

## **Valley Park Teacher Home Visit Program—Teacher Survey 2009-2010**

In January 2010, 31 teachers from Valley Park Elementary School responded to an online survey that explored their attitudes towards and their participation in the THVP. The respondents included teachers in grades K-4 as well as administrators, counselors, PE teachers and specialists.

### **Participation in the THVP:**

- Almost 16% answered that they had never participated in the THVP;
- 24% indicated that they had gone on home visits during the 2009-2010 school year;
- 56% did not go on home visits this year, but had in the past

*Comment: "The insight you gain from crossing the threshold of these families is priceless. The connection you made by going to their home is 'chips in your bank' when you have a difficult situation to talk to the parent about later in the year."*

### **Reasons for not participating in home visits in 2009-2010:**

- 50% did not have time
- 27%--other activities required by the district made it difficult
- 18%--did not feel comfortable going to students' homes
- 41%--other reasons including "was not asked by other teachers;" "stipend too small;" "couldn't visit every student and did not want to be selective."

### **Suggested changes to provide incentive for teacher participation:**

- 82%--no changes suggested
- Suggestion: release time or professional development time allowed for teachers to make visits

### **Effectiveness of Home Visits:**

- 92%--overall, 1<sup>st</sup> home visit very or somewhat valuable
- 80%--overall, 2<sup>nd</sup> home visit very or somewhat valuable
- 80%--felt parents/guardians were "a lot" or "somewhat" more at ease contacting them
- 87%--helped communication with parents/guardians
- 100%--improved communication and relationship with children
- 95%--found some academic improvement

*Comments: "I think the visits help build a relationship between family and school. Many of these parents I may never see unless I go to them. When I go to their homes and show them that I want to work with them--not against them, I feel I am able to know more about their child and how they can be most successful at school."*

*"It gives a chance to establish trust with the parents and communication the rest of the year is very easy."*

*"Parents really saw how much we cared about their child."*

*"The student saw that we cared beyond the school setting."*