



THORNTON TOWNSHIP
DISTRICT
205
HIGH SCHOOLS

YOUR SCHOOLS

MAGAZINE

2015-2016

COLLEGE AND CAREER EDITION

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Vocational Careers
- Scholarships
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- Civil Air Students
Build Airplane



THORNRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL
DOLTON, IL

THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL
HARVEY, IL

THORNWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
SOUTH HOLLAND, IL

Board of Education

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Board Vice President
Banks.ray@district205.net



Mrs. Annette Whittington

Board Secretary
Whittington.annette@district205.net



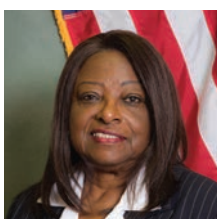
Mr. Albert Butler

Board Member
Butler.albert@district205.net



Ms. Judith Gibbs

Board Member
Gibbs.judith@district205.net



Ms. Nina Graham

Board Member
Graham.nina@district205.net



Ms. Kierra Williams

Board Member
Williams.kierra@district205.net



Board President Message



Mrs. Bernadette Lawrence

Board President
Lawrence.bernadette@district205.net

It is with great pleasure for the Board of Education to welcome you to the College and Career edition of the Your Schools Newsletters. We are passionate about ensuring academic proficiency, student safety and maintaining financial stability for Thornton Township High School District 205. The Board is fully committed to create the best THREE high schools in the State of Illinois.

This edition will be informative as we highlight some of the amazing courses and programs District 205 offers in preparing students for college and careers. We strive at helping our students discover their pathways of success in a safe, caring and supportive environment. Each pathway of success, whether it be acquiring resources in a college and career center or taking a course in engineering, culinary arts, biomedical, Navistar diesel mechanics, computer graphic design or pharmaceutical science, will bring students one step closer to their careers and dreams.

In this issue, you will read about many of the programs and resources available to your child. Provided for you on page 11 is information on how to contact administrators in charge of these programs and resources. You will also read about the College and Career Resource Center located at each school. These resource centers provide great support and assistance to you, as well as your child. It is at these resource centers where one can find information on the millions of dollars in scholarships and tuition grants our graduates receive every year. We encourage parents/guardians and students to seek every avenue available for scholarship opportunities as the district continue to research and find funding for graduates.

"The future depends on what we do in the present."

(Mahatma Gandhi)

In keeping with the theme of finance, the Board of Education has directed administration to develop an ongoing 2015-2016 Fiscal Strategic Plan to ensure strong long-term fiscal stability. Throughout the next five months (November-March), the Board of Education will conduct Fiscal Strategic Planning meetings by school community, as well as meetings with village officials, school boards, churches and community groups addressing the needs of this district and its students. We welcome parents, clergy, business owners, students, faculty members, elected officials and taxpayers to take part in these discussions. "Children First" is our motto. We encourage all stakeholders to be present.

In closing, last year District 205 graduated 934 students into various universities, colleges, trade schools, the military and the workforce. This year, District 205 is in full bloom with rigorous coursework, extracurricular activities, sporting events and the rhythm of high school life preparing students for success beyond high school. We believe in a district that is Bigger (expanding input from the entire school community), Better (using all resources to support the curriculum that leads to student success) and Stronger (the course offerings to ensure that students are competitive). We look forward to having a great and rewarding school year and strongly encourage all stakeholders to be a part of District 205's success!

Blessings To You,

Mrs. Bernadette Lawrence

President, District 205 Board of Education

Superintendent Message



Dr. Leotis D. Swopes
Interim Superintendent

It is with great pleasure I announce that the newly-elected School Board has set the stage for an aggressive and exciting direction toward the academic rebirth of Thornton Township High School District 205. Their adopted goals ensure each child's need for success is fulfilled. To this end, progressive, measurable and accountable actions by students, teachers, support staff and administrators will be taken to transform District 205.

The immediacy of the Board's goals will be illustrated through curriculum programming: International Baccalaureate Program, Advanced Placement Program, AVID and Title I projects to name a few. We will shatter negative statistics by reducing drop-out rates, raise student daily attendance and graduation rates. We are making strides by reducing discipline problems and raising academic achievement, reducing parent/community apathy, increasing parent/community involvement, and reducing "islands" of excellence and increasing institutions of excellence. These will take time to manifest themselves. This college and career edition highlights just a few of the courses and programs that engage and inspire our students, and prepares them for productive careers. Please join us as we carve out a dynamic future of success for your children!

Dr. Leotis D. Swopes
Interim Superintendent, School District 205

Distinguished Student Board



The Student Board of Education is composed of students from the three different schools and from various communities. The purpose of the Student Board of Education is to give students real-world exposure to board level policy making. Students from each school are elected by their peers under the same laws, policies, and procedures as the adult Board of Education. The Student Board, represents well over 5,000 students district wide.

District 205 is one of the few School Districts in the State of Illinois that has an elected and functioning Student Board of Education. The Student Board meets regularly, giving students experience in leadership while improving many aspects of District 205.

If the members of this Student Board are a reflection of our future, then expect brilliance, talent, and a group of skillful scholars leading the next generation.

Learning While Working



Board Member Ray Banks talks with Jamal Banks (no relation), a senior in the Career Prep course and Civil Air Patrol. The Career Prep class teaches job skills and gives seniors the opportunity to work part-time while earning their education. Jamal will be entering the U.S. Navy after graduation.

Navistar Prepares Students For Real World Careers



District 205 students receive important hands on learning to repair braking systems on diesel and heavy duty trucks and buses provided by Navistar

Students can now learn about diesel repair in a training program offered in collaboration with Navistar International Corp. Navistar provides the engines, power train components, vehicles, lab tools and technical expertise. Students learn many aspects of the technology including complete disassembly and reassembly of diesel engines. Ultimately they will learn about transmissions, drive shafts and clutch replacement. Certificates in this program enable students to obtain jobs with very attractive entry-level wages. During their senior year, students have the opportunity for paid

work-study jobs with local companies in the area. Students work part-time during the morning or afternoon (depending on when they take their academic courses). Students work approximately 15-20 hours per week. Some of the companies that hire our students during the school year include First Student bus company, The City of Harvey, The Village of Phoenix, ER Towing Company, Mi Jack Company, Midwest Fuel Injection, and a host of other loyal businesses and community stakeholders.

Auto/SUV Repair Program



Thornridge teacher Andrew Jensen instructs students on the principals of internal combustion engines.

A popular option in vocational education for students is in the auto repair program. Through classroom and laboratory activities students learn about the operation, maintenance and service of automobile systems. Their studies include internal combustion engines, emission controls and electrical and brake systems. This program is an elective course.

AVID College Ready

AVID, is an acronym for **Advancement Via Individual Determination**. AVID is a 4-year college readiness program, beginning in the student's freshman year, dedicated to helping them be better prepared for college acceptance.

This past year, we held our first graduation of AVID students and we are proud to announce 100% of our AVID students graduated! 100%! This is an amazing statistic considering the obstacles many of our students face, as well as an incredible testament to how AVID is changing the instructional delivery at School District 205.

This elective provides students with academic support and monitoring. Core strategies of the program include writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, reading, tutoring and study skills. There is an application and an interview required for participation in this program, as well as enrollment in a college preparatory curriculum.

International Baccalaureate Scholars Stand Out

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Organization has granted IB World School status to all three District 205 high schools! District 205 now joins IB World School high schools in almost 150 countries globally. Starting this semester, selected juniors began the two-year IB Diploma Programme, which provides upper-level high school students with an academically challenging and balanced program of study. The program is an essential asset in preparing District 205 students to be critical thinkers in a competitive global society. Students in this selective enrollment and academically challenging program take classes outside of the D205 regular education setting and upon graduation, receive the distinguished IB Diploma. The elite IB diploma gives the graduates of this program the opportunity to stand out nationally and internationally when applying to colleges and universities. It is also highly recognized by many businesses and organizations, and is a tremendous asset to our community in general.

This new "School Within A School" culminates a rigorous multiyear process led by Curriculum Director Brett Fickes, with the consent and approval of our Board of Education. Many of District 205's teaching staff have taken extensive



IB professional development throughout the U.S. to enrich their level of expertise. Other than Homewood Flossmoor High School, District 205 is the only high school in the south suburbs to offer students this 'School Within A School' structure.

Reach out to the IB Coordinators for more information on the IB Program: **Leo Conry and Nora McNaughton (TR)**, **Brad Ablin (TT)**, and **Andrea DeYoung (TW)**.

Sports Medicine & Athletic Training Program



Athletic trainers serve a great purpose in keeping athletes safe. District 205 offers a course designed for those students interested in subjects such as fitness, physiology of exercise,



kinesiology and nutrition. Students learn basic information and skills important in the recognition of care, prevention and preliminary rehabilitation of athletic injuries.

UNIQUE CAREER AND TECH PROGRAMS

Thornwood Students Build Airplane in Civil Air Patrol



District 205 Board of Education Member Nina Graham is given an overview of students as they build a two seater airplane glider at Thornwood High School.

Civil Air Patrol (CAP) introduces students to U.S. Air Force perspectives on leadership through classroom instruction, critical thinking skills, and hands-on learning. This program inspires a love of aviation, space, and technology.

Students study the fundamentals of aerospace science in the classroom, and experience flight first-hand in CAP aircraft. Summer activities allow cadets to explore aerospace careers. Popular aerospace activities include model rocketry, drone technology, satellite tracking, and hands-on projects. Flight updates will be reported in the Spring of 2016.

Career Prep Course Equips Students



School Board Members (l-r) Ray Banks, Albert Butler and President Bernadette Lawrence join D205 student Ashley Walker at her job location at Family Christian Bookstore. Portillo's, Pete's Fresh Market, Family Christian Bookstore and Oberweis Dairy Ice Cream are just some of the approximately 20 local businesses that participate in the D205 work-based Career Prep program. This program's course gives D205 students an edge to finding a place in the work force and experience towards their career.

In this 2-credit course students learn relevant work skills. D205 has made a commitment to providing students a well rounded education of excellence and opportunity. Course objectives include:

- Using technology to create various business documents such as job applications, cover letters and resumes, and follow-up correspondence.
- Using appropriate resources to pursue work based opportunities available in the community.
- Learning about proper interviewing skills and attire necessary to obtain employment.

D205 Leadership Transformation



Mr. Brett Fickes

*Director of Curriculum & Instruction
AVID and IB Programs*

Thornton High School District 205 has partnered with the Consortium for Educational Change (CEC) to implement District and school transformations that will, over time, positively improve student learning and academic proficiency. Comprehensive Leadership teams have been formed (STC's and DTC's, School & District transformational teams) to coordinate the work of teaching and learning within each school.

PREPARING FOR COLLEGE & CAREER

Culinary Arts Program

With television programs such as Master Chef and Rachel Ray it is not surprising that the field of culinary arts has become very popular. District 205 is proud to have had one of the finest culinary arts program for years. If your student has an interest in pursuing a career in this field, he/she can enroll in this program, beginning with the Introduction to Culinary Arts. The Culinary Arts Program with its dynamic and comprehensive curriculum provides invaluable experiences for those students interested in careers in the restaurant and food service industry. Students are encouraged to experience all aspects of operating and managing a food service establishment, while developing effective business management skills. The program consists of 4 sequential courses.

The culinary program includes field trips, job shadowing, chef demonstrations, catering, culinary competitions, internships, etc. Students also have the opportunity to earn industry certifications, dual credit and scholarships in this program. In addition, culinary students and culinary teachers have studied abroad in Italy as well as Costa Rica!



Chicago Bears Owner Visits Thornwood



Board Members Annette Whittington and Al Butler join Bears Chairman George McCaskey, Mayor Don DeGraff, Principal Willis, Superintendent Swopes and others in awarding TW instructor Mary Wimmer the Classroom Hero award.

Pre Pharmacy Program

In this challenging program, students attend a four week summer course offered by the Chicago State University. This course is titled STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education enrichment. In the next year of the program students are offered (between their junior and senior years) more advance enrichment in STEM education (with greater emphasis on pharmacy) at CSU. After these four weeks, students then enroll in Pharmacy Math at South Suburban College for the fall semester and a Pharmacy Technician Orientation course in the spring semester. This pathway introduces students to the pharmacy career in high school and college settings.

Please note that students must apply for this program and must take Advanced Placement Chemistry during their senior year of high school. However, students may enroll in the AP Chemistry course and the SSC Pharmacy Technology Course without participating in the CSU/STEM Program.

Confidence Through Design



District 205 students, Kasia Nelson and Madonna Darden, designed blouses, which were featured in the La Easier Magazine. In the Fashion design courses, especially the digital design course, students learn how to operate sewing and serge machines. Learning includes fashion, art and design, fabrics, wardrobe planning and care, fashion history of the industry, and language of fashion.

Increased Scholarships Continue the D205 Tradition



**Mr. Tony Ratliff - Principal
Thornton High School
331 Graduates
\$15 Million
Scholarships &
Financial Aid Awarded**



**Mr. James Walton - Principal
Thornridge High School
208 Graduates
\$10 Million
Scholarships &
Financial Aid Awarded**



**Mr. Dennis Willis - Principal
Thornwood High School
333 Graduates
\$12 Million
Scholarships &
Financial Aid Awarded**

Gates Millennium Scholars from District 205 receive totally free funding for their academic career. District 205 has produced 23 Gates Scholars since the program inception. The Class of 2015 students received over \$37 million in scholarships and financial aid!



Former Wildcat Amoz Wright was a Gates Millennium Scholar and is currently studying at DePaul University in Chicago Illinois.



Former Falcon, David Salami was awarded the prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship. Mr. Salami is currently attending University of Illinois.



Denise Clemente of Thornwood High received the coveted Universal Dental School scholarship to pursue her academic career.

Dual Credit Saves Parents and Students Thousands

District 205 provides an opportunity for students to earn college credit before graduating from high school through Dual Credit courses. Dual credit courses not only allow students to earn college credit while still in high school; these courses build confidence, ease students' transition to a college setting, all while helping parents save money by having their student take fewer courses in college. The more students can take college level courses while still in high school, the less money comes out of parents pockets for college tuition and class fees.

Students enrolled in dual credit course are taught by 205 teachers who have been certified by South Suburban College. Some of the courses include How to Start Your Own Small Business, Architectural Design and Drafting, TV Production, Financial Accounting, Engineering Graphics, Introduction to Early Childhood Education, Digital Electronics and Fashion Merchandising. More courses are being developed and planned for the future.

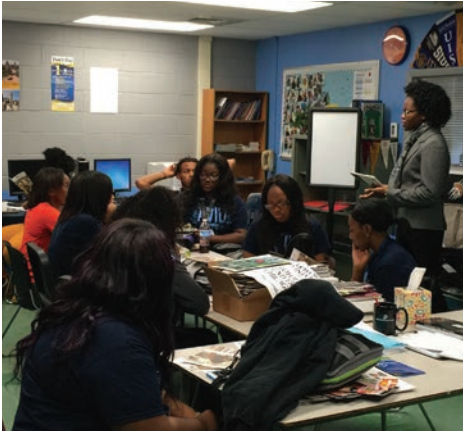
COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTERS

Dear Students, Parents/Guardians, and Friends of District 205,

One of the best kept secrets of the south suburbs is clearly out – Thornton Township High School District 205 offers an amazing educational experience! This College and Career Edition of “Your Schools” showcases just a few of the many exceptional courses and programs that prepare our students for a successful and productive future. From our Advanced Placement courses to our Auto and SUV repair, each class gives our students a rich and rewarding educational foundation for a successful future after graduation. To better serve you, direct contact information has been provided on page 9, 11 and 12 for immediate access, should you have any questions, concerns or would like more information.

John Arrington

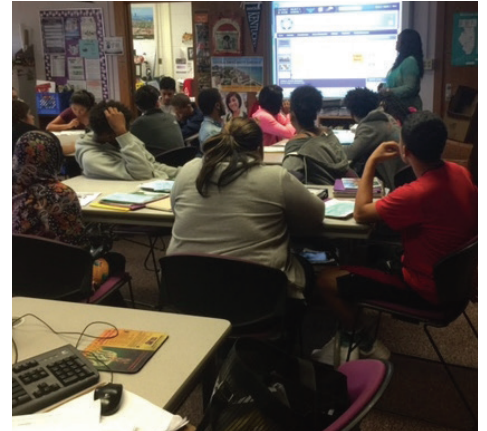
District Director of College and Career Programs



Thornridge College and Career Center
Ms. Teffiney Ferguson
 College and Career Center Counselor
 708-271-4515
Ferguson.teffiney@district205.net



Thornwood College and Career Center
Mr. Dennis Gutowski
 College and Career Counselor
 708-225-4813
Gutowski.dennis@district205.net



Thornton College and Career Center
Ms. Theresa King
 College and Career Counselor
 708-225-4216
King.theresa@district205.net

**Please contact Career Counselors for important scholarship dates,
 upcoming College Fairs/Visits and parent resources.**

District 205 Hosts Scholarship Fair



At left, District 205's Early Bird Scholarship Fair was held in September to give students a jump-start on preparing for colleges and scholarships. Contact Career Counselors for upcoming fairs and college visits that take place at District 205.

Below, students in Atlanta on the Historically Black College Tours and University visits students participate in each year.



One Step Closer to Success



CHERON MIMS

Attending:
Northwestern University
2013 Graduate
of Thornton H.S.
Majoring in Anthropology and
Political Science



REILLY JACKSON

Attending:
South Suburban College
2015 Thornridge H.S.
Graduate
Majoring in Psychology



JESSICA RODRIGUEZ

Attending:
Illinois State University
2013 Thornton H.S.
Graduate
Majoring in Psychology



KAYLA SEAWOOD

Attending:
Canisius College, New York
2014 Thornwood H.S. Graduate
Marketing and Fashion
Merchandising



BETTY ALLEN

Attending:
University of Illinois Medical
School.
Major: Cardiothoracic surgeon
2008 graduate of Thornton H.S.



STEPHANIE AMBROSIA

Attending:
Northern Illinois University
2013 Thornwood H.S. Graduate
Majoring in Sports Medicine and
Athletic Training

District Snapshots

Congratulations are in order to band director Y.L. Douglas and the Thornridge Falcon Marching Band for finishing 1st place in Percussions and Winds at the Olympian Band Festival at Rich Central High School!



Congratulations to Thornton Head Varsity Coach Dontrell Jackson. Coach Jackson led the team to a successful 8-2 season. Jackson takes over for Hall of Fame Coach Bill Mosel, and continues the pride and impressive work ethic of the Thornton Wildcats. Next year's team is expected to continue this tradition, and we look forward to the winning future of this Wildcat team!



Congratulations to coach Krista Jarrett. Thornwood's Volleyball team was quite impressive this year playing competitively with some of the major powerhouses of the south suburbs. This year four senior girls received multiple college scholarship offers and more are anticipated in the future.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Program	Contact Person	Phone	Email
NaviStar Program/CTE	Benita Anderson	708-271-4491	Anderson.benita@district205.net
Auto Repair Program/CTE	Benita Anderson	708-271-4491	Anderson.benita@district205.net
TT AVID Coordinator	Kim Hodges	708-225-4248	Hodges.kimberly@district205.net
TR AVID Coordinator	Anthony Thomas	708-271-4519	Thomas.anthony@district205.net
TW AVID Coordinator	Tammy King	708-225-4952	King.tammy@district205.net
Civil Air Patrol	Major Leon Willis	708-225-4700	Willis.leon@district205.net
TR/TT/TW Culinary Arts Program/CTE	Benita Anderson	708-271-4491	Anderson.benita@district205.net
Fashion Design	Benita Anderson	708-271-4491	Anderson.benita@district205.net
TW International Baccalaureate Coordinator	Andrea DeYoung	708-225-4801	Deyoung.andrea@district205.net
TR International Baccalaureate Co-Coordinator	Stephanie Hortsman	708-271-4689	Hortsman.stephanie@district205.net
TR International Baccalaureate Co-Coordinator	Leo Conry	708-271-4448/4549	Conry.leo@district205.net
TT International Baccalaureate Coordinator	Brad Ablin	708-225-4285/4186	Ablin.bradly@district205.net
Pharmacy Tech Program/Science	Cindy Morris	708-271-4531	Morris.cindy@district205.net
Food Handling Certification (For community members and students)	LaVonne Fisher	708-225-4002	Fisher.Lavonne@district205.net
Sports Medicine, Health, P.E., Driver Education	Jerry Styrsky	708-271-4422	Styrsky.jerry@district205.net
Fine Arts Classes and programs	James Drake	708-225-4776	Drake.james@district205.net
Mathematics	Rob Penman	708-225-4783	Penman.robert@district205.net
English and Reading	Mike Saunders	708-225-4162	Saunders.michael@district205.net

News From Around Campus

- New Teachers Contract – D205 Board of Education and the D205 Faculty Association recently agreed to a four year bargaining unit contract agreement.
- Congratulations! D205 teachers, Jonathon Roth, and William Lawrence, who became finalists out of 4100 applications in the Samsung Solve contest to inspire students into more STEM, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math programs. Kudos to both!

Notifying the School of Absences

When a student must be absent, parents/guardians must notify the school in order for the absence to be excused. Parents should call the attendance office the numbers are below.

Attendance Office: TR 271-4522/4523

TT 225-4205/4132

TW 225-4901/4902/4903/4904

Main Office: TR 271-4411

TT 225-4109

TW 339-7800

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Ms. Judith Gibbs, *Member*
Ms. Nina Graham, *Member*
Ms. Kierra Williams, *Member*

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Mrs. Maria Brunson, *Director of Information Technology*
Mr. Jerry B. Doss, *Director of Human Resources & Community Relations*
Mr. Brett Fickes, *Director of Curriculum & Instruction*
Mr. Thomas Porter, *Director of Pupil Personnel Services*
Ms. Janette Morales, *Manager of School Performance*

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Thornridge High School

Mr. James Walton, *Principal*
Mr. Brad Beilfuss, *Asst. Principal*
Mr. Steve Valant, *Asst. Principal*

Thornton Twp. High School

Mr. Tony Ratliff, *Principal*
Mr. Alfonzo Pearson, *Asst. Principal*
Ms. Wanda Russell, *Asst. Principal*
Mrs. Ebonie Williams, *Asst. Principal*

Thornwood High School

Mr. Dennis Willis, *Principal*
Mrs. Kelly Hock, *Asst. Principal*
Mr. Don Holmes, *Asst. Principal*
Mr. Thomas Walsh, *Asst. Principal*

Contact Guidance Counselors to register for District 205 Courses					
Thornton		Thornridge		Thornwood	
Nzinga Edwards	225-4215	Sherita Robinson	271-4518	Lora Alexander-Flaherty	225-4814
Tahira Pervan	225-4219	Tequcola Perry	271-4516	Kay Harris	225-4818
Paula Walker	225-4212	Anthony Thomas	271-4519	Razietta Bishop	225-4998
Ramelle Hill-Jackson	225-4213	Frank Gomez	271-4517	Rashea Ratliff	225-4815
Darryl Reddick	225-4170			Denise Schwieger	225-4819
Shana Scott-Moody	225-4217			Jalena Jones	225-4812
				Dionne Scott	225-4817

***“PREPARING ALL DISTRICT 205 STUDENTS TO BE
COMPETITIVE LEADERS IN OUR GLOBAL SOCIETY”***