PRESS RELEASE

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Two San Mateo-Foster City School District Teachers
Are Honored as Classroom Heroes

Foster City, CA – The San Mateo-Foster City School District is proud to announce that two San Mateo school teachers, Valerie Davidson and Danielle Tremain, were honored as “Symetra Heroes in the Classroom” by Symetra Financial, Wells Fargo and the San Francisco 49ers on September 8 and 16, 2011. Ms. Davidson and Ms. Tremain are two of 16 K-12 teachers in the San Francisco Bay Area who will be honored for educational excellence in the Symetra Heroes in the Classroom program during the 2011 NFL season. Teachers are recognized in front of their students and peers at surprise in-school presentations, and they receive a $1,000 donation for classroom books and supplies. In addition, they receive tickets to a 49ers home game and are acknowledged during on-field presentations at Candlestick Park.

Ms. Davidson teaches life skills, computer skills and creative writing at Abbott Middle School. “Connecting life skills to real life is key to Ms. Davidson’s success with students — she developed the new Life Skills curriculum specifically for our sixth graders to help ensure they’re armed with the tools they needs to succeed in middle school,” said Cathy Ennon, principal at Abbott Middle School. “She stays abreast of the latest innovations in technology, integrating the technical and the practical into her lessons.” Ennon nominated Davidson for the Symetra Hero in the Classroom award.

Ms. Tremain teaches a fourth- and fifth-grade combination class at College Park Elementary School. “Ms. Tremain’s classes are lively, interactive and engaging for every student. She never teaches a subject in isolation, but instead uses subject-matter standards to teach her students to think, apply their learning to multiple disciplines and thereby take ownership of their own learning,” said Diana Hallock, principal at College Park Elementary School. “Mrs. Tremain groups her students according to their needs, adjusting her lessons for each small group. Equally important, the groups are fluid so children are never stuck, but challenged at a pace and level that fits their learning style.” Hallock nominated Tremain for the Symetra Hero in the Classroom award.

Teachers may be nominated by their principal, district staff, student or student’s parent. The winners are selected based on their ability to balance the core curriculum with students’ individual needs; build trust among students, parents and the community; and invest in their students’ long-term success. More information about Symetra Heroes in the Classroom is available at http://www.symetra.com/heroes/fortyniners/Pages/fortyniners.aspx.
As part of her Symetra Hero in the Classroom recognition, Abbott Middle School teacher Valerie Davidson received a check for $1,000 for classroom books and supplies. Representatives from Symetra Heroes in the Classroom partners, the San Francisco 49ers and Wells Fargo, were on hand to make the surprise presentation to Ms. Davidson. Flanked by two San Francisco 49ers Gold Rush cheerleaders are (left) Patrick Gaughan, Wells Fargo VP and District Manager for Greater San Mateo; (center) Valerie Davidson; and (right) Joanne Pasternack, 49ers Director of Community Relations and the 49ers Foundation.

College Park Elementary School teacher Danielle Tremain wears her personalized San Francisco 49ers jersey, which she received as part of her Symetra Hero in the Classroom award. In addition to the jersey, Davidson received two tickets to the 49ers Sept. 18 home game against the Dallas Cowboys and was acknowledged during an on-field presentation at Candlestick Park.

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The San Mateo-Foster City School District operates 20 elementary and middle schools serving approximately 11,000 students from preschool through 8th grade. For more information, please visit the district website at [www.smfc.k12.ca.us](http://www.smfc.k12.ca.us).