

YOUR SCHOOLS

THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 205

2013-2014 Year In Review

Volume 1 Spring/Summer 2014



**STUDENTS TAKE
FLIGHT WITH CIVIL
AIR PATROL**

**FEATURING OUR
OUTSTANDING STUDENTS,
STAFF AND PARENTS!**

**Fascinating World
of Sports Medicine**



**Greetings from the
Interim Superintendent
Creating AVID Learners**



**Creating the
Entrepreneurs of
Tomorrow, Today**

Preparing All District 205 Students To Be Competitive Leaders In Our Global Society



MR. DARREN ROBINSON
BOARD VICE PRESIDENT



MR. EDWARD CRAYTON
BOARD MEMBER



MRS. TONI WILLIAMS
BOARD SECRETARY



MRS. LAUREN GREEN
BOARD MEMBER



MS. JUDITH GIBBS
BOARD MEMBER

The Thornton Township High School District 205 Board of Education sets policy for the school district, in accordance with state and federal laws, in order to ensure the educational results for all District students.

The seven members are elected at large by District 205 residents and serve unpaid, four-year terms. Board elections are held annually every two years in April. The Board conducts its business in open meetings to which the public is invited and encouraged to attend.

The Board of Education meets every second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

For the months of September, October, November and December the Board meets in the Thornridge High School Auditorium; during the months of January, February, March and April the Board meets in the auditorium at Thornton Township High School; and during the months of May, June, July, and August the Board meets in the Performing Arts Center at Thornwood High School.

Time is set aside at each regular meeting for public participation when community members can address the Board.



MRS. BERNADETTE LAWRENCE
BOARD MEMBER



THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 205 STUDENT BOARD OF EDUCATION PROGRAM

Student Board members have been working hard to help implement positive changes throughout the entire Thornton Township High School District 205.

The District 205 Board of Education approved the creation and development of the Student Board of Education Program in 2006. When the Student Board was first established, the principal and support staff selected the students based on recommendations from teachers. Now with a district coordinator, the process is more formalized. Students have approved a comprehensive election code, fixed the number of representatives allowed for each building, approved a mission and vision statement, and have been working with budgets

for operations. Students from the first board also conducted the first student body elections to select representatives for each building.

All students in good academic and disciplinary standing are eligible to participate in the Student Board of Education Program. The Student Board is composed of students from each school in Thornton Township High School District 205. Three students represent each building. Each student represents one house of academic excellence. Currently there is one representative for the House of Arts and Communications (A and C), Business Engineering Natural Resources and Technology (BENT), and Health and Human Services (HHS). Each member is popularly elected by the students at each school during the spring of each year and serves one-year terms ending in May.

JEFFERSON AWARDS COMMITTEE

Goal: *Successfully pilot the Jefferson Awards Program at Thornridge High School.*

DISTRICT SAVE COMMITTEE

Goal: *Work with SAVE to establish a viable program in all three high schools.*

DISTRICT FOOD SERVICE COMMITTEE

Goal: *Work with the Director of Business Operations to improve Food Service.*

GRADUATION COMMITTEE

Goal: *Develop procedures for graduating Student Board Members.*

CULTURAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

Goal: *Develop cultural activities for students and board members.*

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

Goal: *Work with Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Board of Education to make recommendations that improve the quality of academic programs in District 205.*



DR. STACEY D. MCJUNKINS

GREETINGS FROM INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

Hello students, staff and parents,

As a native of Calumet City and a proud graduate of Thornwood High School, I am honored and excited to be back home serving Thornton Township as the new Interim Superintendent for District 205. The 2013-2014 school year has been a time of amazing achievements for District 205. As we look back, we also look forward in anticipation to more great things to come. I would like to take this opportunity to invite all members of the District 205 community to come out and participate in the many exciting events and activities taking place in our schools this year.

As we move forward into this year, my vision is to expand these existing programs while adding new innovative options. We are currently taking steps to expand the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) programs throughout the District and are also adding new educational initiatives which aim to bolster leadership skills and give our students the tools and drive to be self-starters.

As Interim Superintendent, I remain focused on improving the academic achievement of all our students. Our goal as a community is to provide the foundation and be the catalyst whereby our students can reinvent themselves into self-sustaining, valued and productive citizens. To achieve this goal, I remain committed to facilitating increased communication and cooperation between the various segments of Thornton Township. Our new and improved **YOUR SCHOOLS** magazine does just that. In addition to informing our stakeholders of District initiatives, **YOUR SCHOOLS** celebrates and acknowledges some of the wonderful achievements experienced each and every day by the students, faculty, staff and administrators at all three of our District's high schools.

I'm confident that by working effectively as a united community we can give our students a strong foundation for success. Together we can create an atmosphere of excellence and achievement which will prepare District 205 students to be competitive leaders in our increasingly global society.

Dr. Stacey D. McJunkins
Interim Superintendent



**DR. MCJUNKINS
SUPERINTENDENT**



OUR INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT HAS STYLE

Dr. McJunkins shares her fashion industry experience with District 205 students.

In addition to her experience in education and administration, District 205's Interim Superintendent Dr. Stacey McJunkins has an impressive background within the fashion industry. Our Interim Superintendent's love of fashion has been with her since childhood. She started sewing when she was just six years old and soon was creating her own original pieces. As the future Dr. McJunkins grew up, her love for fashion only increased. After graduating from Thornwood High School, young McJunkins pursued her interests earning an Associate's Degree from the International Academy of Merchandising and Design Limited, (now known as IADT) in Chicago. But she didn't stop there; McJunkins moved overseas to study in the fashion epicenter of the world, earning a certificate in Fashion Design from the Paris Fashion Institute in Paris, France. Since earning these impressive credentials, Dr. McJunkins has worked in various aspects of the industry including fashion design, illustrating and tailoring. Currently, she continues to produce pieces of amazing Haute Couture for distinguished private clientele.

Dr. McJunkins shared her extensive knowledge, skills and expertise this semester with District 205 students during a three day Fashion Workshop at Thornridge High School attended by students from Thornridge and Thornton who have enrolled in their school's fashion programs. At the workshop, Dr. McJunkins imparted industry secrets and shared the tricks of the trade as she taught students about various aspects of the fashion world.

The Fashion Workshop was part of the Superintendent's vision to increase educational offerings and vocational opportunities for District 205 students. McJunkins explained, "We have some great academic programs already in place here and we are working to bolster these initiatives. However, in addition to intense and successful AVID, IB and STEM programs, I envision a District 205 with vibrant vocational programs as well. Programs where students who are interested in fields like Fashion, Cosmetology, and Auto Body can learn their trade. I also see a District 205 with modern and updated facilities, with job training programs and partnerships with major corporations. I see a District 205 where students are motivated, working hard and graduating with the knowledge, skills and certificates necessary to succeed in college, or enter the workforce or even to start their own businesses. Essentially, I see a District 205 that prepares our students to succeed and prosper in all aspects of life!"



BRETT FICKES

VISION:

*The Office of Curriculum
and Instruction for Thornton
Township High School District
205 is committed to providing
an engaging curriculum for all of
our students. By design it is learner-
centric, challenging, differentiated,
experiential, and results oriented.*

GREETINGS FROM BRETT FICKES, DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Greetings Thornton Township,

It is my pleasure to introduce this “Year in Review” edition of YOUR SCHOOLS Magazine. The Fall semester was a time of wonderful achievements here at District 205 and an amazing Spring semester is currently wrapping up. Our students and faculty have settled into new schedules, conquered new challenges and now the weather is steadily getting warmer as we get closer to the close of the year. Summer is right around the corner and thus far the 2013-2014 school year has been very productive and eventful for everyone here at Thornton Township High School District 205.

This year, District 205 will continue to foster academic excellence as we work together with our involved parents, committed teachers and diligent administrators to build a stronger learning community for the students of Thornton Township.

As the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, it is my mission to ensure that the District offers a comprehensive curriculum that meets the interests and exceeds the needs of all our students. District 205 strives to challenge our remarkably talented students with a rigorous and relevant curriculum to help guide them to successful and promising futures.

In keeping with this mission, District 205 will provide students with various avenues to apply their knowledge and skills. We offer several challenging programs wherein students can demonstrate their competency and be prepared for higher education. Our AVID program is most noteworthy; it is showing amazing results and growing rapidly in all three district high schools.

This year, District 205 is also advancing Common Core and focusing on approaching and excelling state standards in all subjects. As our combined initiatives continue to improve the educational environment of Thornton Township, it is important to remember that parental involvement and community support is fundamental to achieving true student success. As this exciting school year continues, District 205 will continue to build effective networks for parent and community engagement. Together we will create an environment of academic excellence and give our students the skills to achieve their dreams.

Brett Fickes
Director of Curriculum & Instruction

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

CREATING AVID LEARNERS

Dr. McJunkins shares her fashion industry experience with District 205 students.

District 205 offers several excellent programs to help students reach their diverse educational goals. One of these initiatives, the AVID program, is producing amazing results! District 205 is currently in the process of expanding the program district wide.

AVID, which stands for: Advancement Via Individual Determination, is a dynamic, multifaceted college readiness program. After passing an application and interview process, incoming students interested in AVID can enroll in the elective 4-year program their freshman year. Over the course of their high school careers, various aspects of the AVID program instill superior studying methods and specialized learning skills which in turn prepare our students to succeed in today's rigorous college environment.

THORNTON TOWNSHIP HAS QUANTUM LEARNING!

The Quantum Learning System is a dynamic model for creating a culture of academic and personal excellence. Its research-based educational methodology increases teacher effectiveness and improves student performance through the orchestration of five core components: Foundation, Atmosphere, Environment, Design and Delivery.

Foundation is the context of the classroom that aligns teacher and students toward a common vision of an effective, positive learning experience. This is achieved through the development and implementation of procedures and rules that clearly define expectations, values, and goals for both teachers and students thus creating a culture of high expectations. Important Foundation elements include the 8 Keys of Excellence character program, skills to improve note taking, memory, comprehension and retention and life skills that inspire and motivate students to be effective learners and take responsibility for their learning.

Atmosphere plays a significant role in the affective learning. In the Quantum Learning System teachers create an environment wherein students have a strong sense of belonging, they feel safe and supported and efforts are acknowledged.

Environment is the use of physical space to support a culture of learning. The ideal Quantum Learning classroom environment is inviting, comfortable and stimulating. The classroom environment is purposefully constructed with content-related and inspirational posters, student-generated work and even music to influence students and increase their readiness to learn.

Design intertwines the elements of student buy-in and prior knowledge therefore increasing comprehension and retention which enables students to transfer classroom learning to real-life situations.

Delivery is the orchestrated facilitation of the lesson. Effective delivery maximizes participation, comprehension, and competency. Elements of Delivery include questioning and discussion skills that increase participation and accountability, giving clear directions and maximizing student attention.

MOVING FORWARD TOWARD IB

Thornton Township High School District 205 is pleased to announce that our applications for candidacy for the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB) have been accepted. This marks a huge achievement for District 205 and is a major milestone in our District's esteemed history. District 205 high schools are now recognized as IB Diploma Programme candidate schools and all three schools are pursuing authorization as IB World Schools!

International Baccalaureate is motivated by a mission to create a better world through education. IB World Schools

share a common philosophy - a commitment to high-quality, challenging, international education. IB's rigorous course of study is considered one of the most progressive and demanding in the world. International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through inter-cultural understanding and respect. Additionally, the rigors of the IB Diploma Programme prepare students for the challenges of college course work while improving admissions success and enhanced college performance.



**THOMAS PORTER
DIRECTOR OF
PERSONNEL SERVICES**

The Special Programs Department at Thornton Township High Schools District 205 is moving forward in its attempts to meet with needs of exceptional learners. Since taking over this area in August 2012, we have been more inclusive of students with disabilities. We have included several programs within the high schools. There are programs within District 205, which meet the needs of students with autism, emotional disorders, communicative disorders, and adult transition program learners.

By allowing these students to participate in the regular education environment, we have allowed the District to meet the needs of all students and also save the District significant outplacement fees. For example, the adult transition program at Thornridge High School has an enrollment of 40 students. Each of these students could easily cost approximately \$40,000 in tuition and transportation. We now house this group in our schools and the enrollment is anticipated to be closer to 60 students next year. The costs of \$1.6 million have been replaced by the salaries of 4 teachers and 2 paraprofessionals, which results in significant savings to the District. Each time the District attempts to house programs within the District, there is substantial savings.

We are excited to welcome high school students with physical health impairments and visual impairments to Thornwood High School next year. For several years, these students have been attending school in Crete, IL. We are very thankful to have a team that focuses on inclusion. This group of students will begin attending Thornwood High School in August 2014. We are thankful for the Special Programs Department and administration at Thornwood High School for their assistance, so that our students can be serviced in the regular education environment.

Besides education, the District has made efforts to be more inclusive of students with disabilities in extra-curricular activities. Currently, students can participate in any regular education activities. However, some students may have challenges and limitations, so the District has provided opportunities for them to participate in Special Olympics. This year we are offering 9 different sports for students to participate in for Special Olympics. We are also pleased to announce that at this time the following teams have won State of Illinois titles in: Snowshoeing, Bocci-Ball, and Basketball. Congratulations to all of the students and coaches for these awesome achievements!

In addition, the English Language Learners program is expanding to all of the schools in District based upon enrollment. We are fortunate to have licensed teachers to assist students whose English ability needs support. There is a plan, to include students, that has been sent to the Illinois State Board of Education for approval. This year, we were also able to provide adult English classes for families in the District on Monday and Wednesday evenings throughout the year.

During the month of May, we will have a Timely and Meaningful Consultation Hearing on Friday, May 16, 2014. This will allow District 205 to gauge the number of private school students, who need services and supports at private schools. In addition, we would like to start family support teams in the Fall, so that we can meet the needs of our most precious asset, our students!

DISTRICT 205 CELEBRATES OUR STUDENTS!



On Saturday April 5th, 48 students from District 205 traveled to Northern Illinois University for a Latino Student Empowerment Conference sponsored by the Latino Student Alliance at NIU. The conference taught students the value of their past, the appreciation of their present, and the changes needed for a successful future.



Congratulations to Thornton Senior & Pre-Pharm Program student, Luis Ceron, who has been selected by the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) of Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine as one of its 2014 Scholars! Luis will participate in the 2014 National Medical Conference this summer with all expenses paid by SNMA Feinberg Med School.



Congratulations to Thornton student, Trayshawn Mitchell on being awarded the 2014 Gates Millennium Scholarship!



Congratulations are due to the Thornwood Special Olympics Basketball Team who won 1st place at the State competition! Special thanks to Danielle Jania, Mary Wimmer and Kathy Bowlds. Also special thanks to coaches: Lisa Zuccolo, Denard Eaves, Billy Bundy, Jennifer Kilian and who work diligently with the students.

DISTRICT 205 EXCELS AT SSC VIDEO COMPETITION

South Suburban College (SSC) and Career Development System hosted the 7th annual South Suburban College Video Competition (SSC) April 10 in the Kindig Performing Arts Center. The SSC Competition showcases talent from area high schools and also provides local students with a tour of the college's facilities which feature a television studio/control room, audio studio/control room, and multimedia lab.

Thornridge, Thornton and Thornwood submitted entries to the competition along with six other local high schools including Bremen, Eisenhower, Hillcrest, Oak Forest, Shepard, and T.F. North. Students entered work in eight different categories: Commercial, PSA, Short Subject, Music Video, Creative Editing, News Story or Feature, News Program, and Live Multi-Camera Program. The 66 entries were judged on aesthetic quality, technical quality, program design, and overall effectiveness. District 205 excelled at the competition; all three of our high schools won top awards. Congratulations, students!



MR. JAMES M. WALTON JR.
PRINCIPAL

GREETINGS FROM PRINCIPAL MR. JAMES M. WALTON, JR.



THORNRIIDGE
HIGH SCHOOL

Greetings,

Hello to the Falcons, the most phenomenal student body in the United States, to our parents and the whole school community of Thornridge High.

First, I want to congratulate Thornridge students on all their work so far this year! The vast majority of our students are doing well academically and I'm pleased to announce that Thornridge High School students have demonstrated an 8% growth in all areas of the Prairie State Exam!

It is obvious that the hard work of our students and diligent efforts of our teachers are reaping tangible benefits. As we move further into this second semester and the remainder of the school year, we will continue to encourage each and every student to do his or her best!

Currently, Thornridge High School is changing instructional philosophies and collaborative school teams while also approaching Common Core and state standards. Additionally, we are growing our AVID program and increasing student exposure to opportunities for advancement.

Our Administration, Faculty and Staff are working tirelessly to improve the quality of life and bolster success for Thornridge students, from their first day of freshmen year until their last day as a senior. As Principal, I want to encourage even more of our students to go on to college. Thornridge is increasing the number of school trips to universities so our students can have a taste of the college experience. I want all of our students to be able to envision themselves on a college campus! As an educator, I feel it is our duty to guide students into higher education but we must also teach them that it takes personal responsibility, accountability and drive to succeed after high school.

Lastly, I am so proud to be the Principal of this school! I'm proud of everything our students, faculty and staff have accomplished so far, and I'm even more excited about the remainder of this school year. With the support of the entire school community, our students are accomplishing great things at Thornridge High ... As the leader of the Falcon Nation, I couldn't be prouder!

Mr. James M. Walton Jr.
Principal

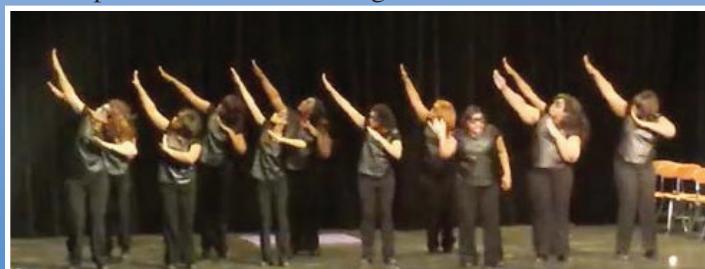


On the evening of Tuesday, April 8th, Thornridge High School held both Incoming Freshmen Night and Advanced Program Showcase. Over 180 community members attended this event. Parents received information on all of the advanced programs that Thornridge has to offer. These programs included our International Baccalaureate Candidate program, Advanced Placement Course offerings in seven different subjects, AVID, Career and College preparation services, South Suburban College's Dual Credit options, Project Lead the Way, the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE), The Academy of Truck and Diesel Technology powered by Navistar, Advanced Child Care, Advanced Culinary Arts and Fashion Design. In addition sponsors from, clubs, activities and athletics shared information on their programs with parents and community members.

Thornridge students Jada Peebles and Swayne Roland both were awarded prestigious scholarships. Jada won the 2014 Ray Price Memorial Scholarship while Swayne was awarded 2014 Gates Millennium Scholarship!



Thornridge High School's Media Production students won first and second place prizes at the South Suburban College Video Competition. Darral Beeks won first place in Creative Editing while Jevante Payton and Nick Seaton- Garrick won second place in Creative Editing.



Thornridge's Group Interpretation Team won first 1st at the Thornton Sectional Tournament and 6th place at the

IHSA State Competition on March 29th! Congratulations to Directors Yvonne Nesbitt, Nora Nerius, LaQuita Densley, and cast members Scott Brooks, Corey Jackson, Rodney Jackson, Tiera Sterling, Jarron Williams, Jewelle Vernon, Deja Dade, Tiffany Haritos, as well as Michael Whitman and his musicians/crew members Mario Humphries, Miyah Edwards, and Mesha Whitaker.

The Thornridge Girls Track Team won 2nd place at the Battle of the Borders track meet.

The Falcons S.A.V.E. Drill Team won 2nd place at the Thornton Fractional North Kappa League Step Competition. The Thornridge S.A.V.E. chapter also collected over 100 toys and donated them to the C.E.D.A. Project held at Thornton Township High School. There we assisted C.E.D.A. and Ingalls Hospital with passing out toys and food baskets to families in need. This is a collaboration S.A.V. E. has done for 5 consecutive years.

Thornridge's outstanding FCCLA students won several medals at FCCLA Regionals.

Gold Medals- Mistura Ogunnaike: Job Interview, Jemika Gardner: Early Childhood, Tabitha Manning: Life Event Planning. Tabitha received a Most Outstanding Award as well.

Silver Medals - Porschia White and Veronia Garcia (team): Focus on Children

Bronze Medals - Jada Peebles: Teach and Train, Jenaya Irby: Frosted Cakes

Speech Students, Tiera Sterling and Corey Jackson gave an outstanding performance at the IHSA Speech Tournament this February, earning 2nd place honors in Dramatic Duet Acting.



The Thornridge National Honor Society collected over 500 pounds of food items and over \$200 during their annual "One Can, One Dollar, One Smile" food drive. These items were donated to the Thornton Township food pantry in December 2013.



MR. TONY RATLIFF
PRINCIPAL

GREETINGS FROM PRINCIPAL MR. TONY RATLIFF



Hello District 205,

I have the honor and privilege to address you once again as the Principal of Thornton Township High School. Thornton is an elite school with strong national and international networks, a long history of academic excellence and a track record of producing some of the best and brightest leaders including corporate CEOs, doctors, lawyers, engineers, and notable elected officials.

Respecting this rich heritage, we aim to produce the leaders of tomorrow, while preparing our students for success today. In keeping with this mission, Thornton High School is intensifying instruction and adding new programs to bolster student achievement. Thornton's AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) college readiness program is now in its second year. We have also begun our transition to Common Core and we've increased our overall teacher collaboration. These initiatives have paid off. Last year, Thornton High School had the highest score and the greatest gains in the whole District in the Gates-Macginitie reading assessment test.

Moving forward, our goal is to ensure that all Wildcat Students are college and career ready. Thus far, our efforts have seen amazing results. Three years ago, 67% of Thornton High School students went on to higher education, earning \$800,000 in scholarship funds.

Last year that number increased to 88% with Thornton students earning over \$4.7 million in scholarships! We've made great gains but our work continues. As Principal of Thornton Township High School, I am dedicated to creating an environment of excellence and committed to increasing student success in Wildcat Country!

Mr. Tony Ratliff
Principal



Congratulations to Thornton's Sophomore Boys Basketball team for finishing the season 22-0. Congrats to the players and the coaching staff for a job well done!

Thornton's "Sophisticats" placed in the IHSA competitive dance sectional on January 25th and advanced to the State finals held in Bloomington, IL on February 1st.

Congratulations to our Wildcat Cheer Team for their 1st place finish in the ICCA Regional Competition held at Romeoville High School.

Congratulations to Wildcats Olamide Adebogun, Denise Cobb, Jaelin Harris, and Kierra Williams for being among the Illinois State Scholars Top 5% High School graduates in the State of Illinois.



(L-R) Denise Cobb. Kierra Williams & Olamide Adebogun (Jaelin Harris not pictured)

THORNTON'S CHESS TEAM: 1ST PLACE CONFERENCE CHAMPS

Under the tutorage of Coaches Curtis Martin and Daniel Dominik, Thornton High School's Chess Team performed outstandingly at the Conference Championship. Student Brian Wynn won First Place individually and the team as a whole won the Conference Overall Champs. Out of 85 students in competition several of our students ranked in the top 20.



Jaelin Harris, 3rd; Woodrow Brown, 9th; Leo Martinez, 11th; Alexis Martinez, Jenny Martinez, 13th; Eric Buchner, 15th; Claude Davis, 16th; Stephanie Alfaro.



MR. DENNIS WILLIS
PRINCIPAL

GREETINGS FROM PRINCIPAL MR. DENNIS WILLIS



THORNWOOD
HIGH SCHOOL

Hello District 205,

I feel that it is a great honor and privilege to be Principal of Thornwood High School. I'm excited about this semester and looking forward to achieving the various goals we have set for 2014! This year, Thornwood High School will continue to be a safe, supportive and dynamic learning environment while we work diligently to increase our overall academic performance. Our administrative team shares this responsibility with our faculty, our parents, and of course, our student body.

Thornwood High School is steadily improving. As Principal, it is my duty and pleasure to highlight this improvement and lift up our amazing staff and students. Great things are happening here! Our Civil Air Patrol program is beginning its second semester, more and more students are getting involved in our NFTE entrepreneurship program and Thornwood's athletic department continues to build on our tradition of excellence. Our Soccer team won sectionals last Fall and this Spring Thornwood High is poised to go downstate in Baseball and Wrestling! This is only a small sample of our wonderful accomplishments. Many of our students and student-athletes are excelling but ultimately we want ALL Thunderbirds to take advantage of the wonderful opportunities available at Thornwood.

We will continue to build on our achievements as we expand opportunities at Thornwood High School. Our administration is adding new, dynamic educational programs which will enhance student learning and confront our challenges head-on. For instance, we are expanding our AVID Program, which is already showing tremendous results and we're also initiating Thornwood's first International Baccalaureate program.

These new programs will definitely bolster student achievement. However, the overall academic success of Thornwood's students is dependent on the involvement of parents and the support of our community. I encourage everyone to get involved at Thornwood High School! As a united school community, we will provide our students with the skills to excel in their post-secondary experiences. Together we can give our Thunderbirds wings to soar!

Mr. Dennis Willis
Principal



Congratulations go out to our Thunderbird Cheerleaders and coaches who took 1st place in the Illinois Cheerleading Coaches Association State Competition on Saturday, January 4th in Springfield, Illinois. They competed against 7 other coed teams and came out victorious!

Thornwood's own, Jesus Fernandez, was selected as the South Suburban Youth Entrepreneur of the Year. Director of South Suburban Small Business Association, Donald Grimwood, visited Thornwood February 7th to meet Jesus and let him know the good news.

Congratulations to the Thornwood Girls Track Team, who took the team title at the TW Indoor Invitational February 19th.

Thornwood's Kris Williams, 3-time Wrestling State Champion defended his State Championship title this February and remains the state champion for his weight class. Kris won the championship twice while attending Thornton and now takes home his third State title for Thornwood! Congratulations, Kris!

Congratulations to the Thornwood Varsity Boys Basketball team who took home the 4A Eisenhower Regional Title. Thornwood shot a blistering 11-of-18 from three-point range, taking down Oak Forest 81-58.

Thornwood Senior, Javon Hall has been awarded the 2014 Coca Cola Scholarship. Congratulations Javon on this great accomplishment!



Jesus Fernandez with President Obama.



Thunderbird Senior, Autumn Bolling, received the QuestBridge Scholarship, which will pay for all four years at the University of Chicago.





DISTRICT 205 NATIONAL NFTE CHAMPIONS!

CREATING TOMORROW'S ENTREPRENEURS TODAY!

With their victory at the 2013 National Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge, Toheeb Okenla and Jesus Fernandez-Ortiz made District 205 the reigning National Champion of the entire NFTE program! This marked the first time students from a Chicago area school won the National Youth Challenge since the NFTE program became available in Chicago and ten years ago!

NFTE, which stands for “Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship” teaches students to recognize an opportunity to fulfill a need in a target market. Students then create business plans to fill this niche. From these business plans, students learn the entrepreneurial skills needed to eventually create their own businesses. After creating their business plans, students present their ideas to judges provided by NFTE in a classroom competition similar to the TV program Shark Tank. The 3 winners from the classroom competition then move on to compete against all the students in the NFTE program at that particular school. The building winners advance to a city-wide competition, competing against all the Chicago area NFTE winners from all Chicago schools offering the program that particular year. The final competition, the National Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge has all the winners from each city that has a NFTE program. There are almost 2000 students participating in NFTE each year in Chicago alone.

NFTE also awarded Jesus and Toheeb’s teacher, Danny Gray, the National Youth Challenge Award for guiding his students to victory. When Toheeb and Jesus needed a business plan

for Mr. Gray’s class at Thornwood High School they turned to their shared interest in their favorite sport. From there T&J Soccer was born. Toheeb and Jesus designed a new soccer sock that features a sewn-in pocket to allow players to insert the shin guard of their choice. Inserting the shin guard into the sock prevents it from sliding around, providing better side-to-side protection than traditional methods. With their ingenious product and keen business plan, Toheeb and Jesus took T&J Soccer all the way to the National Competition and won! Their amazing achievement also earned them a trip to the White House where they met President Barack Obama!

Now that T&J Soccer has earned the top honors, Toheeb and Jesus plan to further the development of their business using their earned venture capital. They are currently developing the first iteration of their soccer sock with a textile manufacturer, working on a patent for their technology and hope to have their product become the official sock used by youth soccer leagues.

Today, Toheeb is a freshman studying Information Systems in the College of Business at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign while Jesus currently ranks first in his class at Thornwood High School.



CAREER CONNECTION LUNCHEON

On February 19 District 205 hosted the 2014 Career Connection Luncheon. The event was well attended by South Suburban College officials, local mayors including Mr. Riley Rogers, the Mayor of Dolton, Village Administrator James Whigham of Hazel Crest, Supt. Rufus Fisher and Mr. Carlos Jones from the Harvey Public Works Department, members of the Phoenix Fire Department, local vendors and various other local businesses and organizations.

The Luncheon focused on strengthening District 205's partnerships with local businesses, community vendors, elected officials and municipalities and sought to encourage internships, and promote employment opportunities for District 205 students, specifically in the Navistar/diesel program as well as the Culinary Arts program.

According to John Arrington, Director of the District's College and Careers program, the partnership luncheon was also a great opportunity for members of the business community to highlight the skills and abilities they are looking for in our graduates.

With this information District 205 can align our curriculum, particularly in the Careers and Technical Education (CTE) to bolster employment opportunities for District 205 graduates. Arrington stated, "I talked with officials from Pizzamatic Corp., an internationally-based manufacturing company based in South Holland. The President, Vice President and Sales Manager, among others, were all former District 205 students who got their start in our Industrial Arts/Career Technical programs! These area companies have a vested interest in seeing District 205 students build their technical skills and graduate prepared for their potential career path."

The luncheon menu featured Greek Style Garlic Chicken Breast served with Noodles and Sautéed Vegetables and was skillfully catered by the students in the District 205 Culinary Arts Program. The Luncheon yielded tangible results; District 205 was able to secure six new internship opportunities for our students including with the Village of Dolton, Thornton Township and the Village of Hazel Crest!



THORNTON CELEBRATES HISPANIC AWARENESS



The Latino Student Awareness Committee was formed as part of the Principal Ratliff's vision for increasing cultural awareness and appreciation at Thornton High School. The committee's primary goal is to provide recommendations to the administration, bolster the continued success of Thornton's Latino students and address the unique cultural challenges facing the Latino student population. In honor of National Hispanic Culture Month, the group hosted Thornton's first ever Latino Cultural Assembly.

The program featured a variety of Latin music, folk and modern dances and a vibrant array of traditional garb. As guests entered the auditorium, they were greeted by a powerful multimedia presentation showcasing the various aspects of a culture rich in tradition, history, food and family. The event included wonderful performances and showcased the Hispanic culture to everyone in the audience. It was a great success and there is no doubt that this wonderful new tradition will flourish in the years to come.



100 PARENT PLEDGE CEREMONY

NOVEMBER 2, 2013



Last semester, more than 100 parents, guardians, caring community members and District 205 Board members and Administrators filed into the auditorium at Thornton Township High School on November 2, 2013 for the first Parent Pledge Ceremony. The program featured some of Thornton's talented students which included the New Generation of Men, the Unity Singers, the Varsity Cheerleaders and the Sisterhood Network. Principal Tony Ratliff delivered a powerful presentation on the vision and purpose of the Parent Pledge ceremony in naming the vast array of opportunities Thornton offers its student population,



as well as addressing the areas of needed improvement, all while informing the parents of how they can contribute to Thornton's efforts. Parents then stood, held up their right hand and took their vow of commitment to "help our community's children achieve a truly independent future" by declaring their responsibility and commitment to Thornton Township High School. Following the ceremony, parents and students gathered in the cafeteria for a catered lunch. Special thanks to some of Thornton's finest educators for planning an awesome event: Lesley Jackson, Ashley Butler, Erin Wright, Sonia Marsalis and Rikeita Harris.



MEET DISTRICT 205's OUSTANDING SUPPORT STAFF

BETTY FLOWERS

**Where are you from?**

I'm from Mississippi, 65 miles from Memphis.
I came here in 1987.

What made you want to move to this area?

I needed a change of scenery after my mom passed away. I live in Dixmoor.

How long have you been working at Thornton?

I have been working here for 22 years.

What is your title?

I am the Custodial Supervisor.

What is the most challenging part of your position?

Trying to keep up with all of the setups. They will call me in the morning to do setups and sometimes other times of the day. Also, just making sure I get everything done and in a timely manner. I am a people pleaser.

What do you enjoy the most about your position? I really enjoy interacting and talking with the kids. They confide in me, I just love the kids. Whatever we do here the kids should come first. No child should be left behind.

What are your day-to-day roles in this position?

I manage the lockers, help with setup, manage 8 employees, take incoming phone calls and help our security team.

Do you have a motto or a statement you stand by?

If my employees can do it, I can do it. I believe in helping out.

What hobbies or activities are you involved in outside of your position?

I am on the usher board and pastoral committee at my church. I love helping the elderly. I love visiting sick people in the hospital. If I can't visit I will at least call them. I have 3 children and 7 grand children. Of that I have 1 son, 2 daughters, 3 granddaughters and 2 grandsons.

What advice would you like to share with others?

Be yourself and always do for others that you want to do for you, God always comes first, and don't mistreat your elderly.

OUR STUDENTS FLY HIGH WITH CIVIL AIR PATROL!



District 205 offers students a plethora of amazing educational opportunities, Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program (CAP) is just one of our noteworthy programs! The Cornelius Robinson Coffey Composite Squadron, IL-332 meets at Thornwood High School, Room 1104 on Mondays from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

By participating in the CAP, District 205 students develop valuable leadership skills and gain real-life experiences while immersed in the fascinating world of aviation. CAP offers students incredible opportunities including flight training, leadership development, summer activities, academic scholarships, and much more. The Civil Air Patrol program is a volunteer organization run in conjunction with the United States Air Force. CAP leaders give of their time and talents to mentor and assist our youth. The ultimate goal is to give back to the community, impact lives and provide students with the drive, direction and determination needed to achieve life goals. This is summed up perfectly in the program's Vision Statement, "Civil Air Patrol, America's Air Force Auxiliary: building the nation's finest force of citizen volunteers performing Missions for America." The Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program is perfect for any District 205 student interested in pursuing a career in aviation, the

Air Force or any other branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. The program is open to all students, 12 years old and up who are looking for a challenge. Interested students and their parents are urged to attend an informative introduction to Civil Air Patrol, wherein they will meet CAP cadets and hear first-hand what it's like to be member of this amazing program.

For more information contact:

Squadron Commanders -
Capt. Tenia Curtis - 708-698-4647
Capt. Leon Willis - 708-220-2500
Deputy Commander of Cadets -
Lt. Alicia Williams - 773-220-5193

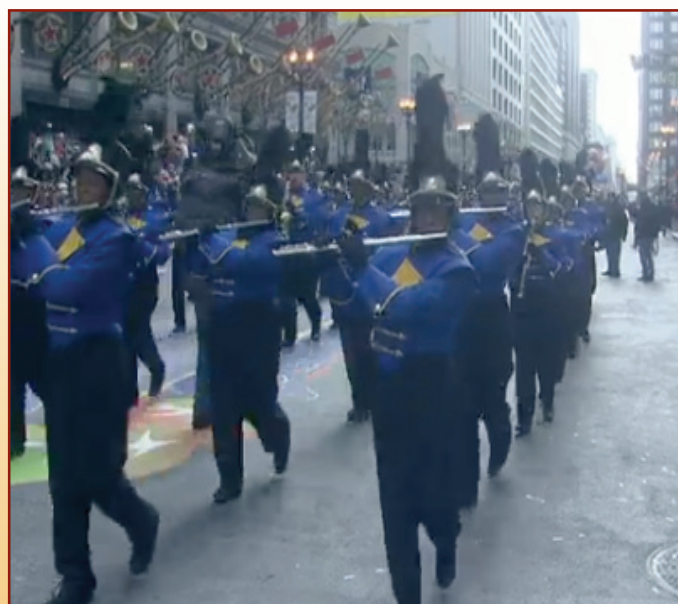
THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE DOWNTOWN CHICAGO



Thornwood High School Marching Band



Thornwood High School Marching Band

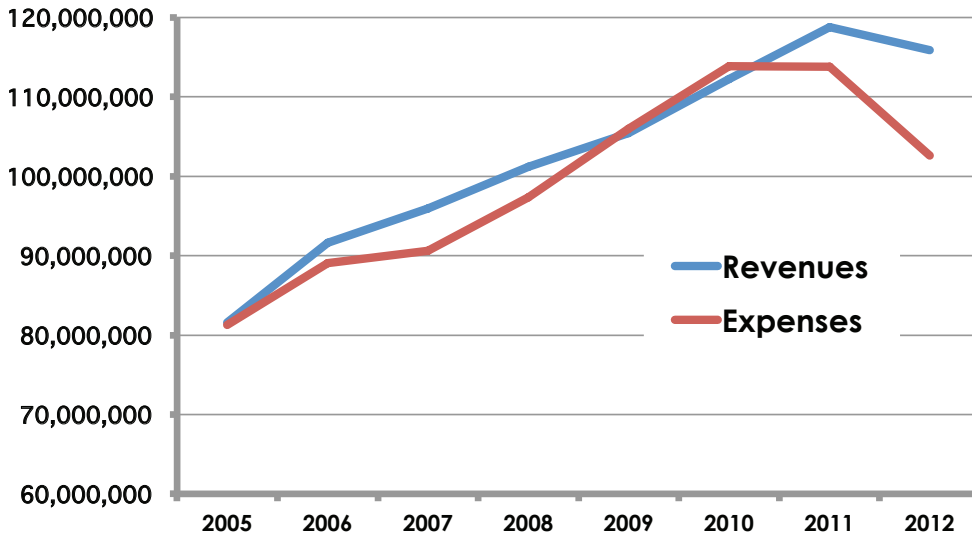


**Thornwood High School Marching Band Performed
in the 2013 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade!**

YOUR SCHOOLS AND FINANCE

Historical Financial Review

The entire world is in the midst of a level of economic crisis and instability that many of us have never experienced. This crisis has put an increasing financial strain on all school districts in the State of Illinois. A decrease in student enrollment within Thornton Township High School District #205 is putting an added strain on the District's current and future financial condition. The District has done an exemplary job in putting itself in the best possible financial condition in order to be prepared for the great financial challenges that are expected to impact the District over the next several years. The following graph reflects total revenues and total expenses (excluding major capital projects) of Thornton Township High School District #205 since 2005:



During this time period, the District has been able to increase fund balances (excluding capital project reserve fund) by adopting balanced budgets that have resulted in total revenues received since 2005 exceeding total expenses paid since 2005 in excess of \$28 million.

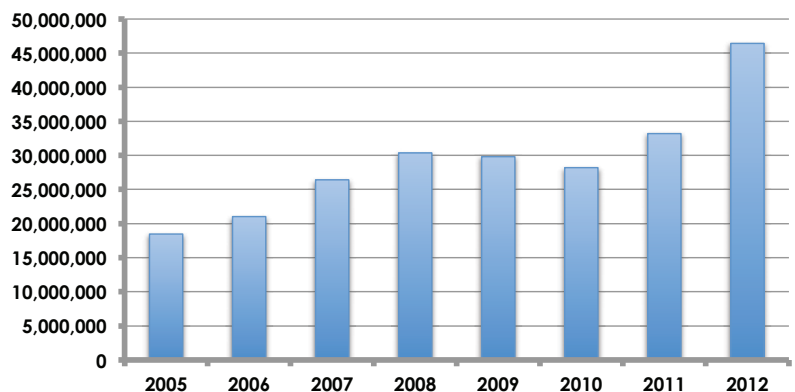
Issues Facing The District

Financial Crisis in the State of Illinois

With 33% of the District's total revenues coming from State sources, the District is vulnerable to the economic plight of the State. The State is in the midst of a major financial crisis, which has resulted in it having the lowest credit rating of any state in the country. State funding to school districts in Illinois has dropped in each of the past three years and delays in State payments have been in excess of 200 days at times. The District has permanently lost \$4.9 million in GSA (General State Aid) revenues due to cuts. Additionally, the State owed the District in excess of \$3.4 million in past due grant revenues on June 30, 2012. The State has indicated that funding to schools will continue to decrease in FY 2014. Actions being discussed include further reductions in GSA and the elimination of the regular transportation grant, which generates approximately \$2.5 million annually to the District.

The following graph reflects total fund balances (excluding capital project reserve fund) since 2005:

Fund Balances



Significant Decrease in Funding Due to Declining Enrollment

The average daily student attendance in the District has declined by 1,300 students over the past few years. For each student the District loses, it will lose approximately \$6,000 in revenues. In other words, the loss of 1,300 students would ultimately translate into the loss of about \$7.8 million in State revenues annually. It is important to note that the State of Illinois uses a three-year average of student attendance in order to determine funding levels. As a consequence, much of the decline in revenues will occur over the next few years.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

THORNTON TOWNSHIP HS DISTRICT 205

DR. STACEY MCJUNKINS
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

JERRY DOSS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

BRETT FICKES
DIRECTOR OF INNOVATIVE CURRICULUM DESIGN AND INSTRUCTION

THOMAS PORTER
DIRECTOR OF PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES

JOHN ARRINGTON
DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE AND CAREER PARTNERSHIPS

TERRANCE ROBERTS
TECHNOLOGY

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION



MR. TONY RATLIFF
PRINCIPAL

MRS. EBONIE WILLIAMS
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

MR. ALFONZO PEARSON
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

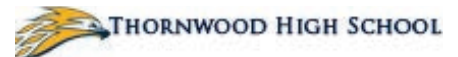
MS. WANDA RUSSELL
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



MR. JAMES WALTON
PRINCIPAL

MR. BRADLEY BEILFUSS
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

MR. STEVEN VALANT
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



MR. DENNIS WILLIS
PRINCIPAL

MS. KELLY HOCK
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

MS. ELAINE BROOKS
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

MR. THOMAS WALSH
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

AREA INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERS

*Rob Penman, Math • Michael Sanders, English • Cynthia Morris, Science
Benita Anderson, CTE • James Drake, Fine Arts • Jerry Styrsky, PE
Brett Fickes, Social Studies*