

**Franklin Public Schools**  
**Davis Thayer Elementary School**

**School Improvement Plan**

**2010-2011**



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### Davis Thayer School Council Members 2009-2010

Carole Geer, Parent Representative  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Davis Thayer Elementary School is the oldest school in Franklin. It was built in 1924 and functioned as Franklin High School until the early 1960's. It currently has fifteen classrooms (kindergarten through fifth grade) located on three floors and in two modulars. The Davis Thayer gymnasium is in the basement. The class breakdown at Davis Thayer is as follows: two kindergarten classes, two first grade classes, three second grade classes, three third grade classes, three fourth grade classes, and two fifth grade classes. The Davis Thayer School houses 318 students (as of June 10, 2010).

The staff consists of fifteen certified full-time classroom teachers; two certified Title I teachers; nine part time certified personnel who provide specialist instruction in the areas of physical education, music, Spanish, and art; one full time nurse; one full time secretary; two custodians; three cafeteria staff; and three activity monitors. Davis Thayer students are also serviced by seven full time educational assistants; two part time educational assistants; a .5 Math Curriculum Enhancement Teacher; a Reading Specialist; a part time School Counselor; part time Speech and Language Therapist; 3 full time resource teachers; a part time English Language Learner teacher; a .5 Special Education Team Chair; a .5 Head Teacher and 1 administrator.

The ethnic make-up of our school population is: 90.5% white, 1.5 % African American, 2.5% Asian, .8% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, 3.8% Hispanic or Latino. 16 % of our students qualify for free or reduced lunch and 3.1 % come from homes where the first language is not English. Currently, students who receive Special Education services make up 16 % of the population. The Davis Thayer AYP report card indicates that students have met or exceeded the target in both ELA and Mathematics. Our students received a rating of very high in both areas.

The staff and students at Davis Thayer adhere to values and beliefs that are reflected in the Davis Thayer and District vision and mission.

## **Davis Thayer Mission**

The Davis Thayer community encourages students to become respectful and responsible citizens by nurturing self-esteem and a love of learning and fostering the ideals of excellence, courage, honor and service to others.



## **Franklin Public Schools ∞ Vision Statement**



The Franklin Public Schools will foster within its students the knowledge and skills to find and achieve satisfaction in life as productive global citizens.

## **∞ Franklin Public Schools Mission Statement**



The Franklin Public Schools, in collaboration with the community, will cultivate each student's intellectual, social, emotional and physical potential through rigorous academic inquiry and informed problem solving skills within a safe, nurturing and respectful environment.

## ∞ Franklin Public Schools Core Values ∞

### **Student Achievement**

All students are entitled to academic excellence, appropriate facilities and quality materials and instruction.

### **Social / Civic Expectations**

Students will become engaged, responsible citizens who respect the dignity and diversity of all individuals and cultures.

### **School Climate**

Through our words and our actions, we create a culture of civility, thoughtfulness, appreciation and approachability.

### **School / Community Relationships**

An active commitment among family, community and schools is vital to student learning.

### **Community Resources for Learning**

We partner with all members of the community to exchange ideas, solve problems and build a comprehensive educational experience.

## ∞ Franklin School Council Mission ∞

The mission of the Davis Thayer School Council is to assist the principal in the following:

- Identifying the educational needs of our students
- Adopting educational goals for our school
- Reviewing our school's annual budget
- Formulating a School Improvement Plan for the Davis Thayer School

# **PROGRESS ON GOALS FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

## **2009-2010**

### **GENERAL GOAL # 1 Literacy- Ongoing**

**Goal: Davis Thayer Elementary School students will increase reading achievement by utilizing targeted reading comprehension strategies while reading instructional and independent texts and continuing in the Reader's Workshop model.**

Student achievement in reading has increased in all grade levels as measured by school based assessments (DRA, GRADE, running records) and MCAS testing in grades three through five. The Davis Thayer AYP report card shows that our students are performing at very high levels in English Language Arts. All teachers implemented the Reader's Workshop model in their classrooms for three to five days a week for the entire year. Students are reading for longer periods of time and demonstrating increased interest and excitement in reading for pleasure. End of year testing (DRA and GRADE) indicates that 92% of students in grades one through five met benchmark expectations. Teachers have continued to receive intensive professional development in implementing reading strategy instruction, assessing and analyzing student progress, and establishing a management system. Teachers have met monthly in professional learning communities to share results, learn new information, and set goals.

### **GENERAL GOAL #2: COMMUNICATION- Completed**

**Goal: Students will demonstrate the values in the school mission statement and practice the rules and expectations established in the Student Handbook in the school environment.**

At the beginning of the 2009 school year, every student received a Davis Thayer Student Handbook with relevant policies written in "kid friendly" terms. The contents were reviewed by teachers at the beginning of the school year and students and parents signed an agreement to review the handbook at home. This was favorably received by parents and teachers. Student discipline referrals fell from 120 during the 2008-09 school year to 41 for the 2009-10 school year.

The Davis Thayer School Council worked on creating visual representations of the core values: Courage, Honor, Excellence, and Service to Others. Students voted on their favorite visual for each of the values.

Over the summer, posters will be made and displayed in classrooms. Although this goal is completed, the general goal will be continued in the new bullying prevention goal.

**GENERAL GOAL #3: COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP-Completed**  
**Goal: Davis Thayer staff will work collaboratively to problem solve.**

This goal was created as a result of a MassTells survey given to professional staff in the spring of 2008. Teachers felt they needed more time to collaborate. They also wanted an effective system for group decision making. The Davis Thayer Collaborative Leadership Council was formed to meet those needs. Membership on the Council was voluntary and included representatives from each grade level, a special educator, the head teacher, and the principal. A vision statement was formulated as well as a process for bringing problems to the group. The Council met periodically during the past two school years to tackle problems relevant to Davis Thayer. Members discussed agenda items such as a bully prevention program, school store, and procedures for special events.

**GENERAL GOAL #4: MATH- Ongoing**  
**Goal: Davis Thayer Students, who are at risk for math failure, as measured by MCAS and Everyday Math profiles, will improve their skills through targeted practice in essential skills.**

Sixteen students from grades 3-5, selected on the basis of their Everyday Math year end assessments and MCAS results, participated in additional tier 2 (30-40 minutes 3-5 days a week) small group instruction targeted on essential number sense skills. Students received small group support from the Math CET and they participated in the Before School Math Club. Pre and post testing was implemented approximately every four weeks. The testing data indicated solid gains for all students participating in this initiative. The average pretest score was 61% and the average post test score was 85%. The program will be continued and expanded to include more advanced skills next year.

## **2010-2011 GOAL STATEMENTS**

The Davis Thayer Elementary School will adopt four goals. The first goal is a multi year goal and it relates to the District literacy initiative. Literacy is the cornerstone of elementary instruction and we are always pursuing ways to advance our students' reading achievement. Professional development throughout the year will address the next phase of the literacy initiative: implementation of Reader's Workshop four to five times a week throughout the school year; development and implementation of additional comprehension units; and using data to match readers to book and inform instruction. Reader's Workshop consists of whole class focus lessons, individual and small group conferencing, and group sharing. The expectation is that students will increase reading achievement through targeted instruction and increased student participation in "just right" books that this model promotes.

The next goal is also carried over from the 2009-2010 SIP. This goal targets math achievement in underperforming students. Students will be chosen on the basis of Everyday Math tests and MCAS results. Tier 2 services will be implemented for 30 minutes a day in addition to regular classroom math instruction. Emphasis will be on developing the essential number sense skills that are needed for higher math reasoning.

The third goal focuses on improving the effectiveness of the Response to Intervention model currently in place. More effective use of data to identify at risk students, drive instruction, and monitor progress will be the focal point of this goal.

The fourth and final goal relates to the new bullying prevention law recently enacted by the Massachusetts Legislature. Davis Thayer will work to establish strategies to comply with the law and the District plan and policies.