Friendship Academy of Science and Technology #338  
Principal: Dr. Ian Roberts

Friendship Academy (there are two schools: 338 and 339) both did not make AYP for the first time in 2009 and are “alert” schools for school improvement this year. 339 did not make AYP for the SWD subgroup in reading only; 338 missed in both reading and math for SWD.

Dr. Ian Roberts is in his second year as principal of Friendship Academy of Science and Technology (F.A.S.T.), and his eighth year overall with City Schools. He became a New Leaders for New Schools principal after serving in several teaching and leadership capacities in four city schools. F.A.S.T. was founded to replace a failing middle school, Canton Middle School, taking over the phase out of 8th grade and starting with 6th and 9th grades. F.A.S.T. is one of City Schools’ new Transformation Schools, with plans to grow to grades 6 through 12 over time. F.A.S.T. worked with the community to turn around an often contentious community-school relationship.

The school’s educational model seeks to improve academic performance by educating the “whole child,” offering wrap-around social services to families and preparing students for college and the world of work. F.A.S.T. operates on a simple principle: all students must be prepared for higher education and the career of their choice by ensuring mastery of the skills, knowledge and tools needed to succeed in the 21st century global economy. Through innovative, challenging classroom learning experiences and extended learning programs, F.A.S.T. instills students with an appreciation for high academic and personal standards, while preparing them to become responsible contributors to their communities and the world.

F.A.S.T. teaches the most current technologies through a standards-driven, project-based curriculum that gives students a sense of confidence and leads them to higher education. The school is one of approximately 150 early college programs nationwide, allowing students to graduate from high school with up to 60 college credits or associate degrees. In 2009, 60 percent of students were proficient or advanced in mathematics and 74.1 percent were proficient or advanced in reading. F.A.S.T.’s special education students did not meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) status in 2009, causing the school to miss AYP status in 2009. As of May 3, 2010, the school has an 88.5 percent attendance rate.

According to City Schools’ 2009 Climate Survey, 83.3 percent of parents and 92.3 percent of staff feel that students are safe, and 58 percent of students feel they are safe. Additionally, 95.7 percent of parents are satisfied with F.A.S.T. and 100 percent feel that they are welcome at this school.
Focus Groups for F.A.S.T.:

Parents:
Tonia Franklin 7th grade mother
Sheila Banks 10 grade grandmother
Donna Coates 6th, 10th grade grandmother
Wallace Blackwell 10th grade father
Blondelia Caldwell 10 grade grandmother
Carnell Nichols 10th grade father
Catonya Lester 10th grade mother

Teachers:
Barbara Ward Algebra 1
Doris Coleman-Brown 6th, 7th Special Education
Ekaterini Brouse Hearing Impaired
Jermaine Dunn Physical Education
Ellajay Parfitt 6th, 7th Science
Melody Locke Language Arts

Students:
Anasia Gross 10th
Erica Miller 10th
Rasheem McGirt 9th
Alexis Aull 9th
Darius Toney 9th
Christian Lipscomb 6th
Makai King 7th
Dakota Mullins 7th