



YOUR SCHOOLS

The Magazine of Thornton Township High School District 205

Summer 2012 Vol. 59 Issue 1.



INSIDE ↓

5 New Superintendent

12 Career Pathways

14 Financial Outlook

THE GATEWAY FOR PREPARING OUR STUDENTS FOR A
GLOBAL SOCIETY

THORNRIIDGE ► THORNTON ► THORNWOOD



School Board of Education

School Board MEMBERS



Mr. Kenneth Williams

President

Williams.kenneth@district205.net



Mr. Edward Crayton

Vice President

Crayton.edward@district205.net



Mrs. Toni Williams

Secretary

Williams.toni@district205.net



Mr. Ray Banks

Member

Banks.ray@district205.net



Mr. Arthur Burton

Member

Burton.arthur@district205.net



Mrs. Bernadette Lawrence

Member

Lawrence.bernadette@district205.net



Mr. Darren Robinson

Member

Robinson.darren@district205.net



The Thornton Township High School District 205 Board of Education is immensely proud of our district. We hope the community recognizes the great things that are being accomplished on a daily basis by our dedicated, hard-working staff and our inspiring and talented students.

We are keenly aware that many in our community have been devastated by the effects of the recession – our students, families, and the hard-working taxpayers who pay the bill for our schools. We also fully expect that state and federal K-12 education resources will continue to shrink even as economic recovery takes hold. The District has already made substantial reductions in its spending, and we strongly believe that further reductions would be detrimental to student learning.

District 205 is fortunate to have a reserve balance that will allow us to maintain a high level of education despite decreasing funding from the state. However, even in the best-case scenario, without prudent financial planning-- we estimate that these reserves will be exhausted within a few years. Knowing this, the Board is committed to making these funds stretch as long as possible.

The Board is committed to providing all students in our district a quality education, while being responsible stewards of the District's limited resources. To that end we are pleased to announce the conclusion of negotiations with the Faculty Association. The new agreement is fair to teachers and holds the line on spending and the District's fiscal position.

The District is continually transforming itself into a hub for preparing our students for the future. Our administrators and faculty are developing best practices to develop career paths and programs that train our students for college and careers of the future. The Board of Education is excited about the more than 24 career pathways now offered in the District. These programs allow students to be exposed to careers and college prep courses that will allow them to be ahead of their after they graduate from our schools.

We are also pleased to announce the selection of Mr. John Thomas as the new Superintendent of Thornton Township High School District 205. You can read more about Mr. Thomas in this publication. He brings a wealth of experience and plans to continue to move the District forward, increase student achievement and equip our students with the tools to compete in a global society. Please welcome Mr. Thomas to the District 205 community.

This magazine was created to inform the community of the many wonderful things occurring in Your Schools. Please read through the pages of this magazine and familiarize yourself with our programs, activities and student success stories. It is a pleasure to serve the District 205 community. Please attend a Board of Education meeting or contact the District 205 administrative center for more information or to become more involved.



STUDENT Board of Education

Paola Nunez
President
Thornton H.S.

Luke Arrington
Vice President
Thornton H.S.

China Anderson
Secretary
Thornwood H.S.

Sanaa Vhora
Treasurer
Thornton H.S.

John Anderson
Member
Thornridge H.S.

Timothy Jones
Member
Thornridge H.S.

Trayshawn Mitchell
Member
Thornton H.S.

Alicia Ngubane
Member
Thornridge H.S.

Leslie Perkins
Member
Thornwood H.S.

Glennita Williams
Member
Thornwood H.S.

Jaelin Harris
Student Representation At-Large
Thornton H.S.

Jacob Hunter
Student Representation At-Large
Thornridge H.S.

Nolan Robinson
Student Representation At-Large
Thornton H.S.

History

Over the last few years the Thornton Township High School District 205 Board of Education took a bold and unprecedented action by approving the creation and development of a Student Board of Education Program. The Student Board of Education Program was initiated during the 2006-2007 school year. At that time, students were selected by the principal via staff recommendation. Over the course of the next two years, and under the leadership of Board President, Mr. Ray Banks, the Student Board's role expanded and structure became more formalized. During the September 2007 meeting of the Board of Education the Student Board was officially chartered and a District coordinator was assigned.

After the September 2007 Board of Education meeting, students from the original advisory group worked through the rest of the academic year to build the foundation of the organization. The students approved a comprehensive election code, fixed the number of representatives allowed for each building, approved an organizational mission and vision statement and passed

the first budget resolution to fund operations for the following year. 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. Each building is represented by three students. 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.

Operations and Accomplishments

The Student Board meets once each month on the second Tuesday. However, most work of the Student Board is accomplished via committees. The Board currently has six standing committees that include:

COMMITTEE	GOALS
Jefferson Awards Committee	Successfully pilot the Jefferson Awards Program at Thornridge High School.
District SAVE Committee	Work with SAVE to establish a viable program in all three high schools.
District Food Service Committee	Work with the Director of Business Operations to improve Food Service.
Graduation Committee	Develop procedures for graduating Student Board Members.
Cultural Events Committee	Develop cultural activities for students and board members.
Curriculum and Instruction Committee	Work with Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Board of Education to make recommendations that improve the quality of academic programs in District 205.

Jefferson Awards Committee

The District 205 Student Board of Education Jefferson Awards Committee—Thornwood, Thornton and Thornridge from South Holland, Harvey and Dolton, Illinois – respectively was named, out of over 80 affiliated high schools, as the 2011-2012 Jefferson Awards Students in Action Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana Regional Recipient for Outstanding Service by High School. Representatives from Thornton Township High Schools will attend the Jefferson Awards National Ceremonies and 40th Anniversary Celebration in Washington DC this June, where they will have an opportunity to compete for the distinction of National Recipient.





SPRING 2012 HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Betheny J. Lyke, Acting Superintendent

The 2011-2012 school year is over, but we are still working hard in District 205. It has been a rewarding experience to lead an organization full of great students, staff, parents, and community members. I thank the Board of Education for believing in me and providing me with the opportunity to assist our district as we participated in our transition between Superintendents. It has been a great experience from which I have gained a great deal and I hope the students in our district have gained a great deal, too.

The Spring 2012 semester has been action-packed for us, and I wanted to share some of the highlights with you, our readers.

Spring 2012 Highlights

District 205 Welcomes Our New Superintendent

As the Acting Superintendent for District 205, I would like to extend a warm welcome to Mr. John Thomas, the District's new Superintendent. Mr. Thomas will begin his duties as superintendent on June 1. You can read more about Mr. Thomas on [page 5](#) of this publication.

Thornton Township and District 205 Dr. Martin Luther King Day Celebration Program

More than four hundred attendees rejoiced in honoring the "Life, Dream and Legacy" of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the 2012 Dr. King Day program on Monday, January 16, 2012 at the South Suburban College Kindig Performance Arts Center. This event was a partnership between Thornton Township's Human Relations Committee, South Suburban College and District 205.

More than eighty District 205 students participated in the 2012 MLK program. Kudos to all the students who participated!

WYCA 102.3 Live Broadcast with Darryll King at District 205

District 205 partnered with Thornton Township to host a live radio broadcast with WYCA (Rejoice 102.3 FM) with gospel radio personality Darryll King.

It is through events of this caliber that we-- as a school district and as a community-- are able to demonstrate our effectiveness, our reach and our strength.

Career Pathways

District 205 is dedicated to preparing our students for life after high school, which is why we provide students with career pathways. Students select from one of the 25 currently offered pathways--similar to selecting a college major--during their sophomore year ranging from journalism to engineering to nursing. During the 2012-2013 school year we will add six new choices to our existing list. You can read more on the Career Pathways on [page 12 & 13](#) of this magazine.

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)

As we plan to keep our schools on the cutting edge of College and Career Readiness, we will be implementing the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program for our freshmen and sophomore students. This program will enhance academic rigor and acceptance into colleges and universities.

Thornton Township Academy of Truck and Diesel Technology—Powered by Navistar Graduates First Class of Students

Congratulations to the first graduating class of the Thornton Township Academy of Truck and Diesel Technology – Powered by Navistar. District 205 staff, Navistar representatives, students and parents were on hand to celebrate the 32 seniors that received certificates of completion. Top-performing seniors received awards, scholarships and/or \$5,000 toolboxes. All seniors received a \$2000 toolbox, courtesy of Navistar.

Welcoming New Superintendent

DISTRICT 205 WELCOMES ITS NEW SUPERINTENDENT!

Mr. John F. Thomas, New Superintendent

Don't Stop Thinking About Tomorrow



John F. Thomas was appointed Superintendent of Schools for Thornton Township High School District 205 on April 18, 2012, following a nationwide search. Mr. Thomas brings enormous energy, intellect and enthusiasm to his new post continuing his lifelong commitment to improving educational opportunities for children across the spectrum. Over the past 20 years, he has held several key positions in the Chicago Public School District, including chief area officer, high school principal, principal services manager, special needs administrator, recruiter, personnel coordinator and teacher.

Throughout the course of his career, Mr. Thomas has distinguished himself as an unwavering force for positive change in challenging educational environments. In 2004, he was appointed principal of Carver Military Academy, where he developed strategies for enhanced student achievement and school accountability. As principal of Carver, Mr. Thomas increased attendance, graduation and college enrollment rates, while drastically decreasing drop-out rates at the academy. Under his leadership, overall academic performance at Carver improved, resulting in the school's removal from academic probation status to a level 2 performance of good standing. He was named a 2002 Outstanding Leadership Award Semi-Finalist by the Chicago Principals and Administrators Association.

In 2009, Mr. Thomas was tapped to be a chief area officer for the Chicago Public School District. In this role, he provided oversight to 13 high schools and two achievement academies. Managing a combined budget in excess of \$100 million, Mr. Thomas implemented strategies to improve instructional delivery and implemented a system of differentiated professional development to build principal leadership and teacher capacity. He also designed a parent engagement system to increase parent and community involvement and lead his team in moving 4 schools from level 3 probation status to a level 2 performance of good standing. In addition, Mr. Thomas improved the schools' climates resulting in a reduction in negative incidents, increased student enrollment in advanced placement courses and designed a reach down program to prepare elementary students for high school.

Following a district-wide restructuring, Mr. Thomas recently returned to Carver Military Academy in the fall of 2011 to resume his work advancing the school's academic standing and overall student performance. Mr. Thomas remained in this position until recently being named Superintendent of Schools for Thornton Township High School District 205, where he will provide oversight for the district's students, schools and employees.

Mr. Thomas has completed all course work and comprehensive exams as a doctoral candidate in the educational leadership and supervision program at Roosevelt University. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in business management from Alabama A&M and two master degrees, including a Master of Business Administration from Alabama A&M and a Master of Arts degree in Urban Education from Concordia University. Mr. Thomas earned superintendent, chief school business official and general administrative certifications from the Illinois State Board of Education. Mr. Thomas served eight years as a United States Army Reserve Officer.

Mr. Thomas currently lives in Chicago with his wife, and is the proud father of their two daughters.

THORNTRIDGE High School



James Walton
Principal

Highlights



Stomp The Violence Competition

Greetings to you from the Falcon Nation! Well, it is June, 2012! And our school year is coming to an end. Although it was a very swift year from my perspective, a lot of phenomenal things have occurred during our second semester. Here are some of the highlights:

FEBRUARY

Students Against Violence Everywhere (S.A.V.E.) hosted their

1st annual step show competition entitled, "STOMP THE VIOLENCE" on Feb 3, 2012. Participant high schools came from Chicago Public, Bremen Township and SWSC school districts, as well as a participant from the city of Matteson. Ms. Sherita R. Robinson is the sponsor of S.A.V.E., and our Guest Host was "Tone Kapone" of radio station Power 92 (92.3 FM).

Thornridge held their 1st Annual "National Letter of Intent"

signing ceremony on February 1, 2012 in the Thornridge Principal's Conference Room. The following Falcon Football players were celebrated by family, friends, coaches and TR administration and staff:

Genaurtry C. Jackson, Terrence Thomas and Devonte E. Stewart. All three signed letters of intent for Robert Morris University and will receive full scholarships in the fall!

The Thornridge Falcon Speech Team competed in the IHSA Regional Speech Competition on Saturday, February 4, 2012 at Thornton Township High School. Congratulations to the following members of the team:

- 2nd place in Dramatic Interpretation: Destiny Thompson
- 4th place in Dramatic Duet Acting: Destiny Thompson, Ivette Salazar
- 2nd place in Extemporaneous Speech and Impromptu Speech: Demola Adeoshun
- 3rd place in Humorous Duet: Marquis Generally and Maurice Byrd
- 2nd place in Humorous Interpretation: Ashonta Atkinson
- 3rd place in Original Comedy: Tiera Sterling

These young people went on to compete in the IHSA State Sectionals.



Destiny Thompson, Speech Champion

MARCH

Senior Destiny Thompson won 1st place in the Dramatic Interpretation category at the IHSA State Speech Tournament held in Peoria, IL. Congratulations to Mrs. Yvonne Nesbitt and her coaching staff for a phenomenal season for TR's Speech & Drama department.

Thornridge competed in the SWSC Drama and Contest Play Festival at Thornton High School. Their Contest play, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, won and received an Excellent rating and three

cast members (Anthony Gibson, Ashley O'Lidge, and Ashonta Atkinson) were awarded All Conference Cast Members. The Group Interpretation, Fierce: Narratives of Victims and Victories, won a Superior Rating and the entire cast was awarded All Conference Cast Member medals. Our Technical Director, Mike Whitman, won the Tech'xcellence award for Superior technical work in setting up the show.



Mr. Anthony Thomas, Star Teacher Award Recipient

APRIL

Thornridge's Academic Enrichment Foundation Star Teacher Award Winner is Anthony Thomas, freshmen counselor.

Thornridge's Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Team attended the annual State Leadership Conference in Springfield, IL. For the first time in the history of Thornridge the entire team competed. Two students (Taylor Fizer & Larria Russell) qualified to compete at the national level in mid July.

Congratulations for 25 Years of Service to Thornton Township High School District 205:

Ms. Monica Dawson, Thornridge High School

Mr. David Eanes, Thornridge High School

MAY

Over 40 graduating seniors have earned over \$1.25 million dollars in academic and athletic scholarships and awards.

At Thornridge, our students have accomplished and achieved much this semester. Every class has a composite GPA of 2.0 and higher. Our overall attendance is trending up. Thanks to my administrative team, support personnel and teaching staff for a job very well done. We are excited for our graduating Class of 2012, as well as our rising sophomores, juniors and seniors, and we look forward as we prepare for the 2012-2013 school year. And as always.....

"We Are TR!"

THORNTON

Township High School



Tony Ratliff
Principal

Wildcat Students Are The Best!



Thornton Marching Band

Parents, guardians and community members,

How time flies when you're having fun! As our 2011-2012 school year comes to a close, I am extremely proud of the work of our Wildcat staff in the development of our students. Our staff pushed them in academics, provided opportunities for enhanced learning experiences, and mentored our Wildcat students towards yet another year of successful development and preparedness for the world beyond high school. I have always stated and will continue to affirm that Wildcat students are the best!

THE BAND

Thornton Township High School students helped kick off the school year with our Wildcat Marching Band, under the direction of Mr. James Render. The band participated for the second consecutive year in the Bud Billiken Parade. They also participated in the Chinese New Year Parade, and hosted several band concerts.

SPEECH TEAM

Our Wildcat Speech Team, under the direction of Mr. Kevin Martin, had a splendid season, as they won several honors for their spectacular performances, including being crowned as the Southwest Sub-

urban Conference Champions! A member of the speech team by the name of John Arrington (a.k.a. Johnny Blaze) won 2nd place at the state competition.

In addition to Ms. Gerri Lucas' exemplary instructional delivery as one of our star Spanish teachers, she is also the founder and current sponsor of our Wildcat Poetry Slams. She teams up with our Art teachers, Ms. Lee Mitidero and Ms. Carrie Carlson, as they entertain the entire Wildcat community with the best poetry performed and artwork created by our students.



John Arrington Jr., Speech Finalist

ATHLETICS

Speaking of entertaining, our Wildcat Athletic program continues its long-running success and pride of our community. Under the direction of athletic director, Mr. Bill Mosel, Coach Troy Jackson led our basketball team to our 9th consecutive regional championship. Our Lady Wildcat Track team under Coach Vince McAuliffe, won their 6th consecutive conference track meet, and represented Wildcat Country at the state finals. Our Men's Track team won 2nd place in our conference championship.



Thornton Football Team

Our Wildcat Football team, led by Coach Bill Mosel placed 2nd in the Southwest Suburban Conference.

COLLEGE AND CAREERS

Thornton Township High School students are blazing trails in their preparation for College and Career Readiness after their high school experience. Two years ago, Thornton seniors accumulated \$808,000 in scholarships, while this year graduating seniors have already exceeded \$3,400,000 and still growing! Topping that effort is our 2012 Gates Millennium Scholarship winner, Ms. Tamara Byrd, who also placed first in state competition in band. She and Crystal Estrada also studied at the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University during our winter break.

The very talented Cheron Mimms will forego her senior year here at Thornton Township High School, as she won an International Baccalaureate Scholarship and will spend her senior year studying abroad. Students in the likes of Tamara, our Gates Scholar winner and Cheron, our IB Scholar winner, were driven by the tireless efforts of staff members Mr. Paul Carr, Mr. Calvin Stark, and Ms. Theresa King.



Thornton's Culinary Arts Program

Our Culinary Arts department is embarking on an initiative, led by teachers Ms. Mynda Tracy and Mr. Shane Parker to send 30 of our students to Italy next year to study under the direction of Italian chefs. This will not only allow our students a great international experience, but it will provide them an opportunity to build international networks in the culinary profession.



Truck and Diesel Technology Powered by Navistar

The efforts of our Wildcat staff, students, administration, school board, parents, and community members clearly shows that Thornton Township High School is a very close and uncompromising team that stands to deliver the best of opportunities to the best of students-Wildcat students!

THORNWOOD High School



Darcelle Williams
Principal

Putting the Pieces of Excellence Together



College Fair

Thornwood High School ended the year the same way we started, with the beacon of light guiding us towards excellence. We continued to put the puzzle of excellence together with students and staff working hard on student achievement, academic and athletic programs, and strengthening our partnerships with our parents and community.

COLLEGE FAIR & COLLEGE TOURS

This year we continued our stride toward excellence by preparing our students for college and careers. Our College Fair was a tremendous success with about forty colleges and universities present, and all but one of the armed forces. Our students were eager to get this exposure and gather valuable information. We also hosted a Career Fair with 24+ careers highlighted. We were honored to host Darryll King, 102.3 Radio Personality.

In an effort to expose our students to colleges and universities on a more personal level, we sponsored a mega college tour. Our



College Fair

College and Career Counselor, Jalena Jones and her intern, Tara Hill organized 182 students to travel to the following colleges: EIU, ISU, Indiana State University, Purdue-Calumet, University of St. Francis, and Western Michigan University. This was an excellent opportunity for our students. We also had the opportunity to honor our seniors at the Senior Awards Luncheon, where over 300 students and parents attended. We were proud to award 125 students academic letters, who had achieved honors status for the last four years. Our seniors are off to a bright start and we wish them well.



Thornwood Staff vs Students Basketball Game

SPEECH TEAM

Our Performing Arts Department carried the torch of excellence in Speech, Group Interpretation and Radio/TV. The TW Performance in the Round cast of "Push" placed 3rd in the Illinois High School Association (I.H.S.A.) State Speech Tournament; the Group Interpretation cast of "Lion King" placed 2nd in the I.H.S.A. State Group Interpretation and Drama Tournament; and the TW Radio/TV class of Mrs. Crystal Meier-Balousek took several honors in the 5th Annual South Suburban College Video Competition. We are very proud of London Ketchum – 1st place and Chelsea Ford and Julian Roden, 2nd place in TV Commercial, and Guadalupe Ambrosio – 1st place in Music Video. Stars are shining bright at Thornwood.



Performance in the Round Cast

CHARITABLE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

At Thornwood, we are also very charitable and civic minded. We hosted our 2nd Annual Charity Bash this year. A number of fun activities including "Pie a Teacher" (the "teacher" was Assistant Principal Dennis Willis), and the competitive basketball match between students and staff to raise funds for the Sheilah A. Doyle Foundation, which helps Chicagoland area children whose parents were victims of murder.

Students also had an all pink day for Breast Cancer Awareness. Glennita Williams, our "Twinkie Girl" continued to collect items for the soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq. Our students demonstrated their social consciousness when they publicly expressed their feelings about the Trayvon Martin case and the Koney 2012 campaign to end the use of child soldiers in Joseph Kony's rebel war. The students were given opportunities in their classes to chime in to



Family Reading Night

the current events.

This year, in athletics, our Boy's Varsity Basketball Team excelled under the tutelage of Basketball Coach of the Year, Paul Slavich, and reigned as Southwest Suburban Conference Champions. In addition to that, our Boys' Varsity Track Team ran away with many successes this season, to end with the SWSC Championship as well. I am also very proud to announce that five of our Special Programs students excelled with gold medals in the Special Olympics, and will travel to the state competition. We wish them good luck at Illinois State University.

We continue to strengthen our partnerships with our parents and community with our monthly Parent Advisories and our Halloween High School, in addition to our district events like, Family Reading Night and the Parent Valentine's Dance. We will continue to meet the challenge to involve our parents into the education of our students, and look forward to next year.

All in all the Thornwood Family has pulled together once again to put the pieces of the puzzle of excellence together. At Thornwood, we put the puzzle together with the knowledge that Excellence begins with Respect and Pride.



Dorith Johnson
Director of Curriculum
and Instruction

Our district currently has career pathways from which our students can complete their sophomore through senior year. Choosing a career pathway is synonymous to choosing a major and serves to help make students career ready in addition to just being college ready.

The pathways that we currently offer our students include:

Arts & Communications

Journalism/Broadcasting
Theatre
Music-Instrumental and Vocal
Visual and Fashion Design
Spanish
French
Chinese

Health & Human Services

Early Child Care
Culinary Arts and Nutritional Wellness
Certified Nursing Assistant
Certified Medical Assistant
Biomedical
Government and Public Administration
Human and Social Services
Legal and Protection Services
Pre-pharmacy program

CAREER

Starting school year 2012-2013 through 2013-2014 we are proposing to start the following programs and pathways:

Emergency Medical Technician Program (2012-2013)

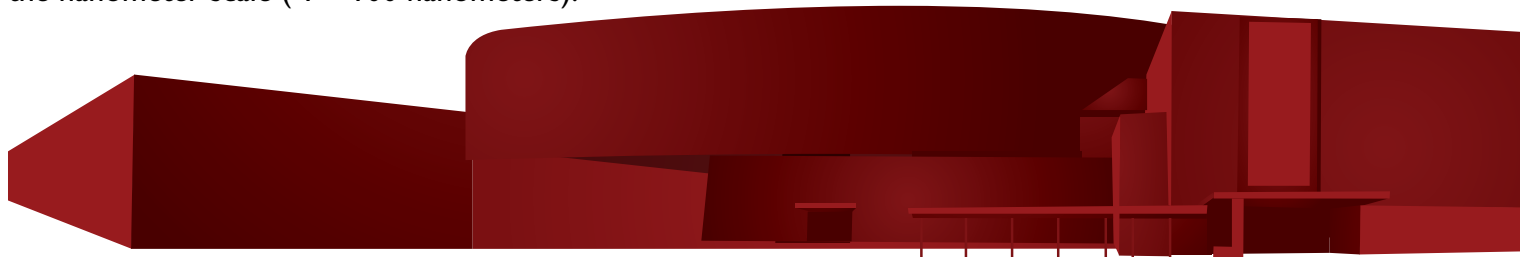
This program is a four-month program which includes 24 hours of emergency room time, 24 hours riding in an ambulance on emergency calls, and 8 hours of respiratory work in conjunction with a therapist. The students upon completion of the program will take the certification test to become an Emergency Medical Technician.

Criminal Justice Program (2012-2013)

This program will teach students about the administration of justice in the U.S. with a general overview of the total system; functional areas of the criminal justice system; role of police, courts and corrections; nature of law; interrelation of various components that form the system.

Nanoscience Technology Career Pathway (2013-2014)

The Nanoscience program will place emphasis on the study of atoms, molecules, and objects whose size is on the nanometer scale (1 – 100 nanometers).



Business Engineering Natural Resources Technology

Accounting

Computer: Graphic Design/Information Processing

Business Professionals

Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship

Engineering

Automotive Technology

Woods Technology

Academy of Truck & Diesel Technology Earth & Environmental Science



PATHWAYS

Construction Trade Career Pathway (2012-2013)

This program that we are reintroducing will train students in exterior framing, door and window installation, roofing, siding, painting, masonry, and cement work. Interior activities will include installation of electrical and plumbing fixtures, insulation, drywall, stairs, trim, cabinets, painting, wall and floor covering.

Cosmetology Career Pathway (2013-2014)

This program will introduce students to the basic tenets of cosmetology through hands on experience.

Teacher Preparation Pathway (2013-2014)

This program will be for students who are interested in becoming elementary or secondary teachers.



FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

By Douglas Ogarek



Douglas Ogarek,
Director of
Business Operations

At times, there appears to be a glimmer of hope for our ailing economy. However, the state of funding for education in Illinois continues to be negative with not much to look forward to. Many of the state's funding mechanisms for local school districts continue to contract, such as General State Aid and Transportation reimbursements. In addition, local property tax revenue continues to decline with lower collection rates due to foreclosures, tax appeals and commercial businesses closing operations.

The contraction of funding for education is forcing all school districts in Illinois to sharpen their pencils and spend the dollars received more wisely. Our District is looking at all aspects of our budget for areas where we can reduce expenditures. Currently, the business office is bidding out all of our operational contracts, such as food service, transportation, custodial services, security services, etc.

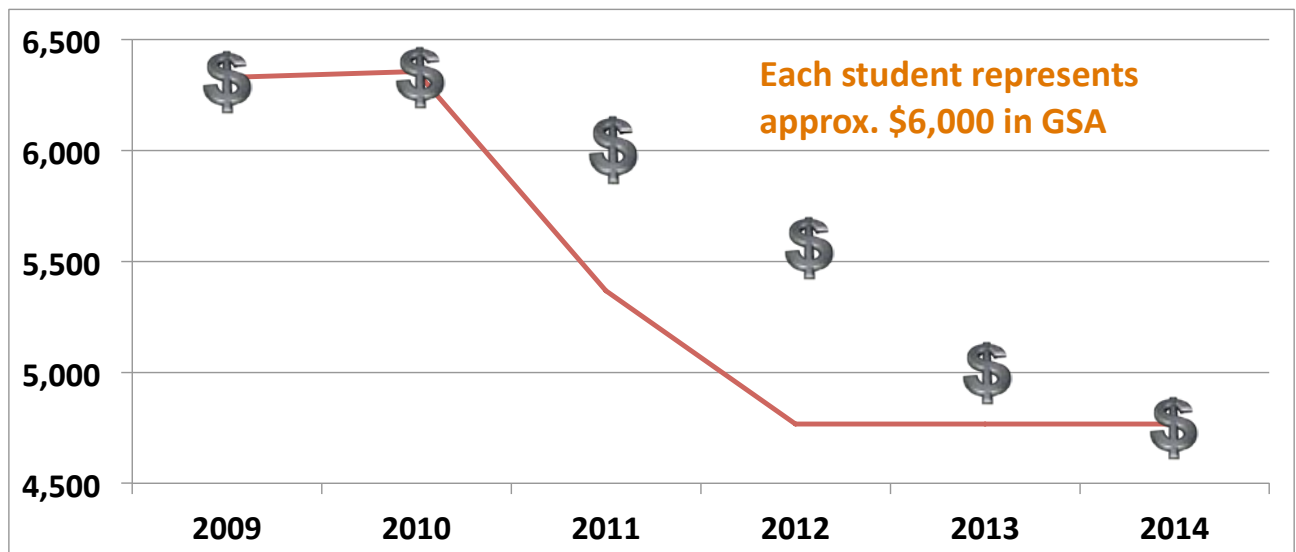
STATE FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Our District relies heavily on General State Aid (GSA) which represents approximately 30 percent of the District's operating budget. For the current school year, the state is funding GSA at 95% of the foundation level. Early communications from the Illinois State Board of Education indicate that local school district's should plan on the state funding at 91% of the foundation level with no increase to the foundation level base. This represents a \$1.2 million decline in GSA.

In addition to the decrease in the level of funding, General State Aid will further decrease by the decline in enrollment that the District has experienced over the past few years. General State Aid is based on the Average Daily Attendance (ADA). Because our district is experiencing a decline in enrollment, we are able to use the average ADA of the three prior years. This allows our District to receive more General State Aid than we would have based on current enrollment.

We estimate that GSA will decrease by approximately \$2.5 million due to declining enrollment. For the 2012-2013 school year, we are expecting an overall decline in GSA to be \$3.7 million between the lower funding level and the declining enrollment. GSA will continue to decline for the following two school years, \$3.8 million in 2013-2014 and \$1.4 million in 2014-2015.

Average Daily Attendance

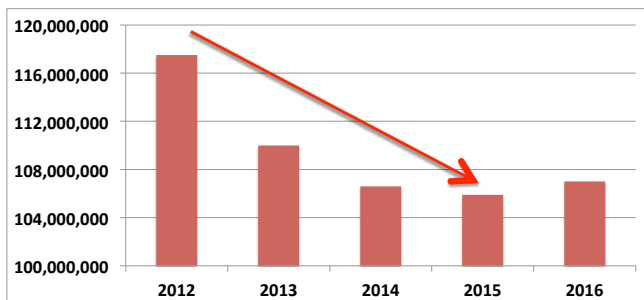


Represents number of students State uses in GSA calculation
(Three Year Average)

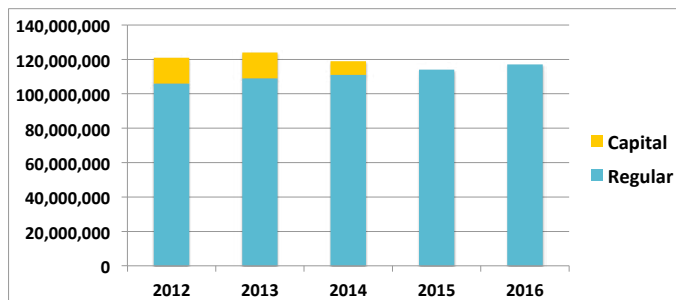
The Illinois State Board of Education is looking at changing the formula to calculate a school district's reimbursement for transporting students to school. In fact, ISBE is looking at not requiring a school district to transport children at all. School board members realize that the responsibility to provide safe, efficient ways to school without overburdening parents is not a responsibility or duty from which they will absolve themselves.

We are estimating a decline of \$1.1 million in Transportation reimbursements from the state for school year 2012-2013. These estimates are coming directly from the state and are subject to the final budget passed by the state.

Projected Revenues



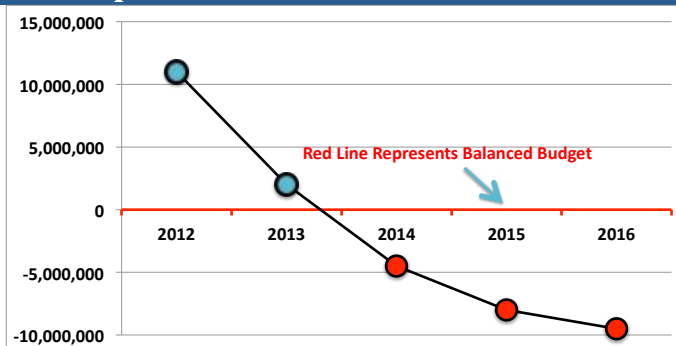
Projected Expenses



Despite the decline in the revenues over the next few years, our District is projected to maintain positive fund balances through 2016. The District currently has three months of expenditures in reserves in order to maintain operations during periods of fluctuating revenues.

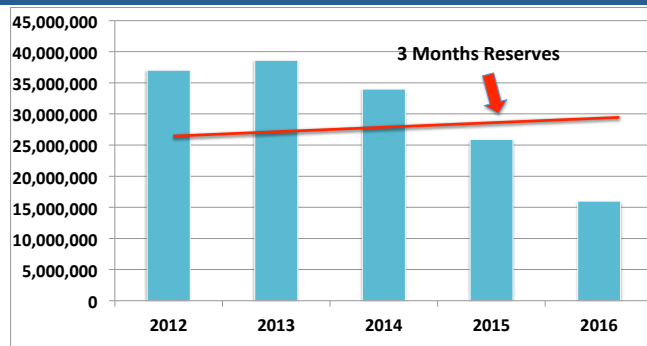
During the 2013-2014 school year, we are projecting deficit spending of almost \$5 million and will continue on in 2015 and 2016. This deficit spending will begin to deplete the District reserves. In school year 2014-2015, the District's reserves will fall below the three month reserve level.

Projected Revenues Versus Expenses



Financial Projections

Fund Balances



The District continues to review all areas of operations in order to reduce expenditures while not eliminating student programs. The District's proactive stance on averting deficit spending in future years will contribute to its continued financial success and sustainability.

Thornton Township High Schools District 205
465 E. 170th Street | South Holland, IL 60473
Ph: 708-225-4000 Fax: 708-225-4004
www.district205.net

ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 333
HARVEY, IL

MISSION:

*"District 205's school community
will create an environment where
every student can learn."*

We believe:

- The individual has intrinsic value.
- Learning and teaching should be guided by high expectations.
- Learning is a life-long process.
- All students can learn.
- Education is a shared responsibility of the school, student, family and community.
- Students learn best in and have a right to have a safe, positive and supportive environment.
- Diversity enriches the school community.
- Schools foster social responsibility.

FUTURE READY: College, Career & Citizenship DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Mr. John Thomas
Superintendent

Mrs. Dorith Johnson
Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Mr. Doug Ogarek
Director of Business Operations

Mrs. Carrie Ablin
Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Mr. Jerry Doss
Director of Public Relations

Mrs. Maria Brunson
Director of Information Technology

Mr. Greg Lindy
*Director of Building
and Grounds*

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Thornridge High School

Mr. James Walton Jr., Principal
Mr. Brad Beilfuss, Assistant Principal
Mr. Alfonso Pearson, Assistant Principal
Mr. Steve Valant, Assistant Principal

Thornton Township High School

Mr. Tony Ratliff, Principal
Mr. Scott Savage, Assistant Principal
Mrs. Ebonie Williams, Assistant Principal
Ms. Wanda Russell, Assistant Principal

Thornwood High School

Mrs. Darcelle Williams, Principal
Mr. Dennis Willis, Assistant Principal
Mrs. Kelly Hock, Assistant Principal
Ms. Elaine Brooks, Assistant Principal

AREA INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERS

Mr. Rob Penman
Math

Mrs. Cindy Morris
Science

Dr. Mike Sanders
English

Mr. Jerry Styrsky
Physical Ed & Student Services

Mr. Thomas Porter
Fine Arts & ELL

Mrs. Benita Anderson
Career Technical Education

Mr. Brett Fickes
Social Studies