

Your Schools

Serving the communities of Dalton, Harvey, South Holland, Thornton and Riverdale, and portions of Calumet City, Burnham, Blue Island, Markham, Dixmoor, Hazel Crest, East Hazel Crest and Phoenix

DISTRICT 205
Thornridge
Thornton
Thornwood

Fall 2005
Volume 51

A Welcome from Priscilla Nicholas-Jackson, Board President

Mrs. Nicholas-Jackson was selected by her peers as Board president in April 2005

Welcome to the District 205 academic 2005-2006 school year. I'm honored and humbled to represent you as the President of the Board of Education. I believe that given the opportunity and support, all children can learn and should be challenged with academic excellence and distinction.

It is my foremost goal to ensure that students are engaged in a stimulating, safe, and nurturing learning environment. This produces citizens who are positive, proud, and productive members of society.

I am thrilled to be working with a Board that I call "interactive" because we are not only providing direction in the District, but also taking time to listen to your concerns

and ideas. I believe that the Board, in partnership with parents, residents, community members and elected officials, can overcome the challenges we face to build a brighter future through the knowledge and education of our students.

I encourage and welcome your concerns and/or ideas. Please feel free to contact me or any Board Member at any time. Our contact information may be obtained from the District web site: www.district205.net.

I ask all parents to take an active role in their child's education by talking with him or her about what is going on in the buildings and in their classrooms. Parents directly affect the education of children. Take an active role in their education!



*District 205 School Board President
Priscilla Nicholas-Jackson*

In closing, I encourage every resident to attend School Board meetings which are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. usually in the Technical Building at Thornton Township H. S. in Harvey.

Critical (and Incredible) After School Programs

After-school programs are a key component of the District 205 initiative to improve academic success, increase test scores, and provide enrichment and supplemental activities beyond the regular school day.

Thornton, Thornridge, and Thornwood each provide impacting after-school tutoring for all students. The Academic Resource Center (ARC) at Thornton, the After School Assistance Program (ASAP) at Thornwood, and the Thornridge After School Program (TASP), each provide positive enhancement of critical skills.

The after-school programs promote reading and math tutoring, engaging activities to prepare students for college, access to technology, involvement in the arts and music, as well as activities to promote total

family involvement. After-school programs can mean the difference in fully comprehending subject content, acquiring critical thinking skills, and achieving the highest grades possible.

Certified District 205 teachers, local college students, and National Honor Society members tutor and mentor students participate in the after-school programs. This extended learning time and personal attention, can and will improve your child's academic performance.

Teachers are prepared to impart knowledge. Mentors are ready to guide. College students are ready to tutor. Is your child in attendance to benefit? Please ensure that your child is taking advantage of this important opportunity to increase in knowledge and learning after school.

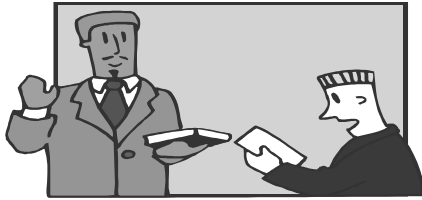
District 205 AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM SCHEDULES

Thornton— Monday thru Thursday
1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Call Ms. Sharon Curry, Asst. Principal at (708) 225-4104 for additional information.

Thornwood—Monday thru Thursday
1:40 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and
3:15 to 4:45 p.m.
Call Ms. Nancy Shifrin at (708) 225-4942 for additional information.

Thornridge—Monday thru Thursday
1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Call Ms. Sasheen Smith at (708) 271-4575 for additional information.

Four Board Members Join



School District 205

The April 2005 election brought in four new Board Members, Mr. Ray Banks, Mrs. Bernadette Lawrence and Mr. Julius Patterson of Harvey, and Mr. Arthur Burton of Phoenix. They join long-time Board Members Mrs. Sharon Voliva, Mrs. Elizabeth Ware, and Mrs. Priscilla Nicholas-Jackson.

The Board Members are taking time to understand the District curriculum and instruction process, to ensure academic success for all students.

The financial plight of District 205 is also being scrutinized by the entire Board. Avenues are being explored to streamline revenues and look for ways to cut waste and inefficiency while maintaining and/or increasing programs and classes. Clearly an arduous and ongoing task.

A number of finance meetings have already been called and more are scheduled to examine ways to address these financial concerns.

All finance and curriculum meeting dates are posted on the District's website at: www.district205.net or by calling 708.225.4001.

New Thornridge Principal



District 205 welcomes Ms. Kimberly Waller as the new Principal of Thornridge High School at the Dolton campus. Ms. Waller, a former Administrator at Fremd High School and hours away from her doctorate, brings a wealth of talent and exceptional ability to our students and staff. Welcome!!!

Shop Til You Drip & Drop!

A Private Shopping Event at River Oaks



Monday, November 21, 2005
6:30 until 9:30 p.m.

Tickets Just \$10.00
\$7 from each ticket sold will benefit the District 205 Academic Foundation
For information and to purchase tickets
Call 708.225.4015

No Child Left Behind Challenges

The federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) is now in its fifth year for their students to a school that of existence. This law intends to improve the performance of schools in preparing students for success in college and beyond.

While the media often casts a negative light on schools that may not come up to par, District 205 schools have accepted the challenge of meeting its standards.

District-wide, scores in reading are on the rise. Two of the three high schools met the state target in reading. Students also improved in math. Thornton, Thornridge and Thornwood High Schools recognize that there are still great strides to be made, and are up to the challenge.

The schools have submitted School Improvement Plans to the Illinois State Board of Education in order to meet standards. Under NCLB, the schools are in School Improvement status and required to offer "Choice". This means that parents

have the right to request a transfer for their students to a school that meets state standards. Parents have received information about Choice by direct mail.

In addition, students from low income families are eligible to request "Supplemental Education Services". This means that these students may receive free tutoring beyond the school day from an outside provider.

Parents of eligible students will also receive this information by mail. Thornton Township High School District 205 remains committed to and complies with requirements set forth by, No Child Left Behind. This law has raised the bar for all schools in Illinois and in the nation.

District 205 will continue to work toward all students meeting and exceeding standards. Copies of each school's report card are available on the web at www.district205.net, or by contacting your school for a hard copy.

New Policy + Parental Support = Increased Attendance

Congratulations are in order for our students and parents. Last school year, our students increased their attendance rates on an average of 3% each month when compared to the monthly attendance rates of the 2003-2004 school year.

Overall, the annual attendance rate for the schools increased from approximately 88% in 2003-2004 to 92% in 2004-2005 (as of October 1, 2005). This increase was due to the dedication of our students and the incredible support of parents, as well as the implementation of a new Attendance Policy.

Average daily attendance plays an important role in state funding. To build on our students' successes

from last school year, we have strengthened our Attendance Policy by making two major changes. Our 2004-2005 Attendance Policy allowed for students to opt out of a course final exam if they had two or fewer absences to that class.

This attendance incentive has been adjusted to increase our already high expectations of our students and to foster better communication between parents and staff members.

For the 2005-2006 school year, students will need to have a course average of a "C" in addition to having two or fewer absences to opt out of a final exam. Also, new to the policy, a parent must sign a permission form in order for a student to opt out of a course exam.



Student attendance is up this year due to parental support along with the board approved Attendance Policy.

Our students are expected to continue to meet our high academic and attendance standards.

For questions or concerns about the Attendance Policy, please contact your child's school and a copy will be forwarded to you immediately.

Discipline Policy Reminders and Updates

All students throughout the District received a Student Handbook during the registration process. If your student did not receive a handbook, he/she should report this to his/her House Office as soon as possible to obtain a copy.

This handbook, and the subsequent reading of it, is an important component that helps each and every student have a more successful year in school.

The Handbook contains policies on appropriate dress, language & behavior.

The Student Handbook contains both the discipline guidelines and the attendance policies for the District. Each student and parent/guardian should familiarize themselves with these policies and guidelines as soon as possible.

State Exam Preparation Assistance Available

District 205 will be offering a District-wide Princeton Review Program to assist those students who have been identified as being in need of assistance in order to pass their state exams.

All juniors are required to take the PSAT exam and are especially encouraged to register for this test prep program.

The program will be offered as an extended day program (1:30-3:00 p.m.) using instructors from Princeton Review. The cost of the program is \$500, but will be offered for \$75 per student. In addition, students on Free and Reduced Lunch will receive a fee waiver.

Tuition reimbursement will be an option for those students meeting attendance requirements in this program. Other options are available for students who request assistance. Contact your Principal for more information.

Important School Dates

Thornwood Parent Council – An open meeting for any and all parents at 5:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in Room 1531.

Thornton Principal's Parent Advisory Council – An open meeting for all parents at 5:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the Garden Room of the student cafeteria. All are welcome! Parents who are interested in becoming a volunteer, please call 225-4100.

Thornridge Parent Advisory Committee – All parents are invited to attend the Parent Advisory Committee Meeting on the second Tuesday of each month. The afternoon meeting is scheduled for 12:30–1:30 p.m. and the evening meeting is scheduled for 6:30–7:30 p.m. in the Principal's Conference Room.

Get involved at your school



Important Phone Numbers

Thornridge

Thornton

Thornwood

Main Office	271.4410	225.4100	225.4712
Freshman Academy Principal	Tim Truesdale 271.4414	Sharon Curry 225.4113	Harriette Condes-Zervakis 225.4715
Business, Engineering, Natural Resources and Technology House Principal	Kim Waller Principal 271.4400	Wayne Dendler 225.4114	Kathleen Kreidler 225.4713
Arts and Communication House Principal	Dr. Karon Rankin-Manning 271.4413	Dr. Dawn McCune-Angelini 225.4115	Dr. Betheny Lyke 225.4714
Health and Human Services House Principal	Dr. Karon Rankin-Manning 271.4413	Angelo Armistead Principal 225.4100	Gary Lester Principal 225.4700
Parent Advisory/Volunteers	271.4400	225.4100	225.4789
Nurse's Office	271.4478	225.4178	225.4778
Bookstore	271.4434	225.4134	225.4734
Athletics	271.4422	225.4122	225.4723
Activities	271.4429	225.4129	225.4965

Thornton Twp. High School District 205
465 E. 170th Street
South Holland, IL 60473-3481

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Board of Education

Priscilla Nicholas-Jackson, President (Harvey)
Ray Banks, Vice President (Harvey)
Arthur Burton, Secretary (Phoenix)
Bernadette Lawrence (Harvey)
Julius Patterson (Harvey)
Sharon Voliva (Dolton)
Elizabeth Ware (Harvey)

Dr. J. Kamala Buckner, Superintendent

District 205 Administrative Office:

Phone: 708.225.4000
Fax: 708.225.4004
Web: www.district205.net

All District 205 educational programs, including, but not limited to, school-to-work vocational programs, are offered without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender or disability.

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