: In June – TBA

This will be an end-of-year trip to use as a reward for a job well done!

Please email your interest to Lorraine.

To register for these field trips please email Lorraine Urfer at lorraineu@famecharter.org with the following information:

- Name, Date and Time of tour that you want
- Student Name
- Student Grade
- Accompanying Adult name
- Contact Home Telephone
- **Cell Telephone**
- Email Address

Important Dates to Remember

Parent calendars are available through your teacher but this condensed version of important days are listed here for your convenience. Feel free to remove this page and place it on your refrigerator!

January 15 th	Martin Luther King Day – No School
January 23 rd and 24 th	Spelling Bee at the Dublin Learning Center
January 29 th	1 st day of Spring Semester
February 6 th and 7 th	High School Exit Exams – 10 th Grade Only
February 12 th	Staff Development – No School
February 14 th	Sun Gallery Field Trip
February 19 th	Presidents Day – No School
February 22 nd	Chabot Space and Science Center Field Trip
March 6 th and 7 th	STAR Writing Exam 4 th and 7 th Grade Only
March 12 th	Staff Development – No School
March 15 th	Blackhawk Auto Museum Field Trip
March 20 th and 21 st	High School Exit Exams – 11 th , 12 th and 10 th graders absent at February’s administration
April 9 th – 13 th	Spring Break – No School
April 18 th	Sulphur Creek Nature Center Field Trip
April 23 rd	Staff Development – No School
May 1 st – 18 th	STAR Testing – Check with your IST for dates and locations.
May 28 th	Memorial Day – No School
June 8 th	Last Day of School
June 9 th	Graduation

Class Registration Request Form

Open registration begins Monday, January 29th. Please complete and return one registration form to the Dublin or Brentwood Learning Centers for **each student** requesting classes. You will need to make copies if you are registering more than one student. Anyone turning in a registration form during open registration will be enrolled in classes on a first come first served basis. Registration forms can be turned in after the open enrollment period but spaces fill quickly so it is in your best interest to get your registration forms in the first day of open registration. You may turn in your registration form in one of the following ways:

1. **By Mail:** You can mail them to the Learning Center office your student plans to attend anytime during open registration. Forms mailed to us prior to the first day of registration will be processed at noon on January 29th. Please send completed registration forms to:
BASIS @ FAME Dublin Learning Center
6400 Village Parkway, Suite A
Dublin, Ca 94568
BASIS @ FAME Brentwood Learning Center
181 Sand Creek Rd, Suite C
Brentwood Ca 94513
2. **By Fax:** We will accept faxes beginning January 29th and process them in the order they are received starting at 9:00am. Any registration forms faxed prior to this time will be processed at noon on January 29th. **If you fax, please call and confirm that your fax was indeed received.** This is very important! The fax number is 925-875-9554.

Date: _____ IST Name _____

Which Learning Center? Brentwood Dublin (please circle)

Student Name: _____ Grade Level: _____

Parent Name: _____

Home phone: _____ Alt. Phone: _____

Student Address: _____

Email address: _____

Does this student have any health problems that we should know about? Please give details.

I have discussed the classes requested with our teacher/facilitator.

Parent Initials _____

I am paying out of pocket for my child's classes and have attached a check for the class fees, text costs and supplies and equipment fees.

Parent has paid in full. Staff Initials _____

REQUESTED CLASSES

CLASS NAME	DAYS & TIMES	TEACHER
Class 1: _____	_____	_____
Class 2: _____	_____	_____
Class 3: _____	_____	_____

*** Please plan to accompany your student on the first day of class in order to fill out an emergency contact form. Your student will not be allowed to attend classes if we do not have this form on file.**

BASIS @ FAME
6400 Village Parkway, Suite A
Dublin, CA 94568