
How does FAB work here at AMS?

Our FAB exchange is with our sister school, Robles Tovar in Esperanza, Mexico. This is the twenty-fifth year of our exchange. Since the 1992-93 school year when we began, more than 1,200 students (and their families) have participated as ambassadors and alternate ambassadors. More than 1,500 adults have participated directly as visitors and/or hosts during the exchanges.

Each school year we begin with an student informational meeting. There are many components to the program, including:

- students who wish to host complete an application
- students attend monthly meetings
- students participate in fundraising events
- students maintain good grades and behavior
- teachers are asked to evaluate each student (confidential).
- AMS students who wish to host their partners in their homes for 5 days
- Students not hosting, but active in the FAB/HATB club are able to participate in all activities during the student visit

Friendship
knows no
borders



Why the community of Esperanza?

In Esperanza, there is a sense of history, civic pride, and community. It is a small town, where people know each other. It is a typical Mexican community, rich in culture.

What happens during the student exchange?

During the exchange students, parents and teachers participate in events that are carefully planned and orchestrated.

Some of the events that have taken place here at AMS are as follows:

- Tour of B.O.B. and America West Arena
- Outing to the Phoenix Science Museum
- Excursion to the Phoenix Zoo
- Shopping at the Arizona Mills Mall
- Family picnic
- School dance
- Party in one of our HATB family homes
- Tour of DVHS and Metro Tech High Schools
- Amazing Jakes or other fun activity
- Activities at the AZ Sonora Desert Museum
- Activities at the Reiny Day Ranch
- Outing to the Musical Instrument Museum

What is Friends Across Borders?

FAB is a cross-cultural exchange program between students in the United States and Mexico dedicated to the improvement of cultural sensitivity and understanding among citizens of the border states of Mexico and the United States through educational school exchange programs. Through FAB, students are not only able to learn about a culture different than their own, they are able to experience it first hand.

For more information visit the AMS FAB
website at:
www.kyrene.org/lvanover



Why FAB/HATB?

For 21st century success, students need to be able to think critically, communicate clearly, be culturally aware and adaptive, and possess the judgment and open-mindedness to make complex decisions. They will be expected to adapt and collaborate with others on a global playing field, requiring tolerance, flexibility, reasoning, the willingness to consider alternative perspectives, and the ability to articulate one's ideas successfully. HATB is the perfect opportunity for our students to gain such skills in a real-life setting!

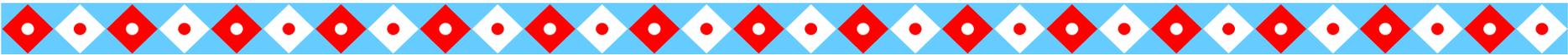
La amistad
no tiene
fronteras.



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Akimel A-al Middle School
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FAB Program Coordinators:
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How is our HATB/FAB program financed?

Transportation fees, entrance fees and all other costs are paid for by monies which come from direct donations from families (usually \$50 per family), grants, and fundraising activities. It is our belief that when students participate in raising the funds needed to run the program, they have an ownership of the program and feel connected to it. For this reason, we ask and encourage students to participate in fundraising activities.

What kind of time commitment does the FAB program require?

HATB requires a commitment from student ambassadors and their parents/guardians. It is critical in a program such as this that the coordinators get to know each student and their family. Student ambassadors attend monthly meetings. Meetings are after school once per month on Tuesdays from 3:30 to 4:15 pm in room B1. We also schedule one Cultural Workshop (usually in February or March), from 9:30 am to noon. In addition, for our hosting ambassadors, when their Mexican partner is here it is a family event. There will be many group activities planned. Student ambassadors also attend a study session, usually just before the 5 day exchange, where they will receive the assignments that they (will) have missed while participating in the exchange activities. Finally, ambassadors will participate in several fundraisers during the year to help raise the funds needed to run the program.

Who would make a good student ambassador?

Parents and students often ask this question. Based upon our twenty-two years of experience in this program, we have found the following qualities to be helpful. A student who:

- likes challenges and learning new things
- is flexible in his/her views and thinking
- would like to learn firsthand about how people in Mexico live; their language, customs and culture
- would be proud to represent our school, community, state and nation
- is willing to put time and effort into the FAB/HATB program
- enjoys meeting and making new friends
- would enjoy hosting a student from Mexico
- would enjoy participating in school and family activities with other FAB/HATB families

Could I still be involved with FAB, even if I wasn't able to host a Mexican student?

There are many students who are interested in learning more about the Mexican culture and language but are unable to host. These students are welcomed as FAB club members. They participate in all training and fundraising activities and meet the behavioral and grading criteria. They are able to participate in all FAB activities during the week that we host the students and adult chaperones from Mexico here in our community.

How are students selected as student ambassadors?

Students earn points for their involvement in program training and fundraising activities. Those activities include:

- students attend monthly meetings
- students participate in fundraising events
- students maintain good grades and behavior
- teachers are asked to evaluate each student (confidential)
- Students and parent(s) must attend a Cultural Workshop/informational meeting, usually scheduled in February or March

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