

***St. James A.M.E. Zion Church***

*825 Monte Diablo Avenue*

*San Mateo, CA 94401*

*(650) 343-1712*

*Rev. Marlyn R. Bussey, Pastor*



**Mr. Chris Norwood**  
**Bay Area Tutoring Association**  
**1546 Mt. Shasta Ave**  
**Milpitas, CA, 95035**

**September 4, 2013**

**Dear Chris,**

**Now that we've had a chance to catch our breath and reflect on what a life-changing week we experienced in our Math Intensive Pilot, I wanted to formally thank you and your team for a job well done!**

**Your company did an outstanding job all around. The project manager, Mark Ayers, was amazing to watch as he interacted with our initially shy group of 20 students, all students of color, not feeling too happy about their parents having taken a week of their summer for academic preparation. He modeled for the tutors how to quickly build relationship with the students and by the second day, we could see the students coming out of their shells, participating more and answering questions, though timidly. By day three, hands were flying up at all tables and there was an incredible energy in the room. The tutors, led by Mark, did such an outstanding job that students and parents requested that they continue to receive tutoring support weekly.**

**Your vision Chris, for all students to reach their full potential in math, in school and in life is inspiring and your enthusiasm is contagious. The parent program was successful in large part, because of your presentation and interaction with them, setting the stage for a week of hard but rewarding work, on Sunday. Our parents committed on that day, to attend all week long and I am very proud that 18 of the 20 students who began the program on Monday, along with their parents, attended all five days. The fact that in only five days scores from pre-assessment to post assessment improved by incredible 60+ percent is testament to everything you believe can happen for any student who is mentored and supported academically. I cannot thank you enough for showing us that we can make a positive difference in the lives of low achieving students through the creation of a consistent and positive academic learning environment complimented by parent empowerment programs. (Food, fun and prizes help too!)**

**We will continue the good work you've helped us to begin. And we are hopeful that with proper funding, we will be able to continue this and even greater work in partnership with you and the Bay Area Tutorial Association.**

**Sincerely,**

**Rev. Marlyn Bussey**  
**Pastor, St. James A.M.E. Zion Church**

***"Bringing people to Christ by taking Christ to people"***

*Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey the commands I have given you." Matthew 28:19-20*