

YOUR SCHOOLS

The Magazine of Thornton Township High Schools District 205

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Moving Students to Colleges & Careers

THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

DISTRICT 205

THORNRIDGE · THORNTON · THORNWOOD



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THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND STUDENT BOARD OF EDUCATION PREPARE FOR A NEW YEAR

By Jerry Doss



HISTORY

Thornton Township High School District 205 Board of Education is steadfast in its commitment to providing students with a quality academic program and acting as good stewards of District resources for the community at large. For more than a century, the Thornton Township High School District 205 Board of Education has been "Dedicated to Excellence." It is their vision, their

daily focus, and constant pursuit. We are the Lighthouse District-Preparing our Students to for College and Careers!

Every day our students strive for excellence in academics, the arts, athletics and activities. During the 2009-2010 academic year our District continued its rich tradition of success on the field of competition both academically and athletically. Our students are number one in the state in Speech/Drama, Music – IHSA Superior Ratings, and Athletics. In this magazine you will see examples by school how our students represent the District and community across the state and nation with honor and grace.

MISSION VISION

Through the Board of Education's vision and astute leadership, the District is in a stronger fiscal position than most. Because a large portion of district revenues are received from the State of Illinois, which is experiencing unprecedented budget shortfalls, the District's financial future is unclear. This fact is made even clearer when compared to our nation's current economic condition at both the state and local levels. Keeping this in mind, the Board is committed to expanding college and career programs such as the Thornton Township Academy of Truck and Diesel Technology Powered by Navistar, Project Lead the Way Pre-Engineering Program, University of Illinois-South Suburban College Pre-pharmacy Program and our new International Culinary Arts Program.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Board is also committed to improving the overall facilities of District 205 to expand the quality of teaching and learning, provide a safe and secure learning environment and provide state of the art learning facilities for District 205 students. Beginning the 2009-2010 school year, the Board is pleased to announce that District 205 is currently undergoing a \$51 million dollar capital improvement program. The Board would like to thank all faculty, staff, community members and students who participated in the ongoing planning process.

Organizational research indicates that good planning and evaluation are crucial to the successful operation of any major institution. This year the Board of Education established five strategic goals for the next five years and is happy to announce the complete revision and adoption of the District 205 Board Policy Manual. The 2009-2010 year was an awesome example of what our students and District are capable of doing with our support. We encourage you to continue to be involved and to stay informed about the issues that affect your children, their schools, and their future. For up to date information regarding District 205 please consult our website – www.district205.net. We also look forward to continuing our partnership with you – the members of the District 205 community – on our quest for excellence!

STUDENT BOARD

By Jerry Doss

HISTORY

Over the last four years the Thornton Township High School District 205 Board of Education has taken 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. Over the course of the last four years and with the support and confidence of the District 205 Board of Education, Superintendent and administration the program has successfully accomplished its role as a District-wide student advisory group and prepared student leaders for post high school opportunities.

Since its inception, over 25 students have served on the Student Board of Education representing all three schools. Students serving on the Student Board have a 100% graduation rate, attend college and are awarded scholarships that on average cover more the 60% of the cost to attend. Members of the Student Board also participate in high level policy and strategic planning decision affecting District 205. The 2009-2010 Student Board Goals included:

- Improving the District's current lunch offerings
- Working with students and student organizations to provide recommendation for the District's \$51 million Capital Improvement Program
- Continue to develop and expand the Jefferson Awards Program
- Continue to enhance the District 205 SAVE Program

GOALS

The Student Board of Education recently held its summer Board retreat at the Illinois Teen Institute at Monmouth College in Monmouth, Illinois. While at the Illinois Teen Institute the Student Board created the following goals for the 2010-2011 school year.

- Work with Arbor Management to diversify breakfast and lunch menu items and improve service and food quality.
- Continue to build and expand the Jefferson Awards Program in District 205.
- Work with Schaumburg High School to continue the Student Exchange Program with a Law and Social Justice Spring Break Immersion Experience.
- Continue to Strengthen the SAVE Program across the District.
- Plan and implement the Second Annual District 205 Board of Education Student Commendation Awards Ceremony.

For more information about the Student Board of Education and to follow its progress please consult the District 205 Student Board of Education website www.district205.net. The Student Board of Education meets regularly on the second Tuesday of each month. During the months of May, June July and August, the meetings are held at Thornwood High school; August, September, October and November at Thornridge High School; and January, February, March and April at Thornton High School.



Thornton-Schaumburg High School Law & Social Justice Student Exchange

2009-2010 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Food Tasting 2009
- Board of Education approved Student Board recommendations for District 205 Capital Improvement Program
- Gold Service Leadership Award from the Jefferson Award Community Service Initiative
- The Illinois Teen Institute 2010 Community Action Plan Implementation Award

The 2010-2011 Student Board of Education was sworn in at the regular meeting in May. The following students will serve as officers and members for the 2010-2011 school year:

Thornridge High School; Markist Booker (*Vice President*), John Anderson (*Member*), Vincent Jones (*Member*)

Thornton Township High School; Dontrail Evans (*Member*), Jaylen Tyra (*Member*), Paola Nunez (*Secretary*), Timothy Mitchell (*Member*), Darius Calhoun (*Member*)

Thornwood High School; Habibat Oguntade (*President*), Bryan Williamson (*Member*), Alex Mayfield (*Student Representative at Large*), Chloe Flowers (*Treasurer*)



Radical and Bold 21st Century

J. Kamala Buckner, Ph.D. SUPERINTENDENT of SCHOOLS

Radical and Bold Change for 2025

On June 14, 2010, District 205 submitted a grant to the Illinois State Board of Education for \$6 million in hopes of beginning bold, new, and radical changes for our schools. In reviewing the data and talking with parents and community leaders, business as usual **cannot** continue.

The students of the 21st Century have more demands on their time and intellect. The careers presently available to the workforce are rapidly changing. The students preparing to compete in 2025 must be more *flexible, technological* and master how to work in teams. Students must master reading, writing and arithmetic in ways that were not taught to most of their parents. In order to make these changes we must “**think out of the box**”.

College and Career Focus

The District has instituted new programs such as the Pre-Pharmacy Program, Project Lead The Way, International Culinary Arts and Thornton Township Academy of Truck and Diesel Technology Powered by Navistar. All programs lead to a career or college. Our newest program, Navistar, is extremely successful. Forty-eight sophomores started the program in the fall. All of the students completed the first year with a 97% attendance rate. All students were required to dismantle and reassemble a 528 part engine. After reassembling the engine students must pass the final test of restarting the engine. I am very pleased to announce that all engines started! Next year, financial literacy, Chinese, Arabic and Bio-Med programs will be fully implemented. Even with this awesome start, the District still has much more to do.

School Improvement Grant

If the District is successful in obtaining the School Improvement funds, changes will be implemented. Changes are neither comfortable nor easy. Nevertheless, the impending changes are designed to revolutionize teaching and learning in order to prepare our students to compete globally and internationally, not just nationally.

District 205 has had several journeys. At one time, we were in fiscal devastation. Although we still have fiscal challenges, we are in a far better position than many school districts because our Board of Education made the decision to have a balanced budget and provided the Superintendent with the direction to make that occur. The mission continues to be to ensure that the students are highly competitive, are able to make a livable wage as well as become strong and independent citizens. This will require all of us. “It does take a village to raise a child” but it also takes a village to make the changes we need to make our students successful.

Residency

Lastly, but most importantly, while we are looking forward to making the needed changes for all students, the District is also very concerned about the number of students who do not live within District 205 boundaries and are taking advantage of our education as well as the taxpayers’ dollars. Unfortunately, some individuals are erroneously using the homelessness guidelines to improperly enter our schools. Others are falsifying addresses. The District is committed to identifying these students and families so as they leave the district’s tuition cost can be reimbursed. The Board of Education and Administration are focused on this issue and have instructed all outreach and residency personnel to use all tools available to ensure students are residents of Thornton Township High School District 205.

The journey continues.

J. Kamala Buckner

J. Kamala Buckner, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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★ Star Award Winners

By Jerry Doss

HISTORY

Three years ago the Thornton Township High School District 205 Academic Enrichment Foundation created the Star Award for Teaching Excellence. The Star Award for Teaching Excellence recognizes outstanding teachers who embody District 205's commitment to excellence.

All full-time tenured faculty members are eligible for the award. The award honors teachers who inspire, stimulate, challenge, and motivate their students; teachers who develop in students the ability to think critically and creatively about the world; teachers who instill in their students a lifelong love of learning; and teachers who inspire, mentor; and develop new teachers entering the field.

THE SELECTION PROCESS

Each year the Foundation selects one teacher at each building to receive the Star Award. The Star Award for Teaching Excellence recipients are nominated by their professional peers in each building. The nine professionals that have been selected as Star teachers over the last three years have touched the lives of thousands of students who have attended District 205 schools. The Star Award for Teaching Excellence only ratifies the sentiments of the District, the Foundation, faculty and staff of District 205 that teachers go over and beyond the call of duty everyday in District 205.

STAR AWARD RECIPIENTS

2007

- **William Kirksey** Thornridge High School,
- **Calvin Stark** Thornton Township High School
- **Patricia Brucki** Thornwood High School
(Bottom Left Corner)

2008

- **Yvonne Nesbitt** Thornridge High School
- **Jackie Woods** Thornton Township High School
- **Nancy Lopez** Thornwood High School
(Nesbit-2nd to L; Woods-2nd to R; Lopez-R Corner)

2009

- **Barbra Green** Kenan Thornridge High School
- **Wanda Russell** Thornton Township High School
- **Dr. Charles Seigel** Thornwood High School
(Lower Right Corner)

2010

- **Ron Kokesh** Thornridge High School
- **Dr. Veronica Peppers** Thornton Township High School
- **Deborah Ubriaco** Thornwood High School
(Top)



HIGHLIGHTS OF THORNTON



At Thornton Township High School, Knowledge is Power! This is not only our school motto; but it is also what Wildcats practice on a daily basis. We consistently strive to ensure that our students are gaining the appropriate knowledge to be successful during their years after high school. At Thornton, we are not living for today; we are living for the future.

WELCOME By Dr. Betheny Lyke

At the March 10, 2010 Board meeting, the Board of Education confirmed Mr. Tony Ratliff as the new principal of Thornton Township High School. The entire school community welcomes this Thornton graduate, who returned to his alma mater, to be principal. He is following a great principal in Dr. Betheny Lyke. He wishes to continue the tradition of excellence to the entire school community.



Tony Ratliff
Principal

Innovation **NAVISTAR**

During this school year, District 205 students were introduced to the Thornton Township Academy of Truck and Diesel Technology. This program is a partnership between District 205 and Navistar International—one of the world's leading producers of diesel engines. This program, which is the only one in our area, is preparing students to understand the industry of diesel technology and go directly into the many high-demand career opportunities that the diesel industry has to offer.

INTERNATIONAL CULINARY ARTS PROGRAM

Also making its debut in the 2009-2010 school year was the International Culinary Arts Program. As a result of participating in this program, students will have the knowledge necessary to be successful in a Culinary Arts School upon graduating from TTHS and coupled with a college degree in a business related field.

Success

PRE-PHARMACY PROGRAM

For the second school year, the Pre-Pharmacy Program offers students interested in pursuing careers in various health professions-- such as medical physician, nurse, physical therapist, or pharmacist—with a tremendous opportunity. This program is a partnership between District 205, South Suburban College, and University of Illinois at Chicago.

MOLDING ENTREPRENEURS

Year two for the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) Program meant offering two new classes – Introduction to Entrepreneurship and Intermediate Entrepreneurship. The program prepares students to successfully create, develop, and present their business plans before a panel of professional judges at the Thornton and regional business plan competitions.

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

- State champion in oratorical declamation, LaMar Hawkins



- 3rd Place state finisher for poetry, Javon Smith
- Contest play cast and crew are the sectional champions
- Basketball team members are the regional champions for the South West Suburban Conference
- Cheerleaders won 1st place in the Illinois Cheerleading Coaches Association Championship
- Girls' track team won their fifth straight conference track title this year

What's New For 2010-11?

ARABIC & CHINESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE PROGRAMS

As we continue to develop global leaders in District 205, it is imperative that our students be able to compete on the world stage. TTHS will implement Arabic and Chinese Language and Culture Programs for the 2010-2011 school year. These programs will be unique to our area as students will not only learn the Arabic and Chinese languages, but they will be indoctrinated with the culture surrounding both languages.

NEW COMPUTER PROGRAMMING CLASS

Due to the success of the C++ Computer Programming class during the 2009-2010 school year, a new Advanced Computer Science program will be implemented this fall. Through a specific course of study that will start in their sophomore year, students will learn to design and create computer programs in various languages.

**KNOWLEDGE
IS
POWER**

Wildcat Graduates

We are proud that we currently have recent Wildcat graduates at Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), University of Chicago, Northwestern University, Howard University, University of Illinois, US Army Academy at West Point, University of Michigan. As always, we invite you to come to Thornton Township High School to experience Wildcat Pride. Our school is your school!





HIGHLIGHTS OF THORNBRIDGE

Thornridge Falcons are soaring toward excellence in education! We are an institution that advocates on behalf of young people. As a learning community we are committed to academic and co-curricular excellence.

Welcome to Falcon County, where “We are TR!”



By Kim Waller
Principal

School Improvement Grant Recipient

In the fall of 2009, Thornridge High School received a School Improvement Grant for \$395,000. TR has utilized the money to provide additional opportunities for students, as well as staff, directly related to improving our test scores in reading and math.

HALF CAP CEREMONY

In the spring of 2010, TR hosted their first half cap ceremony, which celebrates sophomores who successfully completed all course requirements toward graduation. The ceremony featured guest speaker Secretary of State Jessie White.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Thornridge students are learning the importance of community service and have demonstrated a commitment to making a difference in their community and the world.

- This year our student council hosted “**The Taste of TR**”, where student council members donated exotic dishes for students and staff to taste.
- Our students donated money to the **Haiti Relief Fund** with money that was raised as a result of their many fundraisers.
- The **National Honor Society** raised money and non-perishable food for the **Thornton Township Food Pantry** with its annual “One Can, One Dollar, One Smile” holiday drive, collecting over \$2,000 and over 2,500 lbs of food this year.
- The **TR volleyball team, cheerleaders and N.H.S.** to raise over \$2,000 for “**The Susan G. Komen for the Cure**” to fight breast cancer.



NEWSPAPER AND YEARBOOK RECOGNITION

Thornridge Bagpipe Newspaper earned top honors in the South West Suburban Conference for best layout and design, best editorial writing; 2nd place in sports writing ; and Thornridge tied with Homewood-Flossmore for best overall newspaper in the conference. The Piper yearbook earned gold status from the Illinois High School Press Association as one of the top 10 yearbooks in the State of Illinois. In addition, nineteen Falcons were honored as student journalist in the 2010 edition of “Who’s Who in Journalism”.

THE ARTS

This year our theater arts students earned rave reviews and standing ovations for their outstanding production of Alice Walker’s, “The Color Purple.” Seniors Gabrielle Dillon and Alan Selph captured 2nd place in dramatic duet acting at the 2010 I.H.S.A. State Speech tournament in February. Dillon also doubled as a state finalist in dramatic interpretation.

TR BAND JAMS



Under the leadership of Band Director David Eanes, a Golden Apple winner who was recently awarded the first annual "Howard Luckey Excellence in Jazz Leadership Award, Thornridge High School's band continues to be a force to be reckoned with!

- The TR Marching Falcons were named the Grand Champion for the fifth consecutive year at the annual Rich Central High School Olympian Marching Band Festival "Battle of the Bands" competition.
- Mr. Eanes continues to be a legend in the music industry and the field of education. Actress and Chicago native, Lisa Raye visited Thornridge High School to thank Mr. Eanes, her former high school flag & drill team instructor, for instilling a strong work ethic within her. Mr. Eanes and the Thornridge Band were featured on Lisa Raye's reality television show "The Real McCoy" on TVOne.
- In addition, 21 soloists and seven ensembles earn superior ratings at the 2010 I.H.S.A Solo Ensemble competition.



FALCON GRADUATES

As we bid our graduates a fond farewell we would like the entire community to know that many of our graduates will be attending four year colleges and universities, serving our country, or going directly into the workforce. The graduating class of 2010 has received approximately one million dollars in academic and athletic scholarships. We are especially proud of all our graduates and their achievements, as we wish them well in their future endeavors.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THORNWOOD



The Thornwood Thunderbirds began the 2009-2010 school year with our motto of
EXCELLENCE BEGINS WITH RESPECT AND PRIDE.

We started the year with an increased graduation rate of 86.9% up from 83.8% last year. Our goal to graduate 100% of our students continues, and optimism and hard work is imminent.



By Darcelle Williams
Principal

Connecting With the Future

THE INTERGENERATIONAL READING PROGRAM CONNECTS THE SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

The goal of this program is to partner high school freshmen with adult volunteers from the community to read a book and share written reflections about the book and life with each other in a journal.



TRAINING FUTURE PHARMACISTS IN THE PRE-PHARMACY CLUB

This student organization partners with South Suburban College and the University of Illinois at Chicago, so that students can study Pharmacy Math and Pharmacy Drugs during the school year. They enjoy field experiences as they prepare to take the Pharmacy Technician Certification exam.

FINANCIAL LITERACY CLUB SPONSORED BY LINKS, INC.

Students learn about finances and stocks in the Financial Literacy club sponsored by the South Suburban Chicago Chapter of the Links, Inc., where they discuss stock portfolios. They chose two corporations, i.e. Disney and Apple and researched their stock worth and why one would invest in one over the other. All monies accumulated go into a savings account that they do not access until they graduate.

THORNWOOD CHEERLEADERS ARE TRULY WINNERS!

The Thornwood Cheerleaders placed 1st at I.H.S.A. Regional's, and were in the top ten in the I.H.S.A. State Cheerleading Competition. They also placed 2nd in the ICCA State Cheerleading Competition. For the cheerleaders ended their season with a bang when they won the National Championship in the Contest of Champions National Competition which took place in Orlando, Florida. The Thornwood Cheerleaders have been National Champions for 8 consecutive years. Way to go, T'Birds!



THE THORNWOOD TRACK TEAM IS ON THE RUN

While most of us are winding down, the Thornwood Track Team is just getting started. They are definitely still "winding up!" Aside from becoming the SWSC Champions last week, they are still making strides. The boys track team is the I.H.S.A. Sectional Champions.

THORNWOOD HAS GREAT COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS!

Thornwood participated in Principal for a Day in November and welcomed South Holland Village Administrator, Pat Mahon to be Principal for a Day.



STATE CHAMPS

THORNWOOD FINE ARTS STUDENTS EXCEL IN SPEECH AND MUSIC

Director Paul Anderson and the Thornwood Band were chosen to march in the Thanksgiving Day Parade on national television on Thanksgiving morning 2009. The Theatre and Speech students were also busy this year, beginning with the production of the musical, Little Shop of Horrors. They went straight into a successful speech season. They ended the season as I.H.S.A. STATE CHAMPIONS! The last time Thornwood won this honor was in 1977.

The Speech and Drama students ended the year with the Group Interpretation of "Cabin in the Sky," where they placed 4th in the I.H.S.A. State competition, and finally with a provocative dramatic Spring Play production of "12 Angry Jurors". Great year!

AP GOVERNMENT CLASS PARTICIPATE IN THE 1ST ANNUAL SIXTH DISTRICT MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

Student, De'Je Holmes was named as the tournament's MOST OUTSTANDING LAWYER! As a reward, John Marshall Law School granted her a \$5000 tuition waiver!

STUDENTS FROM THE AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY CLASS WIN ON "KNOW YOUR HERITAGE"

Teacher, Al Butler's African American History students won first place at the 2010 Heritage Bowl Competition, sponsored by the Top Ladies of Distinction South Suburban Chapter and the Top Teens of America.



Celebrating THE WORLD



By Bob Moulesong Times Correspondent
www.nwi.com

Jerry Doss took a deep breath and sighed. "Being the director of the U.N. Academy is the first time I got to be on the front line with the kids," said Doss, public relations director for Thornton Township High Schools District 205. "These kids have a tremendous amount of energy every minute of the day."

The fourth annual U.N. Summer Leadership Academy celebration took place last week with a demonstration of the creative learning that the 130 academy students experienced during the six-week program.

The academy is a community-based program. The mission is to provide students in grades three through nine, from surrounding school districts and communities, with a global-based academic and enriched experience.

"Our one-of-a-kind program was created to accomplish the goal of providing middle school students with a globally based academic leadership experience that will develop critical thinking skills," Doss said. "We want the students to develop an understanding of current and past issues affecting the local community and the world, and develop leadership skills for instituting positive changes within the students' school and community."

The academy blended the Ralph Bunche United Nations curriculum, world history, economics, current events, wellness and leadership training in an effort to equip students to become ambassadors for their schools and communities.

"The program has been a tremendous success every year," Doss said proudly. "The number of students participating grows annually, as a very positive word-of-mouth spreads through the South Suburbs."

The program model is comprised of 130 students assembled in 10 groups representing 10 countries: the United States, Great Britain, France, Russia, China, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Brazil, Egypt and Kenya.

The courses included United Nations, language arts, geographical math, culinary arts, dance, art, life skills, soccer and swimming.

Doss explained that instructors facilitate the classroom courses, and top-ranked high school students serve as tutor/

mentors for each of the 10 countries to be researched during the program.

The academy also included workshops, mock UN sessions/votes, guest speakers, cultural enrichment, college tours and educational field trips.



The academy is designed to be a year-round, learning experience. District 205's high school students and their partner elementary schools meet monthly to discuss and participate in United Nations-supported activities such as:

- International/national podcasts and webcasts.
- The United Nations International Day of Peace.
- The United Nations' anniversary.
- World AIDS Day.
- International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Slavery.

The U.N. Academy is sponsored by the South Suburban Chicago Chapter of The Links, Inc., District 205 Academic Enrichment Foundation, the W Hotels, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the cities of Harvey and Markham, Dixmoor Experience, IDHS (Gear Up/Teen Reach) and the village of Phoenix.

D.205's Boost in Summer Programs Pays Off

By Bob Moulesong Times Correspondent
www.nwi.com

While many school districts are cutting back to stay afloat, Thornton Township High School District 205 increased the number of summer programs it sponsors and the number of students in each one. **The move paid off for the district and the students.**



"We have unprecedented numbers in our summer programs," said Jerry Doss, the district's director of public information. "This year, we have 1,761 students from all over the south suburbs coming to our various summer programs."

Doss said parents are relieved and ecstatic about finding programs for their kids to attend during the summer.

"Some parents are looking for ways to enrich their kids' summer, and some are looking for help for their kids who need to be better prepared for the fall," Doss said.

The regular summer school program attracted 830 students this year. It allowed students the opportunity to recover credits or take coursework to help them stay on track to graduate.

More than 170 students attended Summer Boost, an academic enrichment program for incoming freshmen. The goal of the program is to boost scores and achievement in math and reading. It also prepares freshmen for classwork in Spanish and algebra.

The smaller learning camps had 120 attendees this year. The three-week camps are aimed at high school students interested in pursuing careers in health and human services, arts and communications, and business engineering and technology. Students visited businesses and interviewed workers.

The summer athletic camps also were a big hit, with 458 attendees. They serve as a bridge between elementary and high school programs.

"There is a big difference between ath-

letics in elementary and high school," Doss said. "The student-athletes tend to fare much better when they can get exposure to the expectations at the high school level in these camps."

Students receive instruction from coaches and participate in all sports the district currently offers at its schools. Sixteen district students participated in the Pathways to Pharmacy Program through the University of Illinois at Chicago's College of Pharmacy. The program encourages minority students to pursue pharmacology and other health care professions.

Doss credited district Superintendent J. Kamala Buckner for the success of the summer programs.

"I honestly don't know where Dr. Buckner came up with the creative financing needed to get these summer programs off the ground," Doss said. "She made it work within our budget, despite the difficulties we have had getting state money."

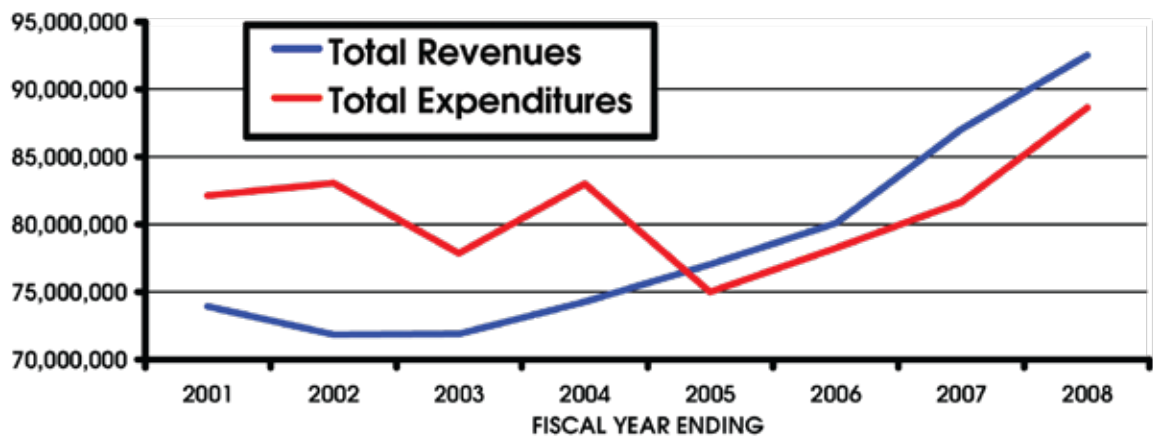
SUMMER PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

Summer school:	830
Summer Boost:	173
Pharmacy program:	16
Summer Project Lead the Way:	35
Smaller Learning Communities Camp:	120
Summer Arabic and Chinese Camp:	20
Summer Athletic Camps:	458
U.N. Summer Leadership Academy:	130

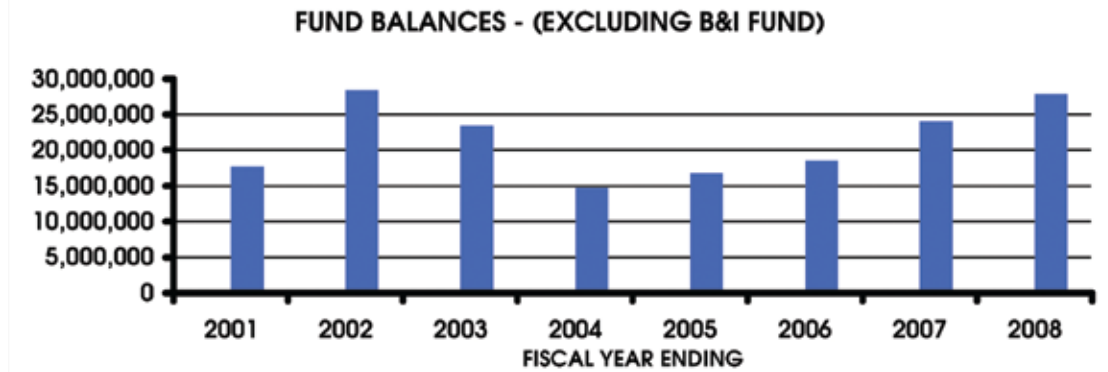
Total: **1,782**

Historical Financial Review

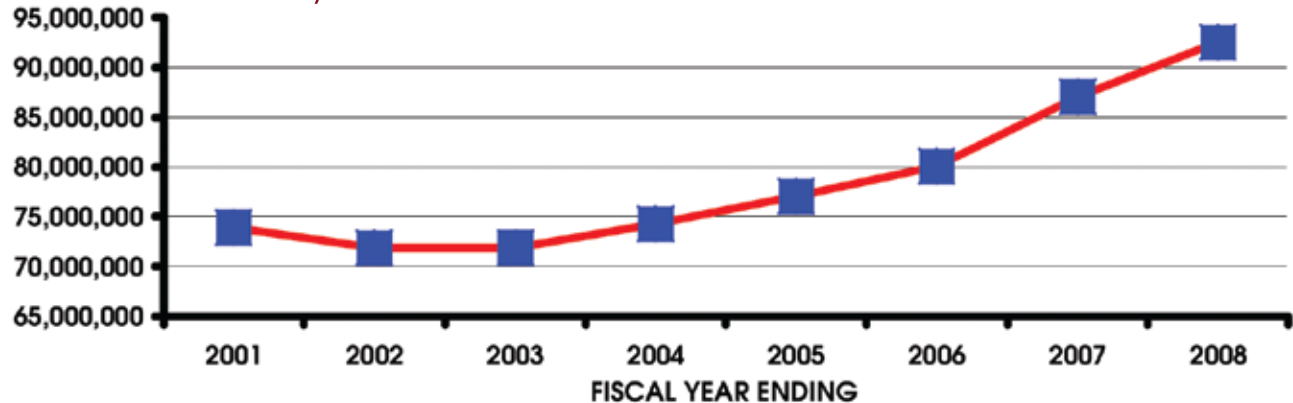
In developing a long-term financial plan for a school district, it is critical to first review the historical trends in the revenues and expenditures of the District. The Historical Financial Review incorporates all funds in the District excluding the bond and interest fund. The following chart reflects the trend in revenues and expenditures for Thornton Township High School District 205 over the past eight years:



As the above chart illustrates, the District incurred annual deficits through fiscal year 2004. In fiscal year 2005, expenses decreased dramatically and the District incurred a surplus in that year and for each of the past four years. Between 2001 and 2004, total expenditures exceeded total revenues by \$34 million. Between 2005 and 2008, total revenues exceeded total expenditures by \$13 million. Additionally, the District received a total of \$23 million in bond proceeds during the 2002 and 2003 fiscal years. The following graph reflects fund balances over the past eight years as a result of this activity:



REVENUE History

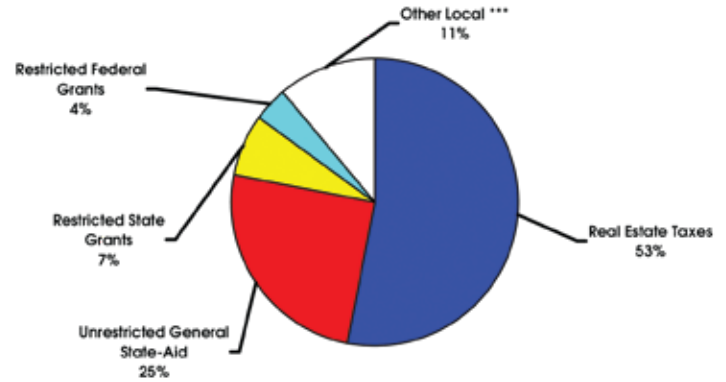


REVENUE History

Total revenues received by School District #205 increased by an average annual rate of 3.3% from 2001 through 2008. Between FY 2001 and FY 2003, annual revenues decreased from \$73.9 million to \$71.9 million. Since that time, total revenues have grown 5.2% annually. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, total revenues received by School District #205 can be broken down as follows:

***** Other Local Revenues include interest earnings, corporate replacement taxes, student fees and other miscellaneous revenues.**

In order to analyze revenue patterns during this time period, it is necessary to examine the primary sources of revenue in the District: (1) real estate taxes, (2) unrestricted general State-aid and (3) restricted State and Federal grants. These revenue sources account for 89% of the District's total revenues.



ISSUES Facing the District

With the goal of ensuring that the financial condition of the District remains healthy, it is imperative to examine major issues that may have a significant impact on the District's financial condition.

Major Capital Projects

The District is in the process of implementing a long-term plan addressing existing school facilities. This plan will require careful financial planning because of the size and scope of the project. Most school districts fund major capital projects by borrowing the funds to pay for the projects through the issuance of bonds. The District must recognize that it is limited by state statutes, however, in the amount of bonds it can borrow.

One limit facing Thornton Township High School District 205 is the maximum amount of taxes it can levy annually to make principal and interest payments on its non-referendum debt. For this District, the tax levy to pay off debt cannot exceed \$8,401,000 in any given year. This annual limit is known as the Debt Service Extension Base.

The District recognizes the fact that its facilities are both aging and somewhat inefficient. The District has concluded that it would cost approximately \$50 million to repair and improve its three facilities in order to comply with fire prevention and safety needs and to make minor improvements beyond these needs.

In December 2008, the District issued \$50 million in bonds to address a portion of its capital needs. Sound fiscal management by the Board and Administration and low debt levels has positioned the District well to allow the issuance of this debt within its debt service extension base.

The following graph represents the District's debt prior to the new bond issuance (blue bars) and the new bond issuance (yellow bars).

Two points need to be made. First, the **issuance of these bonds has left limited ability for the District to issue bonds in order to fund operating deficits. This puts a heightened emphasis on running balanced budgets.** Second, the District has limited ability to issue non-referendum debt to address capital projects beyond this \$50 million bond issue. The District would therefore need to consider referendum bonds if additional capital funds are needed.



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**

Dr. J. Kamala Buckner
Superintendent
Mr. Tim Truesdale
Associate Superintendent for
Curriculum, Instruction
and External Funding
Dr. Betheny Lyke
Assistant Superintendent of
Human Resources and
Community Relations

Mr. Steve Gress
Assistant Superintendent of
Finance & Operations
Mrs. Carrie Ablin
Director of Pupil
Personnel Services
Mr. Jerry Doss
Director of Public Relations
Mr. Greg Lindy
Supervisor of Building
and Grounds
Mrs. Maria Brunson
Director of Information Technology

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Thornridge High School

Ms. Kim Waller, Principal
Mr. Brad Beilfuss, Assistant Principal
Mr. Alfonso Pearson, Assistant Principal
Mr. Steve Valant, Administrative Intern

Thornton High School

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

Thornwood High School

Mrs. Darcelle Williams, Principal
Mr. James Beckwith, Assistant Principal
Mrs. Dorith Johnson, Assistant Principal
Mr. Dennis Willis, Administrative Intern

AREA INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERS

Mr. Thomas Porter
Math
Mrs. Cindy Morris
Science
Dr. Mike Sanders
English

Mr. Jerry Styrsky
Student Services & P.E.
Ms. Cheryl Frazier
Fine Arts & ESL

Mrs. Benita Anderson
Career Technical Education
Mr. Brett Fickes
Social Studies



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