



Annual Report 2008-2009

School Improvement And Innovation Plan

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

Results: Irondale continues to place a strong emphasis on finding effective ways to better measure academic 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. 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 reading, mathematics and science.
- 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: ID students will demonstrate increased achievement in Reading and Math as measured on MCA exams:

- 61% of grade 11 students who participate in the MCA-II for Mathematics will meet or exceed the standards.
- 81% of the grade 10 students who participate in the MCA-II for Reading will meet or exceed the standards.

Results: Although we did not meet our target in mathematics (51%), we exceeded our target in reading (83%), and many Irondale students continue to meet or exceed proficiency levels in both mathematics and reading when compared to schools with similar demographics.

Irondale teachers and staff will continue to work on increasing achievement in mathematics by analyzing results of common and formative assessments and refine instructional efforts. Achievement in reading will be reached by emphasizing content area reading strategies and focusing on increasing academic vocabulary.

Principal's Perspective

During the 2008-2009 school year, Irondale experienced many successes. Our vision states we are *a Community Focused on Learning, Respect, Opportunity, and Pride in Achievement*. This is made possible because of our commitment to find value in each of the students we serve through a shared model of leadership and partnership with our parents.

The school's goals continue to yield measurable results. As principal of Irondale, I 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 2008-2009 and will continue into 2009-2010. Our Student Council is continuing with a character education initiative that demonstrated success last year, 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.

