

Benjamin Banneker

Charter Public School



Annual Report "04"

What the Department of Education's Site Visit Team said this year...

About the Banneker School Community...

“The school has created a caring community atmosphere focused on meeting the needs of the whole child, which creates a sense of emotional as well as physical safety. Teachers show a clear commitment to knowing each child individually, as well as to learning all aspects of child development to help their work with the students.”

About the Banneker Teaching Staff...

“The teaching staff at Banneker is made up of committed individuals who demonstrate a real concern for meeting each student's needs, whether they be academic or emotional.”

“Teachers report that they are well supported by the administration and speak highly of the collegial atmosphere that has been fostered at the school.”

About the Banneker Leadership Team...

“There were positive reviews of the administrative team from all constituencies, especially how responsive they were to the needs of individuals and the school. The administrative team works well together and demonstrated a consensus on what the next steps need to be to move the Banneker to the next level organizationally and academically. It was clear from interviews that those in the administration who oversee the academic program understand what data says about the academic gaps and have successfully communicated this understanding to the school community in a constructive way. They have strategically wrestled with the “why,” developed strategies they feel will best meet the needs of the school, and are in the beginning stages of full implementation.”

About the Challenges Ahead...

“The work done last year to understand the current situation and define areas of strengths and weaknesses has resulted in the definition of clear priorities and strategies to move the school to a new place. The morale at BBCS is high and there is a clear commitment to fulfilling the educational mission for the students it serves. This enthusiasm and drive is coupled, however, with an ongoing history of under-performance on standardized measures of academic progress, seen again in the results of the 2003 tests. In response, the school has implemented a host of new strategies and initiatives that the school community strongly believes will result in higher student achievement evidenced in higher standardized test scores. The realization of this hope is crucial for the school as it attempts to demonstrate that it is meeting the academic needs of its students.”

**Excerpts from Banneker's Site Visit Report,
Massachusetts Department of Education
March 2004**

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