

Mark your Calendars!
Aim High

Upcoming Student Center Event:

Details about events are in the Newsletter!

Jan 7th - High School Information Night

6:00 PM

Leadership High School
400 Mansell Street

Feb 16 - Annual Ice Skating Event

6:00 - 8:30 PM

Yerba Buena Gardens
750 Folsom Street

Important Dates Summer 2008

Mar 1-Aim High begins accepting applications-
New applicants.

Mar 15 - Requests for returning students mailed to families.

Apr 15 - Replies due from returning students

Apr 25 - Application deadline for new students.

May 10 - Acceptance letters mailed to families.

June 30 - August 1
Summer Program 2007

Aim High Central Office

Hello Aim High students, graduates and families~

It has been an incredible year at Aim High! This past summer a record breaking 950 students and families with 250 site-directors, teachers, interns and TAs participated in the Aim High program at eleven locations in three counties. Over 5,000 students have graduated from Aim High and hundreds of others have worked at Aim High over the past 22 years and each of those people has an Aim High story. Each Aim High summer at each Aim High location the students and staff members have affected growth and change in one another's lives. This is the Aim High Magic!



We asked some Aim High teachers, interns and TAs to complete the following, "**Here's why I am grateful for Aim High...**", and here are some of their responses. Enjoy!

I am grateful for AIM HIGH because as a middle school student, the staff always made me feel as if attending college was within my grasp and much closer to my reach than I actually thought was possible. I don't care how long it's taken me for transferring from City College of San Francisco, to major in La Raza Studies at San Francisco State University, because as a first generation college student, I now understand the importance of a higher education and I will fight to keep college tuition affordable and accessible, especially for low income families and

under represented communities. We must overcome obstacles in our path towards success with an Aim High spirit.

~Deborah, Aim High grad 1995, Intern 2007, Aim High SFSU

Here's why I am grateful for Aim High.

Because the kids have a knack for teaching the faculty more than they give themselves credit for. Because the kids keep coming back, siblings follow, and families keep returning. Because the kids end up changing their lives as well as their friends' lives for the better without knowing it yet. I am grateful for Aim High because of the kids

~Elias, TA at Aim High Lick-Wilmerding

Although a little corny, it's all true...

It is impossible to express why I am grateful for Aim High in any amount of words. My experience with Aim High and the thanks that I have can be best seen in the faces the administration, the teachers, interns, and most importantly the students. If I were to sum it all up in one act it would be finger high in the air, largest smile of pride and joy you can imagine, accompanied by the words "Champions on top!". My inspiration comes from every champion. Moreover, it comes from the fact that every person knows that she or he is champion and relishes in it. If you've got it, flaunt it. The magical beauty of Aim High is in the fun, education, and constant communication and trust that I have with all of my colleagues and my students. I am in eternal debt to them all and have endless thanks to Aim High.

P.S. I miss you all, am sending love from Chile, and am soooo excited for the summer.

~Sarah, Master Teacher at Aim High Lick-Wilmerding

I am grateful for Aim High for giving me the opportunity to teach and be taught by amazing teachers and curious students. I am grateful for Aim High because every day you learn something new and every day, every person is more enriched and enlivened by their experience. I am grateful that at Aim High we ask questions instead of accepting answers. I am grateful for every colleague and student I have had the pleasure of working with at Aim High!

With much love and respect to all this holiday season,

~**Anna, Intern at Aim High Gateway**

Here's why I am grateful for Aim High. I am grateful for Aim High for giving the inspiration to be a teacher. I am grateful for students' curiosity and enthusiasm. I am grateful for the bonds that form in the Aim High family. I am grateful for the everlasting memories, such as the performances, cheers of excitement, high fives, and the classic Aim High Lick Wilmerding champion pose. I am grateful for all of the lives that has touched and inspired me not to just be a better teacher, but a better overall person.
~**Christina, Intern @ Aim High Lick Wilmerding**

My name is Winnie and I was a student at Aim High during the 2000-2002 summers; I was also a TA at the Yick Wo Campus for the last four summers.

Words will never really be able to describe how special Aim High is to me. Aim High provided me with a safe environment to speak my mind, have fun, and to just be myself. Going to Aim High never felt like going to summer school and the time always flew by so quickly. The years I have spent with this program have been the best of my life. I feel so cheesy saying this, but I know for a fact that I would not be the person that I am today if I had not been fortunate enough to go through Aim High. My wish is that everyone can experience the magic of Aim High because it is truly something unbelievable. While I know that I cannot always be a part of this amazing program, I know Aim High will always be a part me. I love Aim High.

Sincerely,

~**Winnie, Aim High grad, TA, Aim High Yick Wo**

I am grateful for Aim High simply because of the feelings that the program entails. Aim High is about more than just going through the motions and surviving another

mundane workday. When I awoke with the rising of the sun five days a week, I did not feel the same lethargy or grogginess that I felt waking up at that very same time just a few years ago. I always awoke with feelings of great energy and vigor for the day ahead.

In an increasingly cynical and fast-paced world, it is easy to forget about enjoying life and being passionate about one's work. This does not mean that one does not apply himself or herself to the day's work, but often, one becomes locked in a monotonous, dragging routine of waking up, going to work or school, going to bed, and then hitting a repeat button as the day resets. I know I became lost in a cycle just like that one when a new semester starts, completely closing myself off from the rest of the world in an attempt to survive the rigors of higher education. Aim High was a refreshing change of pace for me, and it was one that I did not know I needed until it was presented to me. For this, I am grateful. I am just thankful that I was privileged enough to be able to slow down and experience such passion for the work I did.

~**Danny, Aim High Gateway**

Many thanks to all who shared your Aim High experience with us! If their stories have inspired you to share your Aim High experience, please email us at,

studentcenter@aimhigh.org.

Or mail to:

Aim High
P.O. Box 410715
San Francisco, CA 94141

We appreciate all of the Aim High students, families, graduates and staff members for inspiring one another to **reach for your dreams!**

The 411 on Aim High Tutoring

What? Free After-School tutoring
Who? all Aim High students
Where? three Bay Area locations:

Drop In!

The Urban School of San Francisco
1563 Page Street between Masonic
and Ashbury Streets
Mondays and Wednesdays
3:30 to 5:00 PM
Ask for room number at front desk
Coordinator: Savannah Woods

And...

Lick-Wilmerding High School
755 Ocean Ave. across from City College, SF
Tuesdays and Thursdays
3:30 to 5:30 PM
Coordinator: Roberta Chavez

And...

Bishop O'Dowd High School
9500 Stearns Avenue, Oakland
Room 216
Tuesdays and Thursdays
3:15 to 5:00 PM
Coordinator: Sarah Bremer

Questions or more information about all tutoring sites contact:
Michelle Burns at
415-551-2320 or
mburns@aimhigh.org

