FRANKLIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Franklin School Committee 2008-2009: (Back row) Edward Cafasso, Jeffrey N. Roy (Chair), Matthew Kelly (Front row) Susan Rohrbach, Cora Armenio, Roberta Trahan and Paula Mullen (Vice Chair)

The 2008-2009 school year was one filled with numerous activities, initiatives and accomplishments within the eleven schools that make up the Franklin Public Schools. Our high school, three middle schools, six elementary schools and early childhood development center housed 6,232 students when we calculated our official school census on October 1, 2008.

School District Budget

School district planning and town appropriation for the 2008-2009 school year provided schools with \$49,940,242. This decrease in funding is reflective of a major change in which all responsibilities, costs and funding for services related to school buildings and grounds were transferred to the municipal side of town government. In June 2009 a level funded budget of \$50,297,820 was adopted. Revenue from the federal stimulus package and wage deferments from the administration, Central Office Support staff and the Franklin Educators Association prevented widespread staff reductions in all of our schools.

Student Enrollment

Our student enrollment continued to grow from 6,217 in 2007-2008 to 6,232 in 2008-2009. While elementary enrollment remained relatively flat, our

middle and high school enrollments continued their growth.

School Facilities

The town continued its effort to maintain and upgrade our public school buildings in 2008-2009. While most of our schools will need some minor physical improvements in the years to come, the physical needs at Franklin High School are the most urgent. The Town Council appointed a Building Committee to develop a plan to address facility needs at Franklin High School and develop a list of capital projects that will need to be addressed at the other schools over the next ten years. In May of 2009 the MSBA voted to authorize Franklin to complete a Feasibility Study to address the building needs at Franklin High School. Over the summer the facilities staff worked with the FHS administration to renovate and expand the Guidance Suite and the Main Office. The changes will enable the facility to be more welcoming and user-friendly to the students, staff and community. Additionally the Town Council voted to appropriate funds to upgrade technology at Franklin High School so the facility will be wireless during the 2009-2010 school year.

F.X. O'Regan Early Childhood Development Center

The Franklin Public School's F. X. O'Regan Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC) continues to be very successful public preschool program. The ECDC staff members provide special education services to children with disabilities in this typical preschool setting.

The ECDC was recently re-accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and continues to meet the high standards required by state and federal agencies.

Davis Thayer Elementary School

Davis Thayer continues to offer its students a myriad of academic, enrichment, and cultural programs. A variety of Before School programs are offered to students free of charge including remedial math and reading clubs, enrichment math programs, Student Council, and Breakfast Book Club. This year students started the Bobcat Buddies Club for the purpose of recognizing and rewarding kindness to others. All Davis Thayer students are encouraged to read widely through a school wide home reading initiative. The Davis Thayer Parent Communication Council raises funds to enrich the learning experiences of its students through a variety of cultural and curriculum related programs.

Teachers continue to strive to find ways to increase student achievement. This year three staff members were awarded FEF grants. Margaret Miller received a grant to pilot an intervention program for at risk math students. Alysa Buchanan and Deb Ward received a grant to establish a library for English Language Learners.

Every year the students at Davis Thayer practice the core value "Service to Others". This year several worthy projects were spearheaded by the Davis Thayer Student Council including donations to the Franklin Food Pantry, the Franklin War Memorial, the American Heart Association, and the American Cancer Association.

Davis Thayer staff and students are proud of the rich history and tradition of the Davis Thayer School. The school celebrates by hosting a Founder's Day each June. Former graduates are invited to an afternoon of original songs celebrating the history of the school and guided tours of the building.

Jefferson Elementary School

During the 2008/2009 school year, the students of the Jefferson school were busy completing an A-Z book with our artist-in-residence, Michelle Turner. Two years ago our students wrote the manuscript with a well-known children's author Brad Herzog. This past year the students learned about illuminating letters as they completed the book for publication. Do stop by our school lobby to see the collage of illustrations and check out our published book in the library! Thanks again to our PCC for supporting our artist-in-residence program.

Once again our students participated in a supplementary reading program during which children read books throughout the spring and were treated to visits from local celebrities. At a culminating activity, Senator Brown and representative Vallee were among our invited guests. Children received a free book for their participation in the three-month program and ice cream treats were enjoyed by all. Special thanks are offered to our parent volunteers and our reading specialist, Sarah Klim, for coordinating this exciting program.

Helen Keller Elementary School

2008-2009 marked the seventh year that the Helen Keller Elementary School has been open. In 2008-2009, the school's enrollment jumped to 640 students making it the second largest school in the Franklin district. Due to a very active Parent Communication Council, our students were able to actively participate in numerous field study activities. Some of them include, but are not limited to Davis Farmland, the Museum of Fine Arts, the Museum of Science, Plimoth Plantation, the Roger Williams Zoo, and Stony Brook Nature Center. In addition, the PCC brought to our students numerous curriculum enhancing programs that helped them learn using multiple modalities. Our students met authors who explained the process of writing books. They were visited by reptiles and birds of prey. They experienced story tellers, marionettes and musical performances. Arts Night at Keller showcased the creativity of our students in the areas of music, art and Spanish. During Arts Night, parents viewed students' art portfolios; they watched a music class in session, and they heard their children sing to them in Spanish. Two instrumental and choral concerts in December and May showcased the musical talents of our fifth graders. Family community activities sponsored by Keller School and the Keller PCC included the Fall Holiday Bazaar, Family Game Night, Book Bingo, and the Spring Fun Fair. All of these activities were designed to bring our families together for some fun activities and social enjoyment. These activities are generously run by the Keller PCC parents and are manned by volunteers from our parents, staff, the YMCA, St. Mary's Youth Group, Franklin High School students, and Sullivan Middle School students. The older youth in Franklin have been very generous with their volunteer time to work with and play with our youngest students during these Students at Keller are serviced by 27 events. classroom teachers, 3.5 special educators, a reading specialist, a speech and language therapist and a Helen Keller Elementary school psychologist. School continues to build new traditions annually as we build our culture and respond to our mission. Through the support of the School Committee, the Town Council and the community at large, we aspire to continue giving our youngest citizens the finest academic experience that we are able.

Kennedy Elementary School

Awards and Honors: Judi Bohall, our librarian, and Jeannine Perry, our Physical Education teacher, were awarded a \$1700 FEF Grant for the establishment of a "Walking and Listening Club." Students will be able to listen to books on tape while walking a route on our school grounds during recess time. Our PCC's Yearbook Committee won an "Honorable Mention" in the Lifetouch "Best of the Best Yearbook Contest."

Special Programs: 99% of our students in grades 1-5 completed and returned their Summer Reading Logs. Our first Student Council was elected in January 2009. The dedicated 4th and 5th grade students ran a successful food drive for the Franklin Food Pantry, held a school spirit day, and launched a school store. Our School Council conducted an online survey of our parent community in May. Community Service

Contributions: Winter gift drive to support the American Red Cross of Massachusetts. School Council sponsored Food Drive to benefit Franklin Food Pantry.

Changes in Staff: We welcomed Catherine Coyne, our special education resource teacher and Brigid Dailey, our Spanish teacher, to our faculty.

Special Events hosted: JFK participated in National Mix It Up Day on November 13th. Student volunteers at each grade level were randomly assigned to sit at tables at lunch with peers. Our art teacher, Sarah Vadeboncoeur, coordinated our first Art Show during an evening Book Fair. Our second graders pledged a three day "No TV or Computer Use."

Oak Street Elementary School

Some of the highlights of the 2008-2009 school year were the winter and spring 5th grade music concerts, the Read Across America Celebration and the School and Community formed a partnership with the Senior Center for monthly class visits.

Noteworthy community service contributions were the 5th grade DARE program sponsored by the Franklin Police Department and Fire Safety presented to each grade by the Franklin Fire Department. We also made donations for Franklin Food Pantry and participated in the Relay for Life.

Special events hosted this year were the 5th grade Invention Convention, field trips and enrichment programs funded by the PCC, an all school fun day and an all School Arts Night. Each grade level also had an end-of-the-year celebration for families.

The Oak Street students raised funds for the Veterans Memorial, Jump Rope for Heart, Daffodil Days for Cancer and the Franklin Food Pantry. They also planted a tree at the Oak Street Elementary School.

Parmenter Elementary School

This year we had a Geography Bee Winner in grade 5. Jean Wolf received a grant from the FEF to obtain literacy materials to support the Reader's Workshop model at each grade level for our bookroom. Kathy Carlson, Tricia Capaldi and Jolene Cronin received a FEF grant to improve literacy in grades 3-5. Liz Phillips (kindergarten) received her Master's degree in special education.

Students in grades 1-5 competed in the continental Math League twice during the school year. All teachers were trained in the Reader's Workshop model and implemented the launching unit. We received another grant from the Harvard-Pilgrim HMO which was supplemented by funds from the Parmenter PCC to purchase MP3 players and download books so that students could walk and read during recess. The Homework Club was staffed on a volunteer basis by Parmenter teachers and Assistants Educational to offer Homework assistance to students in grades 3-5 after school. Reading and Math Clubs were programs offered by trained Educational Assistants on a volunteer basis to assist students in grades 4-5 with reading and math needs before or after school. Our Reading Specialist and two Lab teachers (Jean Wolf, Tricia Capaldi and Wendy Carnaroli) began a Thursday afternoon Reader's Workshop Support program to help teachers as they implement Reader's Workshop into their literacy block. We purchased the Accelerated Reader program and trained grades 3-5 teachers in its use.

Noteworthy Community Service Contributions: Franklin Food Pantry Giving Program; Snack Drive sponsored by the Student Council to benefit Friends of Franklin; The Student Council organized a number of community based giving programs including raising money to help build an addition to the Veteran's Memorials on the town common. The Student Council sponsored five Spirit Days for students/staff throughout the year. We sponsored a scholarship in memory of our late colleague, Janna Paster, which was awarded to Sarah Coughlin, a former student of Janna's who will be attending Framingham State College, and is planning to enter the nutrition education field. We raised money through Friday "dress down" days to award camp scholarships to several needy students and sponsored a Parmenter Scholarship which was awarded to Brian Tougias, a former student who aspires to be a physical education/health teacher. Parmenter was represented at the Relay for Life by staff and parents; The Student Council organized Daffodil Days to benefit the American Cancer Society; The Franklin police sponsored the DARE program in grade 5; Deb Howe, our PE teacher, organized "Jump Rope for Heart" to benefit the American Heart Association.

Two new Smartboards were purchased in grades 4 and 5 – teachers who received them also received training on how to most effectively use them. New fencing was installed around the modular section of the building. Our inside hall fire doors were magnetized so that they automatically close during a fire drill.

Aprile Albertelli, Head Teacher and SPED Team Chair finished the principal certification program through MSSAA. We lost one position due to the budget cuts. Mrs. Theresa D'Amato retired in June 2009 after a long and successful career. We hosted four Framingham State College student teachers during the first semester. 16 teachers were recertified this year. Mrs. Kathy Carlson (grade 3) was elected to be a library trustee in Mendon, MA.

Special events hosted at Parmenter Elementary School this year were: Newcomer's Tea for parents

new to Parmenter; Tours of the building for new students and families: Tea to welcome new staff members; Fall Hoedown so that families get to know each other; Night of the Arts; Talent Show; Family Fitness Nights: Our EAs coordinated rallies for the Red Sox and Patriots; Spring Ice Cream Social; Field Day; Memorial Day Commemoration; Winter and Spring concerts featuring the grade 5 Instrumental and Choral students; Cultural Programs including Fox 25's Sky Fox, Simple Machines, Author Peter Arenstam, the Bamidele Dancers, Colonial America and Bullying; Each grade went on a field trip (K- Southwick's Animal Farm, Grade 1 -Discovery Science Museum, Grade 2 - Stonybrook and Franklin tour, Grade 3 - Plimoth Plantation, Grade 4 - Boston Museum of Science, Grade 5 -Freedom Trail, Primary Learning Center - Roger Williams Zoo, Elementary Learning Center -Animal Adventures).

Horace Mann Middle School

The past academic year revolved around a focus for helping students to discover their interests and passions. Trips to Boston University Medical School, Northeastern University, MIT, the Laborer's Institute and a partnership with the Museum of Fine Arts in Worcester, gave opportunities for our students to explore the many options for their life's work! Theatre experiences, visitors from NASA and the Boston University Archaeology Department rounded out the experience.

Our Drama Club won a gold medal in the statewide Middle School Drama Festival; our music ensembles earned silver and bronze medals at the M.I.C.C.A festival. Students competed in the National History Day competition (with two students going on to compete at the national level).

Our math team competed admirably, with one sixth grade student, earning highest scoring honors among all sixth graders in the region!

A visit from nationally renowned author, Roland Smith, complemented the powerful district-wide reading initiative. Writing and organizational/study skills were additional areas of focus! A productive year!

Remington Middle School

This school year was marked by a change in administration as Paul Peri served as principal, and Shawn Fortin served as assistant principal.

The administration, staff, and students of RMS celebrated many successes during the 2008-2009 school year. Once again, RMS served as a New

England League of Middle Schools (NELMS) Spotlight School. Several middle schools from all over New England visited Remington to learn more about our experiences with Student-Led Conferencing, the Advisory Program, the Teaming model, curricular integration, the Unified Arts program, and school climate/ culture.

As a school community we engaged in the first year of the district-wide literacy initiative. Several of our teams engaged in community service/ Green projects and have made a positive impact on their homes, Seventy-five eighth graders school, and town. experienced our nation's capital this year during their April vacation. Many of our students' art work was displayed in a variety of locations around the town of Franklin. And for the first time ever, RMS teachers competed against their students in various athletic events. Finally, a very powerful motivational speaker named Jeff Yalden spoke to our school, sharing his message of "Take Time To Think!"

Annie Sullivan Middle School

The 2008 – 2009 school year at Annie Sullivan was a most successful one. The District Literacy initiative ignited some outstanding learning opportunities for students, as teachers focused on having students reading wider and deeper in all subjects. Students in eighth grade read the renowned novel To Kill A Mockingbird and gained a deeper understanding of enduring issues such as poverty, and racism. Students were struck by many of the haunting similarities from the 1930s and the present. Seventh grade students once again were mesmerized by famous author Yoko Kawashima Watkins as she related her life story and shared her beliefs about world peace. This year sixth grade students were able to hear author, Susan V. Bosak who wrote the book, Dream: A Tale of Wonder, Wisdom and Wishes. Students then recorded their dreams and sent them to another school which is part of the author's dream - students around the world sharing their dreams and aspirations with one another in order to see how more alike they are than different.

In addition to challenging and rigorous academic experiences students at Annie Sullivan reached out and helped local charitable organizations as well as reaching beyond our community. Students raised money for the new War Memorial on the Franklin common, and held a toothbrush drive for an orphanage in Uganda. Other charitable initiatives throughout the year included a coat drive in the fall, a visit to Milford Geriatric facility to make pins for the residents; a bake sale for Canine Companions, a school wide fundraiser for Dana Farber and a can drive for the Franklin food Pantry. Students generously gave of themselves to help others. This is truly another year that we can be proud of the students at Annie Sullivan Middle School

Lifelong Learning Institute

The 2008/2009 school year marked the 11th year of educational opportunities the Lifelong Learning Institute provides for Franklin residents. This year LLL offered the following programs: Adult Education, Extended Enrichment for Elementary School Students, Honor Band, MCAS Academic Support in math, English and biology, Private Music Lessons, Solutions Extended Day Enrichment Program, String School of Franklin, and the Summer Program, which is a composite of 8+ individual initiatives: Academic Support for Middle & High School Students, Gianormous, the High School Experience, Solutions Summer Adventure, Sports Clinics, STAR, Summer Art Institute, and the multifaceted Summer Music Program.

In addition to stand-alone classes and programs, LLL partnered with the high school on the webbased learning system, PLATO, as well as online academic programs. This year Lifelong Learning, the High School and the Technology Department piloted Moodle, an open source web-based course management system that enables our faculty, staff and administrators to expand the reach of teaching and learning. LLL also partnered with the high school to celebrate the Class of 1959, Golden Graduates of FHS. This summer LLL partnered with the high school once again through the High School Experience for the Class of 2013. Recognizing and respecting all members of the Franklin Public Schools community, current and past, enriches the lives of every Franklin resident. Lifelong Learning is a self-sustaining program that provides teaching and learning opportunities to the Franklin community.

School Business Office

This year the school business office decentralized the time and attendance reporting process in an effort to further streamline payroll processing. School secretaries attended a half-day training session to learn how to input their school's attendance data. This saved the secretarial staff valuable time in recording this information on paper and sending it to the payroll office, and it saved the payroll office the time of keying this information. It has worked well this year and will continue on an ongoing basis. We have also better utilized other features of the payroll system to further maintain accuracy and accountability in reporting.

School Foodservice - The school foodservice department was computerized this year in order to increase efficiency and improve accuracy in reporting. Touch screen computers were installed in each school and students were reminded of their ID to access the system. Foodservice workers were trained in the use of the system both at the point of sale, and in the reporting processes. Parents were notified of this change and that they can still prepay their child's account to minimize the transaction time during lunch. Looking forward, we hope to have the opportunity for parents to pay and monitor their child's lunch account online for a nominal fee. Funding for this project was through the School Lunch Account which can only be used for school lunch program related purchases.

Human Resources

The mission of the Human Resources Department is to support the goals and challenges of Franklin Public Schools by providing services which promote a work environment that is characterized by fair treatment of staff, open communications, personal accountability, trust and mutual respect. We will continue to seek and provide solutions to workplace issues that support and optimize the operating principles of the District and maximize the educational environment for all staff and enhance the climate of learning for all students by:

- Properly balancing the needs of the employees and the needs of the District.
- Ensuring a diverse workforce in a safe and discrimination/harassment-free environment by: maintaining compliance with employment laws and government regulations, providing administrative guidance and staff training, and developing policies and procedures.
- Providing training and development in areas of: effective leadership and evaluation, employment law and government regulation, and litigation/grievance avoidance.
- Hiring the most qualified staff by: pre-planning staffing needs, ensuring an effective internal interview process, increasing District visibility in the employment marketplace, identifying the best and most cost effective recruitment sources, and insuring thorough reference checks.
- Retaining our valued employees by: assuring effective leadership qualities in our administrators, working with our bargaining units and town partners to provide competitive

wages and benefits, facilitating interpersonal and professional mentoring and coaching opportunities to allow professional growth for our staff, and enhancing two-way communication between employees and management.

One of our many challenges this past year was in the area of recruitment. Many of our staff members are involved in the effort to recruit, train, develop, and retain talented employees through the creation of a positive workplace culture and filling jobs that will become even more vital -- and challenging -- as baby boomers start retiring in greater numbers and the pool of skilled workers decreases. This coming year there will be new administrators at the helm at FPS. We have promoted some of our most dedicated and talented staff with leadership aspirations to administrative positions where they will share their knowledge, enthusiasm and creativity in the roles of both school and district leadership.

Another area of focus for the Human Resources Department this past year has been to implement processes and technology to increase mandated reporting at both the state and federal level, allowing for better statistical analysis. We have also worked with our School Committee and Town Counterparts to establish contract and benefit packages, which will continue to allow our dedicated staff to maintain a quality of life while trying to keep associated costs within reasonable limits in this decreasing budget climate. We will work hard to maintain our goals and overcome these challenges as we move forward.

Technology Department Overview

The Technology Department is responsible for providing technological information services to both the Franklin Public School district and the Town of Franklin municipal departments. Although this consolidated structure is a rarity in this state we have been quite successful and are proud to be a model for future consolidations in other areas. The department consists of 8 full time and 1 part time dedicated professionals.

It's been a busy year for the Technology Department. The number and scope of our accomplishments clearly demonstrates the need for, and the benefit of, a well-staffed, well-trained department.

The following is a list of projects completed or started during the past year (some are still in progress). Please keep in mind that these projects are in <u>addition to</u> the everyday support that we provide to approximately 1000 staff (town *and* school) and over 6000 students utilizing 3000 computers and 47 servers all located on a widely distributed, complex data network. These projects are primarily enhancements to the current system and demonstrate the town's desire to embrace and utilize technology to its fullest extent.

- Purchase and deploy Sophos® antivirus security suite on all town and school computers/servers.
- Implement employee self service module for paperless paychecks for all employees
- Install/implement Public Library self checkout system.
- Install email archiving server to address federal compliance for data retention concerning electronic communications.
- Installation of town-wide fiber optic network (as funding permits)
- 200+ computer replacements including laptops and desktops.
- Computerized cafeteria student payment system (Nutrikids®)
- Implement associated online payment system for above.
- Implement/deploy Online Course Management system (CMS.Franklin.k12.ma.us)
- Install 34 Interactive whiteboards in schools
- Implement SNAP® School Nurse software (to track student visits)

Instructional Services

Several exciting instructional, programmatic and professional development initiatives continue to support excellence in educational learning experiences for students in the Franklin Public Schools.

District Literacy Initiative

The Franklin schools believe that all students should read widely and strategically, communicate effectively and think critically and creatively. Literacy IS the gateway to learning regardless of the subject area. Toward this end, teachers have been intensively working to implement the Readers Workshop structure in all elementary classrooms by researching best practices in reading instruction and assessment practices. At the middle level teachers investigated literacy strategies to strengthen instruction in all content areas. All general and Special Education teachers participated in over 30 hours of professional development during district release days and at faculty and department meetings. Lab classrooms were established in all K-8 buildings thus building in-house sustained professional development through coaching and modeling of the vision in action. Teacher feedback was very positive, citing deeper understanding of best instructional practices, greater use of assessments to inform instruction, a common instructional language for teachers, and increased reading time for students.

Literacy Leadership Committee (LLC)

As part of the literacy initiative the district supported a K-12 leadership team that worked to 1) Oversee the implementation of the district-wide literacy vision, 2) Monitor core instructional and assessment practices to support this vision, 3) Articulate professional development needs that support the vision, and 4) Draft a year-two action plan that would systemically support and sustain these goals. With continual feedback from faculty and administrators, the district met all goals: K-5 teachers launched readers workshop and set up classroom libraries to support this instructional model; Middle school teachers modeled reading and writing strategies in content area classrooms, shared their lessons and projects in an online conference, used a variety of text to teach content strategies, and

taught a common set of strategies. The LLC has finalized new literacy goals for 2009-2010 that continue the K-8 work of the district and plan to collaborate with high school faculty and administrators to expand the initiate at this level.

Data Warehouse, Growth Model Pilot

During the 2008-2009 school year, the Franklin Public Schools was invited to join fourteen other districts in a Department of Elementary and Secondary Education data project - The Growth Model Pilot. This project measures growth in student performance on MCAS, providing some perspective on how much growth is needed for a student to perform at the Advanced/Proficient levels and is a way to measure progress for students at all performance levels. E.g., a student can perform poorly but still improve relative to his academic peers. Conversely, another student could perform well but not improve much from year to year. This model provides districts with a measure of improvement even among those with low performance. It also gives high performing students and schools something to strive for beyond proficiency. As the district becomes more adept in using the growth model data tools, teachers and administrators will be able to use growth data to identify strengths and weaknesses in student performance beyond what we currently know from MCAS, target assistance, conduct program

evaluations, and eventually use growth rates to possibly predict if a student will meet competency determinations for high school graduation.

Response to Intervention/Instruction

Response to Intervention/Instruction (RtI) is the practice of providing high-quality instruction and tiered interventions matched to student needs. Student's progress is monitored regularly to make decisions about the effectiveness of instruction. Data is used to change instruction strategies or goals for the student and to make important educational decisions about more intensive interventions as well as classroom instructional strategies. The intent is to identify concerns early and avoid future learning gaps. This year, K-12 educators and administrators joined an RtI study group to research the core principals of this three-tiered framework and establish a common knowledge base. In addition, each school and level shared their current building practices as they relate to student support structures and RtI. Data collected suggests that while we have a common understanding of the RtI principles, the district has much work to complete in order to boast common implementation of services to students. The group's second year goal is to develop district RtI guidelines and implementation strategies that ensure that no child will fall between the cracks. Toward this end, the district has identified an expert in the field to facilitate this important work.

School Improvement Plans (SIP's)

School Councils are required to develop a SIP each year based upon data on school performance or needs assessment. The Educational Quality Assessment (EQA) Report of 2008, recommended that Franklin SIP's follow a common reporting format. As a result of that recommendation, School Plans Improvement now include common prescribed information in format: а acknowledgements, school profile, progress on current school goals, and identification of new school goals, including literacy and mathematics. The most significant change is the additional requirement of an action plan for each goal. The plan includes goal statements, root causes (why the goal is needed/necessary), implementation strategies, resources, indicators/measures of success, timelines and persons responsible. Academic goals also include instructional change objectives (what teachers will do) and student learning objectives (what students will demonstrate).

District Curriculum Work

Despite the loss of funds in the Instructional Services budget, the district was able to support a limited amount of curriculum development. In past years, each core content area (Math, Science, ELA and Social Studies) plus one specialist area (music, art, health/PE, foreign languages - rotating cycle) participated on K-12 curriculum teams, providing the district with opportunities to review current practice, update curriculum documents and grade level expectations in an ongoing process of research, review and revision. This year the district was able to fund one K-12 Art Curriculum team and provide grade levels or courses with project specific curriculum work. While the art department was able to revise their entire K-12 instructional expectations and documents, elementary lab classroom teachers and reading specialists developed comprehension units of study for use by all K-5 teachers. All middle school ELA teachers met by grade level to develop literature units that included common vocabulary, writing activities and assessments. Teachers developed additional instructional materials based on the strategies they were learning during literacy workshops and shared them with their grade level Additional curriculum work was colleagues. completed in all core subjects at the high school level.

<u>Textbook Purchases – Capital</u> <u>Improvement Funds</u>

Thanks to the generosity of the Franklin community, Town Administrator and Council members, the Franklin schools benefited from \$150,000 in Capital Improvement funds to purchase K-12 textbooks. A large portion of the funds purchased materials (nonfiction, literature/novels, primary source materials, web subscriptions, literacy assessments, anchor texts, and leveled readers) to support literacy instruction in the K-8 classrooms. Geography Alive! textbooks were purchased to support 7th grade Social Studies instruction while high school textbooks were purchased to update math, science, Social Studies, and foreign language instruction.

Elementary Report Cards go Digital with Grade Quick

Elementary report cards are FINALLY moving into the twenty-first century with the purchase of Grade Quick online report cards, the same vendor that provides middle and high school teachers with online access to maintaining their grade books and student reporting data. Over 30 teachers and elementary principals attended an online live demonstration and Q&A session last April with Grade Quick representatives. Highly impressed with

the product, attendees unanimously recommended the tool to replace the current word documents. A welcomed feature of the program includes a "comment bank." Teachers will be able to categorize and save personalized report card comments and drop them into the comment section of the report, alleviating hours of preparation time each reporting term. Parents will continue to receive a paper report and should notice no significant changes in the report card. All content will remain the same with relatively minor updates to some assessed learning standards. The document will still be a three-page report (assessment of learning standards, comments, specialists report). However, it will fit neatly on 8.5" x 11" paper rather than the previous legal sized report. A core group of teacher leaders will be trained to use the program and serve as building-based support for teachers during the fall 2009 implementation period.

District Report Cards and MCAS Performance

Franklin Public School students in grades 3-10 participated in state MCAS assessments in English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science/Technology Engineering during the 2008 school year. History Social Sciences assessments for grades 5, 7 and 10 were suspended for a two-year period due to diminished state funding. The District analysis of the 2008 MCAS data continues to identify the Franklin Public School System as a **"high performance" district** in all tests at all grade levels.

District MCAS Highlights

- Students in the aggregate (all students) continue to outperform the state on all tests in English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and Science/Technology Engineering (STE) by at least one performance rating.
- All 17 tests, including three Long Composition administrations in grades 4, 7, and 10, reflect a "High" (80-89.9) or "Very High" (90-100) performance rating.
- ELA Special Education subgroups outperformed state Special Education subgroups on all of the subject tests, with the exception of Grade 3 ELA (at state performance level).
- Low Income subgroups outperformed the state Low Income subgroups on 12 of the 17 tests and performed at the state level on 5 subject tests.
- 98 high school students were awarded the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship based on their Grade 10 MCAS performance. Students

qualified for this scholarship by scoring: (a) in the *Advanced* category in English Language Arts or Mathematics and *Advanced* or *Proficient* in the other subject area on the grade 10 MCAS assessments; and, (b) in the top 25% of the students in the district on these tests.

- District-wide elementary results in Mathematics identified all grades as top performers in the state when compared with grade level results of 306 district rankings. (Grade 3 ranked 23rd in the state; Grade 4 ranked 20th; Grade 5 ranked 28th in the state)
- Franklin High School's 10th grade ELA performed in the top 11% when compared with 282 high school rankings in the state. The 10th grade ELA/Math combined ranking placed Franklin High School students in the top 15% as compared to the same comparison group.

The complete MCAS report may be found on the Franklin Public Schools main web page at the following link:

http://www.franklin.ma.us/auto/schools/FPS/instr uct/MCAS/default.htm

District AYP Status

The district met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for 2008 in both ELA and Mathematics. This is an important improvement indicator for Franklin and identifies the district as "No Status" for three years running. The district has maintained this status for three years.

- Franklin met the AYP expectations in the aggregate and all subgroups in ELA and Math in grades 3-5.
- The district met AYP expectations in the aggregate in ELA and Math in grades 6-8. However, the Special Education subgroup in grades 6-8 did not meet AYP expectations for ELA or Math.
- In grades 9-12, Franklin met AYP expectations in the aggregate and all subgroups in both ELA and Math.

District and school NCLB Report Cards may be viewed on the Franklin Public Schools website at the following link:

http://www.franklin.ma.us/auto/schools/FPS/instr uct/nclbrptcd/default.htm

Franklin - 2008 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Data

District:	Franklin (01010000)
Title I District:	Yes

	NCLB Accountability Status	Performance Rating	Improvement Rating	
ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)	No Status	Very High	On Target	
MATHEMATICS	No Status	High	On Target	

GRADE SPANS - ELA		2007	2008	2008 Subgroups Not Making AYP
Grades 3-5	Aggregate	Yes	Yes	
Grades 5-5	All Subgroups	Yes	Yes	
Grades 6-8	Aggregate	Yes	Yes	Special Education -
	All Subgroups	No	No	Special Education -
Grades 9-12	Aggregate	Yes	Yes	
Grades 7-12	All Subgroups	No	Yes	

GRADE SPANS - MATHEMATICS		2007	2008	2008 Subgroups Not Making AYP
Grades 3-5	Aggregate	Yes	Yes	
Grades 5-5	All Subgroups	Yes	Yes	
Grades 6-8	Aggregate	Yes	Yes	Special Education -
	All Subgroups	No	No	Special Education -
Grades 9-12	Aggregate	Yes	Yes	
Grades 5-12	All Subgroups	Yes	Yes	

ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS HISTORY						NCLB					
		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Accountability Status
ELA	Aggregate	-	Yes	- No Status							
LLA	All Subgroups	-	-	-	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
MATH	Aggregate	-	Yes	No Status							
	All Subgroups	-	-	-	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	

Franklin High School

Academic Achievements: During FY2009, Franklin High School continued to provide a high quality education to students having performance ratings of "Very High" in both English Language Arts and Mathematics as reported on the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's website. In addition to achieving very high performance ratings the school met improvement goals in both areas.

Awards: Mr. Joseph Lynch and his Latin II team of Mike Harrigan, Stefan Herlitz, and Mike Hoang took second place at their level in the Latin Certamen (Competition) sponsored and hosted by Harvard University.

FHS athletes were successful during 2009. Thirteen teams qualified for the MIAA tournament. The FHS Wrestling Team won the Division 2 State Championship. Wrestlers James Koshivas took home the individual state championship for his weight class, and Dan Telhada went on to win the New England Championship. The FHS Varsity Cheerleading Team won the National Championship in Atlantic City. The Boy's Basketball, Boy's Lacrosse, and Wrestling teams won league championships, and the Boy's and Girl's Cross-Country teams each won the Hockomock League Sportsmanship Award. Overall, 46% of the student body participated on FHS sports teams.

The Boston Globe recognized seven Franklin High School students for their outstanding submissions to the 2009 Boston Globe Scholastic Art Contest. The students' work was recognized from over 5,000 entries from Massachusetts students in grades 7-12. Students recognized in this year's awards include: Jason Butera, Honorable Mention; Emily Cucalon, Silver Key; Elyssa Fernandes, Silver Key; Amber Shimkus, Honorable Mention; Kendall Skelly, Silver Key and Honorable Mention; Rachel Sterling, Honorable Mention; and Casey Wheaton, Silver Key.

Special Programs: During the school year, the faculty made strides in expanding access to the school's most rigorous curriculum through teacher participation in a Mass Insight professional development initiative which focused on integrating concepts found in Advanced Placement (AP) courses throughout curriculum in grades 9-12 and into the middle grades. Students who pass Advanced Placement Exams at the end of the course may receive college credit for courses completed in high school.

Community Relations: For the fourth year students at Franklin High School spent four weeks raising money for Heifer International, an organization devoted to ending hunger and poverty by giving families a way to produce food and goods for themselves rather than one-time aid relief. The students raised \$7229 in donations. This brings the total amount raised by Franklin High students for Heifer International over four years to approximately \$23,600 making Franklin High School one of the most successful high school contributors in the country.

As in the past, all senior students from the Franklin High School DECA marketing class contributed their business skills in accounting, marketing, and communication. Melissa McNeillie, a Franklin High senior and a DECA student, used her experiences from this fundraiser to prepare for her Community Service written event for her DECA competition. She presented her paper at the 2009 Massachusetts Regional DECA competition where she placed 4th, which qualified her to proceed to the Massachusetts State Competition.

For the DECA students particularly, and for the student body at large, this project encouraged life-long learning. At Franklin High School, the faculty, administration, and staff are dedicated to developing talents, creating new learning experiences, expanding knowledge, and promoting an understanding of the world.

Noteworthy Changes: In January, 2009, Peter Light became the principal of Franklin High School. Peter had previously served as an assistant principal, department director, and teacher at the high school.

In preparation for the 2010 school year, the school will unveil a new technology center which will feature two hundred laptops available for student use and a series of learning pods available for classes to use, a writing center to facilitate expanded focus on writing in a variety of styles, and a reconfiguration of the administration at the school to renew focus on academic life at the school.

Special Events: As a part of the Social Studies program, Congressman James McGovern, State Rep. James Vallee, State Senator Scott Brown, State Senator Karen Spilka, Town Council Chair Chris Feeley, and Town Manager Jeffrey Nutting discussed the state of the economy with Franklin High School students. As representatives from different levels of government, the panelists described to students how they attempted to meet the needs of their constituents and talked about the unique challenges and roles each level of government plays in their lives. In addition, Social Studies classes took field trips to participate in the McCain and Obama presidential campaign town meetings.

Graduation Data from the Class of 2009

Percent of students who graduated

Population	Graduation Status	Number of Students	Percent of Total Population
	Graduated	371	99%
Franklin High School Grade 12 Students	Did not graduate, but were still enrolled in FHS as of June 22, 2009	4	1%

Post graduation plans

Post Graduation Plans	Number of Students	Percent of Total Population
Four-Year Public College	142	38%
Four-Year Private College	120	32%
Two-Year Public College	30	8%
Two-Year Private College	4	1%
Other Post Secondary (Trade School)	13	3%
Work	18	5%
Military	6	2%
Other (e.g., travel, family)	18	5%
Plans Unknown	17	5%

Overview of Colleges/Universities FHS Class of 2009 will attend:

American University Anna Maria College Assumption College Mississippi State University Mount Ida College Mt. St. Mary's College

Art Institute of Boston Babson College Baran Institute of Technology **Baylor University** Becker College Bentley University Berklee College of Music Boston College Boston University Bridgewater State College Brigham Young University Bristol Community College Bryant University Bryn Mawr College Bucknell University Burlington College Catholic Univerity Champlain College Clearwater Christian College Coastal Carolina University College of Charleston College of the Holy Cross **Community College** of RI Curry College Dean College Embry Riddle University Emerson College Emmanuel College Endicott College Fairfield University Fitchburg State College Florida Institute of Technology Fort Lewis College Framingham State College Full Sail University George University University Georgia Tech University Gordon College Hillsdale College Johnson & Wales University Keene State College Laboratory Institute of Merchandising Landmark College

New England School of Photography New England Technical Institute New Hampshire Institute of Art New York University Nichols College Northeastern University Orange Coast College Penn State College Plymouth State College Providence College Queen's University Ouinnipiac University Quinsigamond Community College Rhode Island College Rider University Roger Williams University Roxbury Community College Sacred Heart University St. Anselm College St. Michael's College Salem State College Salve Regina University Simmons College Skidmore College Southern New Hampshire University Springfield College Stonehill College Suffolk University Syracuse University Temple University Tufts University University of Arizona University of Connecticut University of Hartford University of Louisville University of Massachusetts/Amherst University of Massachusetts/Boston University of Massachusetts/Dartmouth University of Massachusetts/Lowell University of Miami University of New Hampshire University of New Haven University of Notre Dame University of Rochester University of Rhode Island University of Southern Maine University of Vermont Villanova University Virginia Tech Wagner College Wellesley College Wentworth Institute of Technology

Lasell College Lehigh University Maine College of Art Marist College Massasoit Community College Mass. Bay Community College Mass. College of Art Mass. College of Liberal Arts Mass. College of Pharmacy Mass. Maritime Academy Merrimack College

Westfield State College Western Connecticut State University Worcester State College

2009 List of Graduates: Rvan James

Patrick

Edward

Gerard

Ashley

Ann

Dawn

Stefan

Forrest

James

Bryan

Wayne

Jill

M.

John

Vincent

Anthony

Anne

Rvan

Kerri

Rodney

Lynne

Kevin

Jessica

Maria

Marie

Sean

Emily

Caitlin

Carroll

Joseph

Michael

Christian

Elizabeth

Elizabeth

Eilertson

Elizabeth

Elizabeth

Huntington

Elizabeth

Lawrence

Ann

Jared

Ryan Bryan Emily Keith Kyle James Heather Laurel Briana Emily Derek Andrew Michael Bradley Andrew Amy Christopher Samantha Carissa Ryan Joseph Elyse Joseph Kerri Nicolas Michaela Joseph Stephanie Alyssa Gregory Laura Shawn Jourdan Rachel Jeffrey Lisa Patrick Cole Olivia Elizabeth Samantha Jaclyn Timothy

Ablard Acton Allard Anderson Arpin Attardi Ayvazian Ayvazian Balboni Banas Bancewicz Barry Barry Barth Bascom Beard Beauregard Beck Becker Bellan Bertone Bichler Bird Blanchard Blanchard Bond Bourne Bowe Breen Brennan Brunelli Bryson Bua Burgess Callahan Caltagirone Cameron Campbell Campbell Carlow Carney Carrier Casey

Michael Anthony Mary Elizabeth Megan Nora Michael James Cherilvn Grace Steven Ray Nicholas Eugenio Patrick Francis Ariana Mary Michael Patrick Megan Mariko Dayna Marie William John Emilv Anne Rose Marie Nicole Christina Jessica Lynn Bethanv Anne Michael Andrew Lindsey Francesca Courtney Ann Melissa Marie Sarah Anne Tyler Douglas April Michelle Jillian Elizabeth Patrick Francis Lauren Catherine Albert Joseph David Joseph Alexander James John Thomas Kiel Robert Stephen Matthew Carolyn Theresa Elizabeth Kelsey Ryan Robert Jonathan Franklin Jamie Lynne Ryan Patrick Juliet Carmella Daniel Carroll Michael Jonathan Rea Sara Stephen Robert Kathleen Mary Robert Stephen Brandon Richard Caitlin Frances Daniel Stephen Margaret Lauren Siobhan Kathleen Victoria Rose Marie Kristen Kevin Patrick Molly Elizabeth Jillian Alexandra Corey Allen Mariah Lee Christopher Lee Maxwell James Erin Seaholm Michael Steven Lee Elyssa

Cellucci Chaput Charbonnier Clarizio Clemmer Cohen Colace Cole Colella Collins Colwell Comeau Congdon Conlon Constantino Conti Cook Cooke Copponi Corak Costello Coughlin Coughlin Cowell Crehan Cronin Croteau Crowley Culbreth Curran Czubik Dacey D'Arcy Dare Davis Davis Davis DeBenedict DeCourcey Degnim DeLuca DeMichele DeRobertis Dilling DiRico Doherty Doherty Dolph Doocey Downey Driggs Duffy Duffy Dumas Dwyer Dwyer Early Eastwood Elliott Emery Evers Fannon Ferguson Fernandes

Andrew Justin Anthony Heather Joanna Michael Iames Mollie Gregory Stephanie Joseph Paul Timothy Jenna Vincenzo Hallie Frederique Varun Peter Jacquelyn Samantha Matthew Jenna Lauren John Ian Auburn Natalie Kaitlin Courtney Mary Colin Sean Brian Emma Timothy Alessandra Eden Elisabeth Garrett Andrea Alexandra Ashley Robert Timothy Matthew Michael Alexandra Sally Douglas Frances Michael Daniel Eric Yeawoma Katherine Edward Katelyn Jeffrey Evan Britnev Michela Alexandra Cara Adam Ryan

Wallace Dean James Therese Marie Gordon Kevin Daniel Gwenyth Allen Matthew John Rose Michael Ann Katerina Douglas Marie Lvnne David Rose Elizabeth Jacob William LeeForest Bergette Patricia Louise Christine Thomas Michael John Jean Michael Oppedisano Marie Hannah David Frances Pearl Elizabeth Andrew Robert Bruce Brian Ann Mark Noelle Aaron Richard Warren Marierose Elizabeth Aubrey Ann Ellis Barry Marie Nicole Marie Ashley James Michael

Finemore Finlayson Fischbeck Fitzgerald Flaherty Flanagan Flannerv Fontenarosa France Gannon Gendron Geromini Giarrusso Gilberti Giorgio Glassman Gnaman Gorantla Gordon Gorman Goulet Grieci Griffin Guest Hadayia Haddad Hall Hall Happnie Harlow Harn Harrington Hassell Heiser Henchy Herbst Hernandez Hoey Holloway Holmes Holt Holzman Howard Hummel Hunt Hurst Iacobucci Igo Jacob Jasper Jay Joffin Johnson Johnson Johnson Johnston Jones Kalutkiewicz Kaplan Kasindorf Kellv Kendrick-Tedesco Kerr Kilcoyne Kilduff Killoy

Briana Lynne Emma Lorraine Cameron Jacob Craig Alan Andrew Eric Robert Alexander Bailey Derek Alan James Peter Jacob Sargis Nicholas Joseph Charles Michael Melissa Lynn Hillary Wray Christa Diane Emma John Michael Ryan Michael Thomas David Kristen Marie Matthew Richard Nicole Elizabeth Juliann Janis Joseph Michael Brett Owen Christopher Joseph Robert Harrison Michael Gregory Linda Kimberly Steven Ouentin Brian Alexander Diana Jiechao Philip Edward Brittany Morgan Tyler Gene Jeffrey Marc Nicholaus Joseph Alyssa Gabrielle Leah Rachel Stephanie McKae Haley Victoria Victoria Lee Sarah Molly Samantha Alberta Kaela Raschelle Robert Russell Ryan Brian James Ryan Kingston David Joseph Melissa Anne Nicole Marie Sarah Anne Richard Andrew Jefferson Scott Matthew Joseph Michael Francis Valerie Ann Ross Alexander Jonathan Steele Jeffrev Michael Amber Leigh Lauren Elizabeth Sandra Lee Madalyn Ann Rachel Alexandra

King King Kinney Klecker Kling Knapp Kolligian Konieczny Koshivas Kripp Kutil Lacroix LaNeve Lannon Lassman Latham Lavoie Lawrence Lazinski Leenhouts Legge Leggeri Leland Lenzi Lerner Letourneau Leverone Levy Liberatore Lightner Lyra Ma MacClellan MacLeod Mahoney Maietta Maiorana Maire Marquardt Maurer McAllister-Gray McBrine McDermott McGilvray McKearney McLauchlan McLaughlin McNallv McNeice McNeill McNeillie Meconiates Meconiates Metrick Meyer Minahan Minahan Mitrano Moore Moran Mulligan Murphy Murphy Murphy Murtha Nault

Allison Samantha Matthew William Katherine William Matthew Samantha Alina Peter Anumala Adam Jenna Alexander Vincent Christian Emily Robert Eric Kyle Patrick Elizabeth Katelyn Katharine Stephen Rachel Rachel Matthew Amber Danielle Lisa Christopher Cheryl Alyssa Stephanie Jonathan Kerrianne Andrew Steven Daniel David Pamela Alexander Adam Samantha Fletcher Julia Philip Kathleen Kimberly Garrett Emily Michael Katherine Erin Heather Robert Jake Aaron Erika Jason Colin Sarah Amber Devin Andrew

Helena Taylor Christopher Patrick Bridget Robert Colin Grace Kathryn Francis Lalith Stephen Noel Michael Edward Lewis Elena John James Joseph Henry Anne Elizabeth Deborah Frederick Nicole Meredith Philip Lynn Joy Ashley Nicholas Ann Suzanne Ann E. Elizabeth Wesley Joseph Patrick Joseph Susan James Zachary Paige Mellin Ann Austin Nora Cecilia James Marie James Mary Colleen Marie John William Joseph Lee Michael Michael Amy Nicole Walter Thomas

Negro Nevells O'Brien O'Brien O'Koren O'Leary O'Neill Osborne Ostrow Padula Pandurangam Papsis Parsons Patten Pellegri Perdikis Perez PerraultIII Peterson Peterson Pezzella Phelan Phillips Pickering Plaisted Porter Pradko Prescott Price Provost Provuncher Puopolo Rafuse Razzano Rea Reagan Reardon Remus Riggs Risica Robb Roberts Roche Rodrigues Rosenberg Ross Rossetti Ruel-Kleine Ryan Saldanha Salvucci Sander Santoro Scannell Schlegel Schrager Scipione Seibert Seide Seto Shafferman Shank Sharp Shimkus Sicari Siegel

David Francis Lyndsay Dawn Arushi Elisabeth Jamie Andrew Kyle RebeccaShea Kendall Patrick Iohn Daniel Joseph HenriqueRodrigues Guilherme Ryan Michael Bridget Beth Rachel Judith Sarah Pond Nicole Ashley William Tyler Michael John Andrew Michael Erin Mary Maxwell James Matthew Michael Joseph Robert Melissa D'Aniello Francis James Brendan Patrick Patrick Goddard Jacqueline Rose Kristin Nicole Brian Frederick Anthony Michael Michael Anthony Andrew Scott James Paul Jenna Terese Elizabeth Laura Andrew Chase Lauren Irene Barrow Chelsea Andrew Clark Eric Wade Shelton Terrell Sasolie Melissa Amanda Katherine Alexander Brent Shani Rhiannon Katherine Julia Anneliese Marie Corv Madison Ruth Jaclyn Rose Annette Katelvn Sarah Elizabeth Evan Joshua Alison Rae Richard Jason Christina Anne Daniel Allan Diane Laura Mary Eileen Kaitlynn Fallon Alexa Danielle Katharine Marie Michael Brian Jessie Yipchuk David Jordan Robert Alan Matthew Stanley

Silva Simon Singh Singleton Sirignano Skelly Slight Smith Sousa Spencer Stahl Steel Steel Stoffel Streeter Sullivan Swan Tamulionis Taylor Teixeira Tennant Theroux Tiernan Timmons Todd Tolland Tomasi Tougias Trafecanty Tramontano Travers Treggiari Troy Troy Trufant Tulloch Turner Valcovic VanHyning Veale Vilaysack Vincenzino Vozzella Walker Warren Washakowski Webb Weber Weston Wheaton Wheeler White Whitney Wickman Wiech Wilde Williams Williams Williamson Wilson Wilson Wolf Wu Yellin Young Zukowski