Alice Fong Yu Alternative School Welcomes Student Delegation from Xi’an, China

WHAT
Today, Alice Fong Yu Alternative School, the nation’s first Chinese language immersion public school, welcomes a delegation of educators and middle school students from two premier schools in Xi’an, China as part of its annual cultural exchange program.

The California Department of Education honored Alice Fong Yu as a 2012 California Distinguished School and named its exchange program a “Signature Practice” in contributing to the success of students.

WHEN
Wednesday, August 21 – Monday, August 26, 2013

WHERE
Alice Fong Yu Alternative School / 1541 12th Avenue

WHO
• Alice Fong Yu students, faculty & parents
• Students & educators from Xi’an, China

WHY
Since 2005, Alice Fong Yu (AFY) has provided visitors from its sister schools in China an immersive study tour experience as part of its annual US-China Cultural Exchange Program, which is designed to enhance bilingual and bicultural exposure for students and teachers.

This year, AFY families will host 40 middle school students and six adult educators visiting from Qujiang No.1 High School and Shaanxi Normal School in Xi’an, the capital of Shaanxi Province.

“The exchange program is an important collaboration between Alice Fong Yu and its sister schools in China,” said Principal Liana Szeto. “Our students absorb the cultural aspect of the program, hone their language skills, and expand their horizons.”

Earlier this year, AFY sent its eighth graders on a two-week study tour to China, where they stayed at the homes of students from their sister schools in Xi’an. The trip is a culmination of eight years of study (K-8) of the Chinese language and an opportunity to experience Chinese culture firsthand.

About Alice Fong Yu Alternative School
Alice Fong Yu Alternative School (尤方玉屏學校) is the nation’s first Chinese immersion public school. Established in 1995, the school is located in San
Francisco’s Inner Sunset neighborhood and is named after San Francisco’s first Chinese American teacher. Students have the opportunity to acquire Cantonese (K-8) and Mandarin (6-8) with a strong focus on high academic achievement and student leadership. Alice Fong Yu seeks to prepare students to be responsible stewards of the environment by making informed choices about their consumption of the earth’s natural resources. Its mission is to prepare its students to become caring, responsible, and competent citizens with Chinese bilingual skills and global perspectives.

AUDIO/ VISUAL: Visiting students will experience structured classroom activities with the school faculty, including science, American college counseling, wrestling and American football, gardening, ceramics, and scrapbook-making. They will also spend time with their host families for an immersive experience in American language, food, customs and family life. Students will tour Stanford University and UC Berkeley, visit San Francisco landmarks, and attend a typical American middle school dance at AFY. At a farewell event, visiting students and AFY student leaders will share what they learned from each other.

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