



## Community, Collaboration, Support

### Welcome to the 2007-2008 School Year!

Dear Families,

Welcome! We are very excited about the upcoming year and the programs and services we have in place to support you and your student(s). First and foremost, we are expanding our class offerings at our Brentwood Learning Center and will also be offering some classes in the Concord area. We will also bring you a host of field trips and school-wide events aimed at creating community and supplementing your student's learning program. In addition, our Academic Counselor is putting a career assessment program in place to help our high school students plan their academic program based on career and college goals. We will continue to utilize the NWEA assessment which enables our parent educators and teachers to further tailor each child's learning plan based on academic ability and need. And, we are expanding the number of Educational Contractors we work with in order to offer a wider variety of services to all of our students. We have worked hard to put new support systems in place that will make

your child's educational program better than ever.

Thank you to those of you who completed our end of year survey last year. We had a record of 200 surveys returned and continue to disaggregate the information you provided. We appreciate your input and will use your feedback to continue to modify our program to best meet student need.

This newsletter contains information regarding events and services offered this first semester. If you have questions about any of the information, 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!

Leslie Nilson and Julie Mattoon

### General Information

**Upcoming Classes:** We are offering a variety of classes at our Brentwood Learning Center and in the Concord area. If you would like to receive a copy of the class schedule, please contact Ellen Gave at 925-875-9900. You can also download the schedule from our website home page; [www.famecharter.org](http://www.famecharter.org)

**Educational Contractors:** For your convenience, we have changed the format on our website for searching for Educational Contractors. You can now search by geographical location and subject area to find classes that you are interested in. Go to the

Educational Resources section under BASIS @ FAME on our website. Don't know what an Educational Contractor is? Contact your Independent Study Teacher for information.

### Dublin Library and Office

**Hours:** Our curriculum library continues to grow. Parents may check out materials for their students. The curriculum may be kept for the entire school year if needed or returned to the library when no longer in use. The address to the library is: 6400 Village Parkway, Suite 100. Library hours are: 9:00-1:00 Monday-Thursday, and by appointment on Friday. Office hours are: 9:00-4:00 Monday-Friday

Telephone: 925-875-9900,  
Fax: 925-875-9554

**Note: The library is closed on Staff Development days and on school holidays. Consult your school calendar for more information.**

### Brentwood Learning Center

**Library and Office Hours:** We have a lending library at our Brentwood Learning Center as well. The address to the center is: 181 Sand Creek Rd. Suite C Brentwood, Ca 94513  
Office and Library Hours:  
Tuesday – Thursday, 9:00-5:00  
and by appointment on Friday  
Telephone: 925 513-3440,  
Fax: 925-513-3342

### Brentwood Learning Center Open House and Potluck:

Please join us for an Open House celebration at the Brentwood

Learning Center, Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 6pm-8pm. We're having a potluck so bring the family and a dish to share.

You'll meet our Brentwood area teachers and see and hear all about the wonderful projects and activities currently engaging our students at the center. You'll get a chance to meet with other students and their families as we share food, ideas and stories about our lives as home schoolers. If you have any questions about the evening, please call Cheryl at the center at 925-513-3440.

**New this Year! Curriculum Catalogue:** Are you having a difficult time deciding what curriculum to order for your child(ren)? Feeling overwhelmed by the many options available? We have a resource that can help you. Our teachers and administrators have developed a curriculum catalogue which provides a list of recommended curriculum for each grade level. Information regarding how easy the curriculum is to implement as well as what type of learning style is best suited to the curriculum is also included. We have developed this resource as a tool to enable you to select curriculum that best meets the needs of you and your student(s). Your Independent Study Teacher can give you a copy or it can be downloaded from the BASIS @ FAME page of our website.

### **Back to School Park Day coming to an area near you!**

Come meet fellow BASIS @ FAME families, our administrative staff, and the teachers that work with students in your area. We are hosting a series of back-to-school park days. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to Ellen Gave at 925-875-9900 for the park day you wish to attend. We look forward to meeting you!

San Ramon Community Park:  
Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>;  
10:00-12:00  
12501 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon

Pleasant Hill Community Park:  
Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>,  
10:00-12:00  
320 Civic Dr., Pleasant Hill

Castro Valley Community Center  
Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>,  
10:00-12:00  
18988 Lake Chabot Rd, Castro Valley

Cordornice Park  
Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>,  
10:00-12:00  
1201 Euclid Ave, Berkeley

Mickey's Grove Regional Park  
Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup>,  
10:00-12:00  
11793 N. Mickey Grove Rd, Lodi

**NWEA MAP Assessments:**  
We are excited to offer the MAP assessment again this year. This online diagnostic provides you and your teacher with specific information about skills and

concepts your student has mastered and areas that require more instruction. We encourage you to go to the website and find out more <http://www.nwea.org/>.

You will have an opportunity to tap into this resource for your 4<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grade student(s) in September. You will receive a letter in the mail in the near future that will provide you with detailed information NWEA assessments along with the location and time your student(s) are scheduled to take the MAP.

### **High School News**

#### **Introducing the Kuder Career and College Planning System!**

In the high school years, particularly in the freshman and sophomore years, students should be closing in on a cluster of occupations of interest. This in turn will inform students regarding which high school courses will be most beneficial and what kinds of education and/or training will be needed after high school. The Kuder assessment is taken online and provides information on interests and values and pinpoints occupational areas of interest. We have purchased a subscription for this service for our high school students. There is no cost to the student. If you are interested in gaining access to the Kuder Career Planning Assessment please contact our Academic Counselor, Lexy Bethel at 925-875-9900. She will provide you with all of the information you need to get started.

**Campus Tours**

We have set up three local campus tours for our high school students.

Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup>: 11:00

St. Mary's University, Moraga. Meet at Phillippe Hall for a presentation and tour. St. Mary's is a private university. For more information and maps to the school visit:

[www.stmarys-ca.edu/](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/)

Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 10:00

California State University East Bay. Meet on the patio of the Welcome Center. For a map go to: [http://www.csueastbay.edu/about/campuses\\_and\\_locations/campus\\_maps.html](http://www.csueastbay.edu/about/campuses_and_locations/campus_maps.html)

Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 10:00

University California, Berkeley. The tour will begin on the patio outside the main lobby of University Hall near the 'Graduating Golden Bear' statue. University Hall is in the seven-story building across the street from the West Gate of campus at the corner of University Avenue and Oxford Street. Cars may park in the City of Berkeley public lot four blocks south of our office at the corner of Oxford and Kittredge Streets (cost is roughly \$2 per hour).

Students wishing to attend these tours should RSVP to Lexy Bethel at [lexyb@basischarter.org](mailto:lexyb@basischarter.org) or 925-875-9900. More information can be provided at time of RSVP.

**PSAT:** The Preliminary SAT test is designed as a practice test for

the SAT. All four year college bound 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students are encouraged to take the exam. For more information regarding the PSAT please go to: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com), or, contact our Academic Counselor.

The PSAT will be offered on Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Locations and times to be determined based on the number of students wishing to take the exam.

Students wishing to register for the exam should contact Anita Blount at 925-875-9900.

**California High School Exit****Exam:**

Examination dates for this school year are as follows:

November 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>: 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who have not passed one or more sections of the exam.

February 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>: All 10<sup>th</sup> grade students and any 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who have not passed one or more sections of the exam.

March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>: Any 10<sup>th</sup> grade student who was absent in February; 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who have not passed one or more sections of the exam.

All students must pass the CAHSEE to receive a public high school diploma in California. The CAHSEE is comprised of two parts: the English-Language Arts exam and the Mathematics exam. The English-Language Arts exam

is made up of multiple-choice questions and a writing task. It assesses academic content standards through grade ten in reading and writing. The Mathematics exam is made up of multiple-choice questions and assesses the academic and content standards through part of Algebra 1.

All students are required to take the CAHSEE in the spring of their 10<sup>th</sup> grade year. There are no exemptions or opt-outs. Students who pass both sections of the CAHSEE in 10<sup>th</sup> grade are not required to take subsequent administrations of the test. Students who fail any portion of the CAHSEE will have additional opportunities throughout high school to pass. They are only required to retake the portion(s) of the exam not previously passed.

For more information on the CAHSEE, please see the California Department of Education's CAHSEE website: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs/>

**Academic Counselor:** Our counselor is available to meet with parents and students to discuss high school and college planning. If you would like to make an appointment contact Lexy Bethel at 925-975-9900 or email, [lexyb@basischarter.org](mailto:lexyb@basischarter.org). Lexy's office hours are Tues-Thurs from 8:30-5:00.

### Other Tidbits and Useful Information

If you haven't already done so; check out our website. You will find a lot of information to help you develop your home study program. We've devoted an entire section to websites that offer supplemental materials and information; we have a section for locating our Educational Contractors, the High School Guidance section contains a wealth of information on high school and post high school planning. Our events calendar and parent handbook and more can also be found at the site.

<http://www.famecharter.org/BASIS@FAME.html>

**Looking for a local home study organization to meet other families?** Here are some resources for making those connections that support and enhance the home study experience. These organizations are not affiliated with BASIS @ FAME.

California Homeschool Network:  
[www.californiahomeschool.net](http://www.californiahomeschool.net)

HomeSchool Association of California:  
[www.hsc.org](http://www.hsc.org)

Homefires: List of Homeschooling support groups:

[http://www.homefires.com/support\\_groups.asp](http://www.homefires.com/support_groups.asp)

Click on a county for more information

**Attention Athletes!** FAME Public Charter School is collaborating with other Charter schools to develop an interscholastic sports league. The league will be non-CIF and have its own governing body. With enough interest we hope to have a boy's soccer team this fall and boy's and girl's basketball teams starting in November. Practices will take place in Fremont and games will be in and around the greater Bay Area. This is for high school students only. If you are interested please contact Lexy Bethel at 925-975-9900.

**Calling for submissions!** We would love to include information regarding our students and their achievements in our next newsletter. If your child has received special recognition for academic or extra curricular activities we'll place an acknowledgment in our newsletter. Send your information to: Leslie Nilson at [leslien@basischarter.org](mailto:leslien@basischarter.org)

**Students:** Have a poem, short story or essay you'd like to share? Send it to Leslie Nilson and we'll try to include it in our next newsletter or find a spot for it on our website!

**Parent Handbook:** We've updated our Parent Handbook. The handbook was created as a tool for you. It contains information about all aspects of your child's school. We encourage you to read it and contact us if you have questions. Your teacher will be distributing

the handbook in October. The handbook is also available online under the BASIS @ FAME section.

### Important Dates to Remember:

8/27: First Day of School  
9/3: Labor Day, No school  
9/10-9/28: NWEA Testing  
10/15: School Holiday  
10/17: PSAT  
11/6: CAHSEE – ELA  
11/7: CAHSEE – Math  
11/12: Veteran's Day- No School  
11/19-11/23: Thanksgiving Holiday  
12/24-1/4: Winter Break  
1/21: MLK Jr. Day – No School  
1/25/08: Last day of semester 1  
1/28/08: First day of semester 2

### 2007-2008 School Year Field Trips

We have a variety of field school-wide field trips planned for the coming school year.

For your convenience we have created a separate Field Trip insert for the coming school year. Detach it from this newsletter and keep it in handy place!

If you have questions, contact your Independent Study Teacher. Other Field Trips may be added so check with your teacher regularly to get the latest updates or check our website home page under Upcoming Events.

**Just for Kids**

Draw a picture here for your teacher and share it with him or her next time you meet!

- 1) What do fish play on the piano?
- 2) Why was six afraid of seven?
- 3) All the vowels have been removed from the opening words of a famous American document. So have the breaks between the words. All that are left are the following consonants. What are the words?

FRSCRNDSVNYRSG

- 4) A man went on a trip on Friday, stayed for 2 days and returned on Friday. How is that possible?
- 5) What 5 letter word can have its last 4 letters removed and still sound the same?

**Quote:** Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the thinks you can think up if only you try. *Dr. Seuss*

What's your favorite quote?

(Answers:)

1. Scales
2. Because seven eight nine!
3. Four scores and seven years ago
4. Friday is a horse!
5. QUEUE, remove "UEUE", say Q. Q and queue are pronounced the same.