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FBI MENTORS FAME PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS

FAME hosts FBI's first Junior Agent Program in Bay Area in over a decade

Fremont, CA – FAME Public Charter School is partnering with the Federal Bureau of Investigation to pilot the Bay Area's first Junior Special Agent program in over a decade. Launching this October, the program is part of the FBI's youth and community outreach initiatives, and will help to foster greater understanding between the FBI and East Bay Area communities.

Twenty-five fifth graders from FAME's Fremont Leslie Street campus will participate in a four-month long educational program consisting of classroom instruction by FBI staff and a field trip to the FBI office in San Francisco. The Junior Special Agent program, a part of the FBI's larger Adopt-a-School initiative, will follow a specialized curriculum developed by the FBI to help students cultivate the tools to successfully deal with the increasingly complex challenges they face every day.

FBI staff will provide guidance for dealing with the following issues: teasing and bullying, gang prevention and street smarts, internet safety, and violence and guns. Each topic area includes coaching in self-esteem development, making the right choices, and building character. Students will also learn about the history and mission of the FBI. The Junior Special Agent program will culminate in a graduation ceremony at the FBI's San Francisco field office, where each student will receive a certificate of completion, a badge, and junior special agent credentials.

"FAME is pleased to be hosting the FBI's first Junior Special Agent program in the Bay Area in over a decade," said FAME Founder and Director Maram Alaiwat. "Our young students are very excited at the opportunity to have special agents in their classroom. It will be a rewarding experience for our students, and hopefully this will be another step in building our nation's future leaders."

Alaiwat, along with several other members of FAME's leadership, are alumni of the FBI's Citizens' Academy, and have worked to facilitate understanding between the FBI and Alameda County's Middle Eastern and Southeast Asian communities.

FAME serves a predominately Middle Eastern and Southeast Asian immigrant community. More than twenty-five percent of FAME's students are classified as “English Learners” whose native languages include Arabic, Urdu, Farsi and Pashto. Leading the way in closing the achievement gap, FAME has shown continued academic improvement, particularly with its English Learner (EL) student population. Today, FAME is the only countywide charter providing specialized educational opportunities to Alameda County’s new immigrant populations from the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

Special Agent in Charge Stephanie Douglas praised the program: “Children today face challenges we couldn’t imagine when we were growing up. We hope the FBI, working with excellent educational programs like FAME, can help them navigate these dangerous waters so they can grow up to be successful members of society. We know that FAME is a high-achieving and well respected charter school in the Bay Area and we look forward to working with them on this initiative.”

The FBI's Washington D.C. field office designed and implemented the first Junior Special Agent program in 1990. Today, it is a highly-developed and structured component of what has become the FBI’s Adopt-A-School program. Two to four times a month throughout a school year, FBI employees deliver 60-minute blocks of instruction to fourth, fifth, or sixth grade students. The program seeks to instill hope, confidence and self esteem in the students, while developing their oral and written communication skills. Furthermore, the program provides students with positive adult role models in an entertaining and creative learning environment. At the end of the school year, the junior special agents graduate from the program and receive a certificate of completion, a badge, and junior special agent credentials. There are active programs across the country and in all 56 field offices.

About FAME Public Charter School

FAME Public Charter School (FAME) was founded in 2005 as the first and only countywide charter school serving Alameda County. A high-achieving charter school specializing in getting its students fluent in English and Arabic, FAME currently operates three public charter school campuses, as well as an independent study program. FAME serves Alameda County’s diverse immigrant population, with the goal of preparing all its students to graduate and attend college. FAME strives to create an education community where students from all social, academic and economic backgrounds can learn to their highest potential. Visit FAME at www.famecharter.org.

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