

# YOUR SCHOOLS

The Magazine of Thornton Township High Schools District 205

Spring 2009 Vol. 55 Issue 4

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"THE LIGHTHOUSE SCHOOL DISTRICT"  
PREPARING OUR STUDENTS TO LIVE EXTRAORDINARY LIVES  
**THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOLS**  
DISTRICT 205  
THORN RIDGE · THORNTON · THORNWOOD



By Jerry Doss

The Thornton Township High School District 205 Board of Education develops policy for the district, and acts as the Board of final review for all matters under its jurisdiction. The Board of Education's major responsibilities include:

- Establishing and regularly reviewing all policies, ensuring they are lawful and designed to improve the quality of the school district.
- Hiring, supporting, and working effectively with the superintendent of schools to ensure appropriate resources for the Superintendent to carry out her responsibilities.
- Communicate and interpret the school district's mission to the public and incorporate appropriate community perspectives into Board action.

## academics

The Board of Education works very hard to accomplish the goals outlined

in the District Improvement Plan (DIP), model good stewardship of the District's financial position and restore programmatic cuts due to past budget constraints. With respect to the DIP, District 205 increased test scores and student achievement.

During the 2007-2008 school year, students meeting or exceeding standards as measured by the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) doubled

from the previous year in math and great strides were made in reading.

District 205 is currently in Safe Harbor as defined by the federal No Child Left Behind Act and is projected to continue increasing in student achievement on the PSAE during the 2008-2009 school year.

To monitor and evaluate student achievement on an ongoing basis, the Board of Education approved the cre-





ation of a new position for assessment and accountability. The new Director of Accountability is working with faculty to further align curriculum with state standards and monitor student progress on locally administered assessments.

## policy

Over the last two years the Board of Education worked with Strategic Planning Committees Numbers 1, 2 and 3 to gain community input as it relates to curriculum and instruction, finance and community relations. Upon the recommendations of the District's three strategic planning committees, The Board abolished the block schedule and reinstituted the 6/7 period bell schedule.

- Approved a new reading comprehension course for freshmen and double dose math curriculum for students who need more exposure to math concepts during the school day.
- Approved funding to create student resource rooms for special education students.
- Instituted a Failure Is Not An Option policy in District 205. Students who earn a D or F in a given course will now receive an In Progress (IP) grade, and will be given an opportunity after school and on the weekends to redo the standards and benchmarks that were not mastered, and in the process remediate their course grade to a C.

## finance

The Board of Education continues to hold the line on finance. Almost four years ago the District experienced severe financial constraints. As a result of decreasing revenues, failed tax increase referendums and community recommendations of Strategic Planning Committee Number 2, the District reduced the school day, implemented block scheduling, and co-opted many athletic programs and extra-curricular activities. However, due to sound financial management and planning, District 205 turned the corner. In light of current economic instability District 205 experienced four consecutive years of balanced budgets and recently received a bond rating from Standards and Poor's of AA-. The District's rating is actually higher than that of many Fortune 500 companies and the State of Illinois. Standard and Poor's specifically cited District 205's good financial management that overcame a chronic fiscal imbalance and restored financial operation following a series of budget adjustments as contributing to the current strong bond rating.

## 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.

## school board officials



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## The Spirit and Culture of Excellence

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

According to Ralph Marston, “Excellence is not a skill. It is an attitude.” The quote best expresses the goal of a bold new initiative called **In-Progress (IP) Grades**. It is the goal of the Board of Education, the Administration and the Faculty and Staff of District 205 for all of our students to be academically successful and be able to compete in a global society. Academic success is defined as mastery of the required curriculum in each class at or above grade level.

Students who earn a grade of a D or F in one or more courses show a need for additional support to be successful. These students receive a grade of **In Progress (IP)** at the end of the semester. IP Grades support our students as our schools transition from a block schedule to a seven-period day. Please note the following information:

- After mid-year or final exams are taken, students who earn a grade of D or F and have 15 or fewer absences during the semester receive a grade of **In Progress (IP)**.
- The students must demonstrate mastery in their courses, and must complete the required work by the end of the following term (semester), or a grade of D or F will be given.
- Students with the **In Progress (IP)** grade will receive additional support before school, after school, and/or Saturday School.

Implementation of IP's is a huge task, but the entire school community recognizes the need for the students to understand the Spirit and Culture of Excellence and to meet the challenges set forth. Each segment of the school community, understanding that it is accountable and responsible for the success of our students, made the following commitments:

- Board of Education will provide the leadership, resources and support for the process.
- Classroom teachers will identify and provide their students with the benchmarks that need to be mastered.
- Parents and students sign IP contracts and commit to the completion of the process.
- Students will attend courses offered after school Monday through Fridays from 3 p.m. until 6 p.m. and on Saturdays.
- Administration provides time to staff for in-service workshops and will support the process.

The IP Process supports High Schools That Work key practices, such as “A, B, C or not yet” and supports the District Improvement Plan. The IP Process supports the Standards Based Curriculum Model that clearly identifies **what students should know and be able to do** upon completion of a course. Additionally, it is equally important that students learn through this process that EXCELLENCE is an important value; a worthy goal to pursue.

As the IP process continues to improve mastery for each student, students must continue to strive for excellence.

“Excellence can be obtained if you: ...care more than others think is wise; ...risk more than others think is safe; ...dream more than others think is practical;...expect more than others think is possible.” (ThinkExist.com)

Thank you for the opportunity to serve this school community and **together we can make a difference.**

If you are a certified retired teacher and/or administrator and wish to become a part of this initiative, please call Kimberly Graham at 708-225-4001.

*J. Kamala Buckner*

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

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# the gateway to the future

By Paul Carr

## Gates Scholarships Become a Thornton Tradition

The Thornton High School motto comes from Sir Francis Bacon who said that "Knowledge is power." At Thornton, students are learning that knowledge can also unlock the door to a great future courtesy of the Gates Millennium Scholarship Program.

The Gates Program was established in 1999 and was initially funded by a \$1 billion grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The goal of GMS is to promote academic excellence and to provide an opportunity for outstanding minor-

ity students with significant financial need to reach their highest potential. The GMS provides funding for all unmet financial need for students to attend college for as long as they attend college, even through the completion of professional degrees.

Since the inception of this program, nine Thornton students have been awarded Gates Scholarships, more than at any other high school in the State of Illinois. Thornton recipients include Ms. Aisha Kimes, class of 2000 who graduated from Xavier University in New Orleans.

Mr. Derrick Scott, class of 2005 applied his Gates scholarship at the University of Michigan. The class of 2006 contained two recipients, Mr. Jonathan Day of Bradley University and Mr. Cameron Drake currently attending Stanford University. In 2007, Mr. Manuel Ledezma-Vera won and enrolled at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

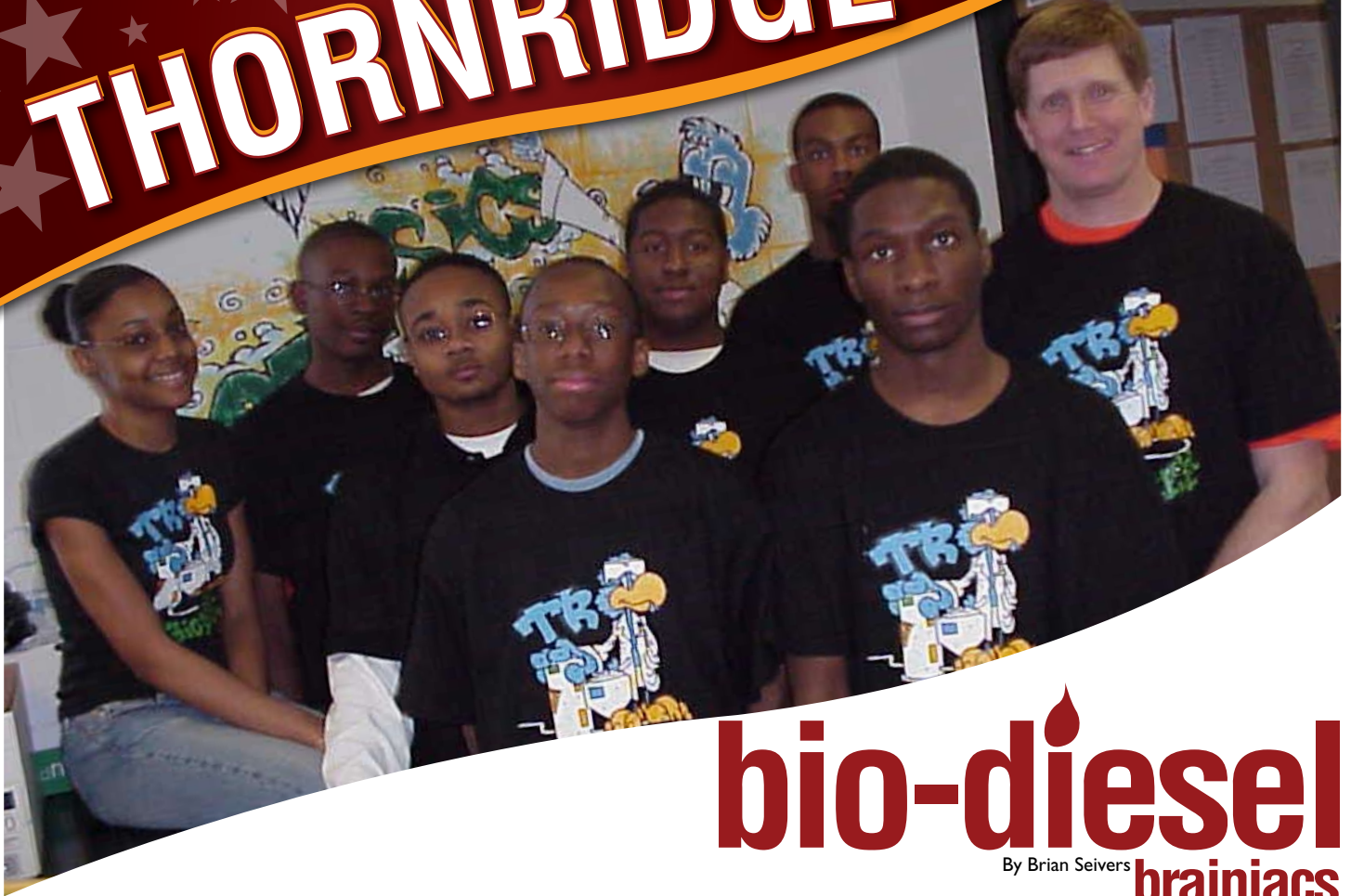
Last year proved to be a banner year as four Thornton grads earned Gates Scholarships based on their hard work and sacrifice. Ms. Aleia Mays now attends Xavier University in New Orleans where she seeks to become a pediatrician. Ms. Brittani Nolan now attends Spellman College in Atlanta and is working to become a broadcast journalist. Mr. Brandon Herring is enrolled at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign working towards a law degree. Finally, Mr. Cornelius Carpenter joins him at U of I in Urbana seeking to become a physical therapist and professional sports trainer.

This year, seventeen students were nominated at Thornton for this prestigious scholarship. It is our goal to populate every career with enthusiastic Wildcat scholars! Good luck Wildcats!





# THORNBRIDGE



## bio-diesel

By Brian Seivers

**brainiacs**

### DISTRICT 205 LEADS IN GREEN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

A team of seven students at Thornridge High School are among 48 schools nationwide that have qualified to participate in the Final Challenge of the Lexus Eco Challenge, a national contest that encourages middle and high school students to develop and implement environmental programs that positively impact their communities. The team was awarded \$10,000 for their entry in the AIR-CLIMATE Challenge earlier this academic year, and now, as a participant in the Final Challenge, they've been asked to take their environmental message to as wide an audience as possible.

This year's second annual Lexus Eco Challenge [www.scholastic.com/lexus](http://www.scholastic.com/lexus).

created by Lexus and Scholastic, had 775 registered teams representing 5,100 middle and high school students nationwide. 48 winning Action Plans were selected from 425 entries submitted during the three earlier phases of the competition. From the Final Challenge entries, Lexus and Scholastic will choose two \$50,000 grand-prize-winning teams and 14 \$30,000 first place teams. In all, \$1 million in grants and scholarship will be awarded.

The students at Thornridge are hard at work on their Biodiesel Project. The students built their own biodiesel processor and held a community wide oil drive in which they collected over 250 gallons of "used" vegetable oil. They chose this project because they are very

concerned about the air quality in the city they live in. Biodiesel is known to reduce greenhouse gases by as much as 50% and Hydrocarbon emissions by as much as 65%. Currently, the students are working on the "final" challenge. They are planning to add solar panels to their project so that it can be totally "green" and take their project to the next level. By adding solar panels they would reduce the carbon footprint that their project will have on the environment. Also, they plan to use their solar panels as a pilot project for the district to provide them with data on the benefits of using solar panels to generate electricity.

The primary goals of their project were to produce an environmentally friendly alternative fuel for our district, recycle used

vegetable oil, and educate ourselves and our community about the impact of diesel emissions on global warming, climate change, and renewable energy. District 205 is also conducting "Green" programs at Thornton and Thornwood (school-wide paper recycling). These projects allow students to prove to themselves that they can have a positive impact on society and the environment.

The community is invited to support the team's Final Challenge Action Plan by helping donate their used vegetable cooking oil. The students continue to pick up oil from several local businesses, local residents, staff members and students.



# the state of speech



By Kim Waller  
Principal

## ON THE MOVE

Parents, students and community members, the Thornridge speech team are on the move! For the

past decade Thornridge high school students have proven their ability and shown other schools that our students dominate in the IHSA speech state competition. We are very proud of all of our students and we would like to highlight their successes. Specifically Blake Morris and Darnell Tys received first place in the dramatic duet at IHSA Speech state finals. This is a very challenging task and through their hard work and determination they were able to bring home first place medals. Blake Morris also received First Place in Declamation. This is a huge accomplishment and he is most deserving of the first place honor. There were 91 schools present at the state tournament and Thornridge H.S had two students bring home first place titles! This is amazing and we want you to understand how this de-

cision is made. The students perform for two rounds in front of a panel of three experienced judges. The performers with the highest ranking go on to a final round of competition. The final round consists of a panel of five judges. At this level, only the top six competitors get to qualify for the final round. Any person making a final round has achieved a great thing...they are one of the top six speakers in their event in the state of Illinois. Blake and Darnell performed a cutting from Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenaged Blockhead by Bert Royal for the panel of judges and received the rankings of 2,1,1,1,1. They were clearly the winners in Dramatic Duet Acting!

Blake Morris also competed in Oratorical Declamation. His piece is entitled Ready to Die by Tupac Shakur. This was taken from an interview of Shakur while imprisoned for the last time before his death. In the piece, Shakur talks about changing his life and living a more meaningful existence. Blake received straight first places for his preliminary rounds and in final received rankings of 1,1,2,5,1, winning

the state championship.

Blake and Darnell are seniors and have been members of the speech and theater program for years. They have all worked very hard for this opportunity and it is wonderful to see them recognized as the best in the state. So many students strive to attempt this feat year after year and many never see this dream realized. We are proud of Blake and Darnell's accomplishments in this area of performing arts. Through adversity these young men have excelled in the highest level of competition in the state of Illinois. They are top students academically as well. Both are planning to attend Eastern Illinois University in the fall. Blake is planning on becoming a special education teacher and Darnell wants to teach drama. It is my hope that after graduating from college Blake will return to District 205 to teach special education and coach speech. We like to see our students return to give back to the school and community.



# THORNWOOD



## meet the wordsmiths



By Darcelle Williams  
Principal

Greetings Parents and Community Members,

How time flies...Thornwood High School began this year with a new Administration and a new vision:

***Excellence, Respect, and Pride. It's the Expectation!***

We feel that this vision epitomizes what we do and how we do it at Thornwood. We were proud to have started the year out by having made gains in our Reading (5.3%) and Math (15.8%) PSAT scores, and making Safe Harbor. Our graduation rate is 83.8%. Our goal is to graduate 100% of our students. We are proud of groups of students who demonstrate EXCELLENCE in their projects and their actions.

- Financial Literacy group is learning about finances. They will learn about stocks at the same time as saving money.
- Economics Class - The Stock Market Game - in which they do real time trading on a simulated stock exchange (NYSE, AMEX, or the NASDAQ) with an imaginary \$100,000 per team of up to 4 students. They have to research companies, develop and keep track of their stock portfolio, buy/sell/hold stock as needed, and the goal is to be the team that makes the most money over a 12 week trading period. Students go on a field trip to the Federal Reserve Bank in Chicago, the Board of Trade.
- Physics Class – Bridge Building Project - to get a better understanding of the real world bridge design and construction processes that often lead to discoveries and sometimes changes in plans. The project will ultimately culminate with testing the two-person team bridges with weight to see how much they can hold.



## Students demonstrate **RESPECT** in projects and other actions.

- **English Class** - Believe, Achieve, Succeed! The students aware of the power of choice. Students will make realizations about the "society" of teen life in and outside of this school. Students will also turn negativity into positivity while sharing insights with each other. The activity is based on Obama's quote "Let us unite in a common effort to chart a new course for America."
- **Civil Air Patrol** - Its primary missions are to develop its cadets, on the importance of aviation and space. To develop its cadets, the Civil Air Patrol teaches leadership, followership, physical fitness and character building.



## We are proud to support all of the endeavors of our Thornwood students and staff, and with my Administrative team we are committed to:

- Improve student achievement by holding all stakeholders, students, faculty and staff, administrators, parents and community accountable.
- To improve scores and data related to tests, local assessments, discipline, attendance, parent involvement and student involvement in extracurricular activities.
- To continue to strive for and maintain high expectations.



## Students demonstrate **PRIDE** in projects and other actions.

- Thornwood Cheerleaders - ICCA and 11 National Championships in Cheerleading in Orlando, Florida.
- Thornwood Speech Team - 2009 9TH Place IHSA Speech Team Award for Individual Events.
- 1200 students are involved in at least 15 different sports, clubs and activities at Thornwood High School.



# THORNTON



## reaching for the stars



By Betheny Lyke  
Principal

Dear District 205 Community members,

Great things are happening at Thornton Township High School! Our staff members are working diligently to make TTHS the shining light of the southern suburbs. As you read, the results of our efforts will shine through in a variety of ways.

The method that the State of Illinois used to measure our students' academic progress is our students' performance on the Prairie State Achievement Exam (P.S.A.E.). Through concentrated efforts of our staff members and students, our P.S.A.E. scores rose significantly last school year. The following chart details the change in the percentage of students that met or exceeded academic standards on the P.S.A.E.

|         | 2007  | 2008  | Difference |
|---------|-------|-------|------------|
| Reading | 29.2% | 37.8% | +8.6%      |
| Math    | 19.1% | 42.6% | +23.5%     |



Knowing that the standard curriculum alone will not make our students the well-rounded students that colleges want, our staff members have spearheaded a number of new academic opportunities for our students. Some of the programs and their goals are listed below.

## National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) Program

- New for the 2008-2009 School Year
- Provides students with entrepreneurship and small business management experience
- Students participate in competitions for grants and/or prizes
- The culminating project is to develop a business plan for a new business operation of each student's choice

## Northwestern University Medical Program

- New for the 2008-2009 School Year
- Students are immersed in medical school curriculum on Saturdays
- Students perform basic medical physicals and refine their study skills and essay writing abilities
- Students are mentored by healthcare. Students are provided with Information

## Pre-Pharmacy Program

- New for the 2008-2009 School Year
- Students are exposed to the career of pharmacy and can earn pharmacy college credit at South Suburban College
- Students obtain an Illinois Pharmacy Technician License
- Students are provided with strong support as they seek employment in local pharmacies

## Project Lead the Way-Engineering Program

- A four year program for future engineers
- Classes are taught in a state of the art computer lab
- Graduates have gone on to study engineering at Notre Dame, West Point, University of Illinois, and other post-secondary institutions
- Mr. William Christian, TTHS Staff member, is a PLTW master teacher

In addition to the preceding programs, our staff members are facilitating numerous initiatives to ensure success after our students graduate from TTHS. One such initiative is nominating students for the prestigious Gates Scholarship. This scholarship entitles it's awardees to full tuition payments for life. Students that are awarded this scholarship are provided with the funds to secure undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees. We are proud to announce that TTHS had four Gates scholars last school year. This alone is a huge accomplishment, but even more noteworthy is the fact that TTHS had the highest number of Gates Scholars of any high school in the State of Illinois!

Our success at TTHS does not come from having a normal school. We succeed because we go the extra mile. One such effort is our new Saturday School Program. At TTHS, school is in session six days a week. Our new Saturday School Program started this past January. From 8am until 12pm, students are urged to come to school to be tutored in English, math, science, and social studies by our teachers. Transportation is provided

for bus riders. In addition to our students, parents of attending students are urged to come to school on Saturday. Parents can use the computers to surf the web, work on a project, or check email. Parents can also get tutored in English, math, science, or social studies.

Of course academics is a major focus for TTHS, but we also pride ourselves on having a safe, secure, and comfortable building. Although we are proud of our student behavior, we are ready to take student discipline to the next level. In the past, the staff members were the people who held our students accountable for their actions, but we are exploring turning some of this accountability to our students. TTHS is pursuing starting a TTHS Peer Jury program which will allow students to join staff members in the accountability of making sure our school remains a safe place for all learners. We currently have a committee of students and staff that are exploring the possibility of implementing this more student and staff partnership accountability system.

We invite you to come experience Thornton Township High School. As

you do this, you may ask yourself, "What is that feeling that I get when I walk into TTHS?" That feeling is Wildcat Pride. We have Wildcat Pride in regards to our progress, presence, and partnerships.

**Progress-** We strive to ensure that each student and staff member makes consistent progress on a daily basis. In doing this, we plan for each student and staff member to leave at the end of each day more enriched than when they entered the building in the morning. **Presence-** We expect each member of our school community to be a positive and uplifting presence at all times. This is shown through our daily activities in and out of the classroom, on or off campus. **Partnerships-** We expect every stakeholder in our school community to be a partner in the success of our students. We encourage students, staff, parents, community members, and business leaders to participate in activities that promote academic and social success.

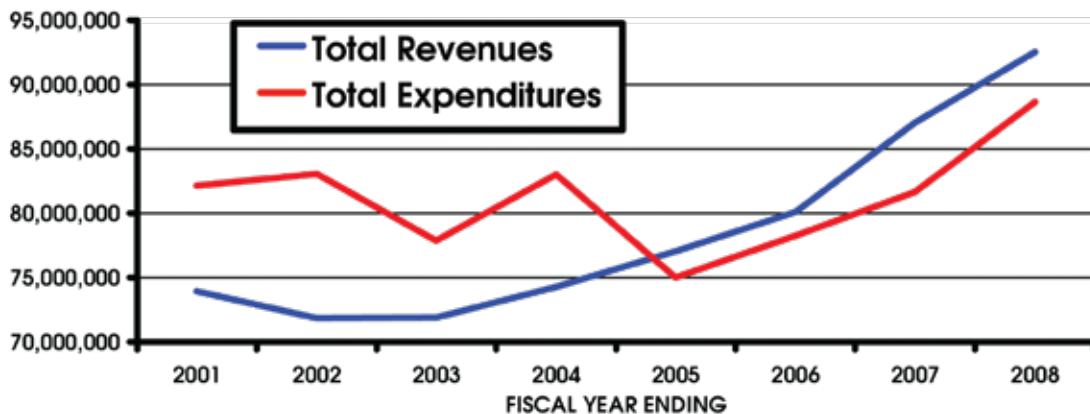
We invite you to come to our school to experience the events that will take TTHS to the top. Our school is your school!

# historical

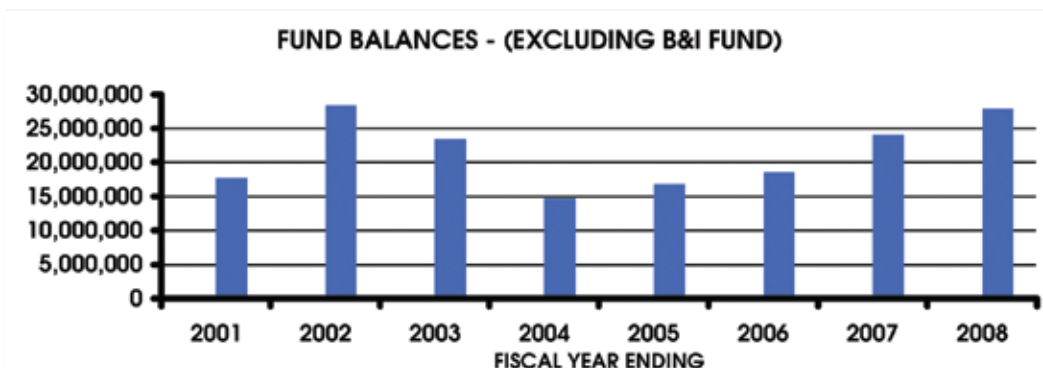
## financial review



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:

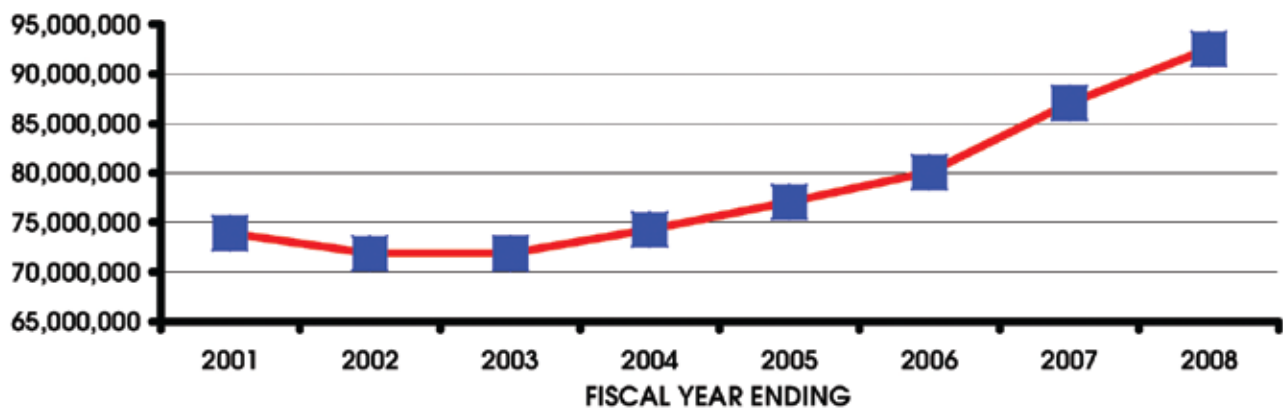


As the above chart illustrates, the District incurred annual deficits through fiscal year 2004. In fiscal year 2005, expenses decreased dramatically and the District incurred a surplus in that year and for each of the past four years. Between 2001 and 2004, total expenditures exceeded total revenues 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:





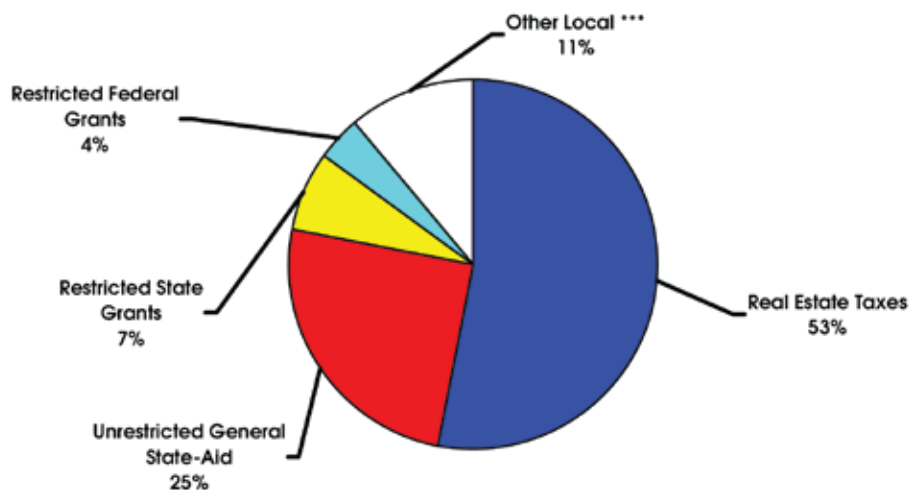
# revenue history



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.



## STANDARD & POOR'S

### RATIONALE

The 'AA-' rating assigned to Cook County Township High School District No. 205 (Thornton), general obligation (GO) limited school bonds series 2008 reflects the district's:

- Participation in the deep and diverse Chicago metropolitan area economy;
- Good financial management that overcame a chronic fiscal imbalance and restored positive financial operations following a series of budget adjustments; and
- Strong cash reserves, including working cash.

Adequate but below-average wealth and income levels, and a moderately high debt burden partially offset these factors.

The district's financial management practices are considered "good" under Standard & Poor's Financial Management Assessment (FMA). An FMA of "good" indicates that practices exist in most areas, although not all may be formalized or regularly monitored by governance officials. Management review expenditures on a monthly basis and provides the board with monthly budget reports. The district budgets with the help of five-year financial projections and multi-year building maintenance schedules.

### OUTLOOK

The stable outlook reflects Standard's & Poor's expectation that the district's management will take the steps necessary to maintain at least balanced financial operations and strong cash reserves in spite of the levy cap. The district's participation in the Chicago metropolitan area's diverse economy supports the outlook.

# financial condition

## ON JUNE 30, 2008

For the purpose of projecting the anticipated fund balances herein, we will reference the June 2008 ending fund balances. As of June 30, 2008, fund balances were as follows:

|                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Education Fund                | \$ 2,117,000     |
| Operations & Maintenance Fund | (10,164,000)     |
| Transportation Fund           | (1,245,000)      |
| IMRF/Social Security Fund     | 1,995,000        |
| Working Cash Fund             | 32,292,000       |
| Fire Prevention & Safety Fund | <u>2,924,000</u> |

**Total Fund Balance (Excluding Bond Fund) \$ 27,919,000**

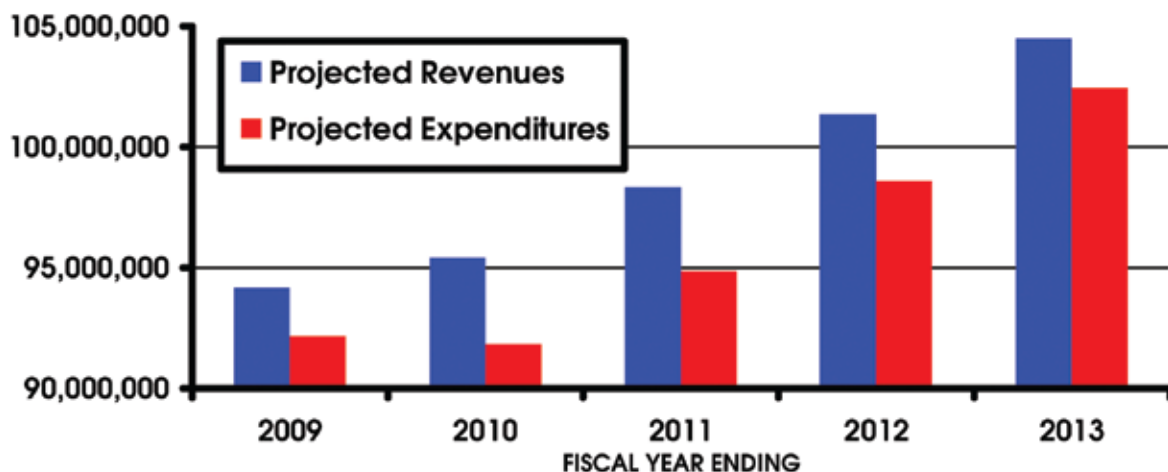
# projected financial condition

The following five-year projection was derived by incorporating trends in the District's expenditures and revenues with assumptions made on several critical issues that will determine the District's future financial condition. Please note that all projections are based on assumptions and should be considered as such when making all financial decisions.

## PROJECTIONS FY 2009 through FY 2013

### Projected Revenues vs. Expenses

The following graph reflects that beginning in FY 2008, total revenues are projected to grow at an annual rate of 2.8%, while total expenses are projected to grow at an annual rate of 3.0%.



The revenue and expenditure projections would result in the following annual surpluses projected for the District. The "Projected Surplus" column indicates the difference between the revenues received by the District for a given fiscal year compared to the expenditures incurred for the same fiscal year. The "Cumulative Impact" column indicates the cumulative total of these annual surpluses.



## the purpose of summer school

The purpose of summer school is to allow the student the opportunity for credit recovery or to take course work that will allow the student to be on schedule to graduate with the other members of his/her class.

It is not intended to allow students to take a course in advance and graduate earlier than would normally be the case. An adequate number of students are needed for a course to be offered in Summer School. The administration may cancel any course for which there is insufficient enrollment in any given semester. Additionally, classes can only be offered if there is appropriate teaching staff available.

The 2009 session of the District 205 Summer School, for all regular academic courses, will be held at Thornwood High School. Driver Education, community service programs, and a number of other programs will be offered at all three high schools. All questions about summer school registration should be directed to the student's counselor.

**Residency Must Be Verified For the 2009-2010 School Year Before You Can Register For Summer School.**

**SUMMER SCHOOL CALENDAR:** 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The first day of each semester will begin one hour later.

| FIRST SEMESTER: JUNE - JULY 2009 |      |     |       |     | SECOND SEMESTER: JULY 2009 |      |     |       |     |
|----------------------------------|------|-----|-------|-----|----------------------------|------|-----|-------|-----|
| Mon                              | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Mon                        | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri |
| 15                               | 16   | 17  | 18    | 19  | 6                          | 7    | 8   | 9     | 10  |
| 22                               | 23   | 24  | 25    | X   | 13                         | 14   | 15  | 16    | 17  |
| 29                               | 30   | 1   | 2     | X   | 20                         | 21   | 22  | 23    | X   |

**Residency Must Be Verified For the 2009-2010 School Year Before You Can Register For Summer School.**

Sign Up/Registration

Timelines

Any Class Needed for Credit Recovery

March 30, 2009 through April 9, 2009

(during regular school hours)

**Students will meet with their counselor to receive a registration form and registration information and then bring the form with full payment to either the Thornton/Thornwood Bookstore or the Thornridge Main Office. Students are not registered for summer school until full payment has been made and residency verification for the 2009-2010 school year has been completed.**

### TUITION

Tuition for residents of District 205 will be \$400 per full credit course and \$200 per half credit course. Summer School is open to eighth grade graduates and all high school students that reside in District 205 boundaries. The Driver Education Four Phase Program (if the program is held) fee is \$250.

Tuition is accepted only at the time of registration NO EXCEPTIONS, but please note the following:

- To enroll in a class, the student must bring his/her registration form to the appropriate Summer School Registration date and pay the full tuition of \$400 for a full credit course or \$200 for a half credit course.
- Personal checks with name, address and phone number, and imprinted check number printed on the check will be accepted. All checks will be processed through Telecheck. Please write your Driver's License Number and/or State ID # on the front of the check (must be the ID # of the "Checkwriter").

### REFUND POLICY

A student, who is registered for Summer School and does not plan to attend, must withdraw by June 3, 2009. There will be NO refunds after this date. Approved refunds of tuition for Summer School will be awarded by mail less any outstanding fees that are owed to the District.

*There will be NO refunds for students that are dropped due to a violation of the attendance and/or discipline policy.*

### SUMMER SCHOOL SURVIVAL GUIDE

#### Registration Tips

- Be sure to complete residency verification for the 2009-2010 school year.
- Talk to your student's school counselor and have summer school registration forms completed.
- Know the registration date available for your situation.
- Have full payment ready with all appropriate information on check payments.
- Be patient. Every student has a different situation to register for and everyone will be given the appropriate attention to ensure that each student has the correct summer school course.

#### Summer School Tips

- Prepare to attend all class sessions, do not plan a vacation during summer school.
- Don't be late! Tardies count at the beginning of class and after breaks.
- Dress appropriately so that you will not be dismissed from summer school.
- Wear your summer school I.D. at all times.
- Get enough sleep to be ready to learn!
- Study! The curriculum covered in summer school is the same as during the regular school year.

See [www.District205.net](http://www.District205.net) for more information

# 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  
Mrs. Maria Brunson  
Director of Information Technology  
Dr. Paige Dague  
Director of Accountability,  
Research & Information Service  
Mr. Jerry Doss  
Director of Public Relations  
Mr. Steve Gress  
Director of Business Operations

Mr. Gary Lester  
Interim Director of Human  
Resources  
Mr. Tim Truesdale  
Director of Curriculum &  
Instruction  
Mr. Greg Lindy  
Supervisor of Building and  
Grounds

## **SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION**

### **Thornridge High School**

Ms. Kim Waller, Principal  
Mr. Richard Shields, Assistant Principal  
Mr. Brad Beilfuss, Assistant Principal  
Mr. Scott Savage, Administrative Intern

### **Thornton High School**

Dr. Betheny Lyke, Principal  
Mr. Tony Ratliff, Assistant Principal  
Ms. 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 & ESL  
Ms. Cindy Morris  
Science  
Dr. Mike Sanders  
English

Mr. Jerry Styrsky  
Student Services & P.E.  
Ms. Cheryl Frazier  
Fine Arts  
Ms. Benita Anderson  
Career Technical Education

Dr. Dawn Angelini  
Pupil Personnel Services  
Mr. Brett Fickes  
Social Studies

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# POSTAL PATRON

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