



Captain Samuel Brown School

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Interim Superintendent of Schools

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Principal

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Dear Parent or Guardian:

We are pleased to enclose an overview of the Captain Samuel Brown Elementary School "report card". Report cards answer important questions about a school's overall performance and contain specific information about student enrollment and teacher qualifications, student achievement, accountability, how a school is performing relative to other schools in the district and the state, and the progress made toward narrowing proficiency gaps for different groups of students.

In this report you will find the following important information about our school:

Student enrollment and teacher quality: This section of the report card provides information about the students and teachers in our school as compared to the district and the state. If your child attends a school that receives federal Title I funds, you also have the right to request the following information about the qualifications of your child's classroom teachers:

- Whether your child's teacher is licensed in the grade levels and subject areas they teach
- Whether your child's teacher is teaching under an emergency license or waiver
- The college degree and major of your child's teacher
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications

Assessment results: This section of the report shows how our students are performing on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) test as compared to the district and the state.

School and district accountability information: This section of the report contains three important pieces of information:

- **Accountability and Assistance Levels:** Schools and districts are placed into one of five accountability and assistance levels (1-5), with the highest performing in Level 1 and lowest performing in Level 5. Our school has been placed into Level 2.
- **School Percentiles:** A school percentile between 1 and 99 is reported for most schools. This number shows the overall performance of our school relative to other schools that serve the same or similar grades. Our school percentile is 32. This means that our school is performing higher than 32 percent of the elementary schools in the state
- **Progress and Performance Index (PPI):** The PPI is a number that indicates our school's progress toward narrowing proficiency gaps, or, in other words, helping *all* students reach proficiency and be prepared for success after high school. Massachusetts has set a goal of reducing proficiency gaps by half between the years 2011 and 2017. For a group of students to be considered to be making sufficient progress toward narrowing proficiency gaps, its cumulative PPI must be 75 or higher

To improve student achievement in our school, we are...

- Continuing with and going deeper in depth with the strategic work we began two years ago with DSAC (District and School Assistance Center) to assist in meeting the needs of students with varying abilities
- Continuing to utilize our Math Team, Literacy Team, Data Team, Technology Team, Instructional Support Team, Language Assessment Team, and School Improvement Council to work on school-wide initiatives for targeted improvement
- Continuing to use data from both formal and informal assessments to identify specific areas to improve instruction in both English Language Arts and Mathematics so that all our students and subgroups are able to meet established improvement targets
- Continuing to involve all teachers (K-5) in the process of analyzing student data, using the data to identify specific target areas, and collaborating in grade level teams to strategically target improvement as needed
- Working to increase teacher and student knowledge of technology by providing professional development to teachers and multiple daily opportunities for students to learn and practice with a variety of technological equipment and programs. Working to increase their knowledge and skills in technology (digital literacy) and helping them develop healthy habits and attitudes when using technology so that they understand the benefits, dangers, and opportunities technology provides (digital citizenship).
- Implementing a school wide “social thinking” curriculum to provide a fun, motivating way to improve students’ social and behavioral flexibility and to ultimately develop better self-monitoring strategies for their social behavior

We encourage you to become involved in helping us improve our school. Some of the ways you can become involved are:

- Encouraging your child’s learning at home
- Attending parent-teacher meetings and other special meetings
- Attending special events such as Family Math Night and Family Literacy Night
- Serving as a volunteer in our school
- Encouraging other parents to become involved

For more information about our school’s report card or to request information about the qualifications of your child’s classroom teachers, please feel free to contact us at 978-536-4100.

Sincerely,

Elaine Metropolis

Elaine Metropolis
Principal