



# Annual Report 2006-2007

## *School Improvement And Innovation Plan*

**Goal #1:** Irondale students will demonstrate increased achievement as measured by summative and/or formative assessments.

**Results:** Over the past few years, Irondale has focused on a system to better measure increased achievement at the classroom level so the school can achieve higher accountability for each student's learning. To meet this goal, teachers work collaboratively to use data from classroom assessments to make instructional decisions and work together to design common assessments and study lessons. As a team, teachers analyze the results from these tests to identify what has the greatest impact on learning. There is a great deal of work to be done in this area but, to date, Irondale has seen positive results from its efforts including:

- Increased achievement as measured by the MCA-II exam: our students far outscore schools with similar demographics in mathematics
- Increased scores on all strands of the ACT exam
- Increased participation on Advanced Placement exams
- Increased fitness levels of students participating in physical education

**Goal #2:** By June of 2008, tenth-grade students will demonstrate increased achievement in reading as evidenced by growth in scores the MCA-II assessments.

**Results:** Irondale students met or exceeded proficiency levels in reading when compared to schools with similar demographics.

Irondale teachers and staff will continue to work on increasing achievement in reading by emphasizing content area reading strategies and focusing on increasing academic vocabulary. The integration of reading and writing skills will also be a priority during the 2008-2009 school year.

## *Principal's Perspective*

During the 2007-2008 school year, Irondale experienced many successes. The school's goals were part of a several-year process that is yielding measurable results. As principal of Irondale, I am excited to see the positive changes taking place and am proud to be a part of a school that exemplifies what business, education, and community leaders strive for when they talk about accountability. This is the professional process that is required for high school reform. Teachers are working collaboratively to design instruction, to assess for learning, and to refine their efforts. With a lot to learn and achieve, Irondale's progress thus far has proved that the school is headed in the right direction. School efforts are being recognized and teachers and staff are being asked to share their work experience with other educators and educational policy administrators.

In addition to the academic growth and success we are experiencing at Irondale, we are enjoying a healthy learning climate. Efforts to provide a safe, respectful, and orderly environment were strong in 2007-2008 and will continue into 2008-2009. Our Student Council is kicking-off a character education initiative, our 'Be the One' campaign, and more than 200 student mentors were trained this past spring to work with incoming freshmen. In addition to our mentors and Student Council, we have an active Diversity Committee, Knights of the Roundtable, and the Student Task Force – all comprised of student leaders committed to making Irondale an inclusive and safe environment. It is only through a collaborative effort that we can build a school for which all can be proud.

