

# Is a High School Diploma Necessary?

Arlo Kallemeyn

Is a high school diploma really necessary? High school students ask themselves this question at least once during their high school years. Most students answer this question with a resounding ‘Yes’, however, for some students the lure of freedom from schoolwork is just too enticing - they just stop attending high school. At first, life outside of school for these former students can be fun and interesting. After all, life has so much to offer, right? These students can stay out at late-night parties and sleep late the next day. These students can spend their time having fun without worrying about a tough math exam the next day. However, some of the former students soon come to a sobering realization. They realize that going through life without a high school diploma virtually guarantees them a future of low-paying jobs and subsistence living. They realize that chasing pleasure today will result in painful experiences later in life.

These are the former students that District 205 is committed to helping. Other school districts may assume their job is finished once students have left the traditional 4 years of high school. District 205 believes that the job is not finished until these students are given another chance to earn their high school diploma. This belief is why District 205 has created the Outlook Academy.

Thornton Township High School District 205 and Chicago State University have formed a unique partnership to provide students with a pathway to earn their high school diploma - that extra boost to get back on track with their peers. This exciting partnership will provide students in need of additional credits with one-stop access to both high school classes, as well as higher education and workforce development programs. This program began over 10 years ago at District 205. It was previously known as ‘Extended Summer School’ and the ‘13th Graders Program’. This program is supported by State of Illinois funding as well as federal funding to provide education to young adults between the ages of 17 and 22.

Board President Bernadette Lawrence commented, “The Outlook Academy is going to make a wonderful difference in the lives of so many young adults. These students now realize that a District 205 High School Diploma can change their lives, and they are so excited to come to class and be on a path to graduation. We have worked with many stakeholders to make this a reality. I’m so happy that the Outlook Academy will now help these students to realize their dreams.”

The #1 goal of the District 205 Outlook Academy is to help students obtain their District 205 High School Diploma. These students need several credits and classes to earn their high school diploma. Students will attend classes located on the Chicago State University Campus taught by District 205 teachers until they have fulfilled all credit requirements for their high school diploma. Besides attending classes taught by District 205 teachers, students will have access to CSU and District 205 tutors. Students will also be provided with academic and career counseling support.

Outlook Academy Director Brett Fickes commented, “I’m very proud of the Outlook Academy. It provides real help and hope to hundreds of young people who desire to change their lives for the better. We are putting them on a trajectory that can help make a real difference in their lives. In October the first class will finish their high school requirements. This reminds us of our mission and high calling – to provide a stellar high school education to each student in our care, and to create life-long learners.”

The Outlook Academy currently has 190 students registered, taking classes in math, science, social studies, and more. Due to the popularity of this program, there are nearly 200 students on a waiting list who are ready to fill the classrooms and earn their high school diploma.

More information is available on the District 205 website under Areas of Instruction.

“I would like to thank those teachers who supported the development of this life-changing program. Your dedication to our community is greatly appreciated,” said Director Brett Fickes. If you or your student is interested in joining the Outlook Academy or you have any questions, please contact: Patricia A. Malopsy-Fortier, Outlook Academy Coordinator at (312) 752-0367.



District 205 Board of Education members encourage Outlook Academy students in their studies.

Random links of seal tight elect. tubing and random sizes B-X tubing, all for \$50. 708-285-1107

Weather Tech front car mats for a 2011 Nissan Rogue, gray color, \$50. 219-314-5021

Fish tanks, one 20 gal., two 30 gal., two 5 gal., \$75 takes all or will separate. 219-306-2030

ConPro camera. 708-418-1098

Yardworks electric lawnmower, used three times, mulch, side discharge or bag attachment, perfect cond. \$75. 219-669-3151

Traeger wood pellet bbq grill. 708-596-7574

Nails new in box, roofing, 12D, drywall nails and screws, fence staples, sinkers, etc. 708-210-1711

Double wide child's stroller \$60; 10 speed bicycle \$30; garage air compressor \$50. 708-758-5923

Marble faux coffee and end tables, round, very beautiful \$100 obo; Call after 3 pm. Lansing 708-474-0470

Sharp 20" analog tv set, works well with rabbit ears and convertor box, asking \$100 for all. Contact Paul at 708-620-0286

New stuffed animals, \$2 ea; child movies \$2 ea; child's golf clubs \$35; 100 golf balls, best offer. 708-753-0551

Rocking chair, oak, padded seat back, never used, \$60; computer desk, glass on rollers, can be used for microwave shelf \$35. 708-474-9568

Refrigerator small for college dorm or garage \$35. 708-837-9814

Cassette player, vintage model RS-M-11 technics \$35 obo; American made vise 3 1/2" for work bench \$8. 708-837-9814

Vinyl 1" light filtering mini blinds, 23" w x 42"h; child safe mounting hardware, new, never opened boxes, 3 sets each \$1.50. 219-365-6859

Black & Decker toast-r-oven, works fine, \$4; new Tommyco knee pads, tags still attached, \$10; rain ponchos, new \$2 ea. 219-365-6859

Umbrella stroller in exc. cond., very clean, seldom used \$4; child backpacks, two lavender, one black, \$4 ea. Dyer 219-365-6859

Gas dryer \$100; dryer like new \$150. 708-715-2348

Sno Joe snow blower, electric, \$40; pressure washer \$35; 5x7 Thermopane window \$20; Bissell vacuum, all good cond. \$20. 219-933-6467

New tiny miracles infant Jasmine African American baby girl doll, truly real perfect gift for your angel, \$65, b.F. 708-370-2474

Florida lamps, 28"H, \$150 pair, pretty; toaster oven, Europro, new, \$50; plant shelf on wheels, 3 tier, white, \$50. 219-588-3322, no texting

Thomasville 2 drawer night stand, all wood, \$40; Sony dvd player, \$7. 708-481-6907

2 bar chairs (swivel) \$30; suitcases and travel bags, \$7-\$12 ea. 708-481-6907

Folding walker with wheels \$20; 4 prong cane \$10; bath chair \$20. 708-481-6907

2 tier occasional table (solid cherry); cherry wood drop leaf table \$75. 708-481-6907

Stiffel brass table lamps \$25-\$40 ea; lamp shades \$5-\$10. 708-481-6907

Down comforters sz twin-king, \$25-\$35; feather & down pillows \$5-\$10; assorted throw pillows \$2-\$5 ea, 708-481-6907

Assorted quilts, bedspreads and coverlets, some quilts handmade, \$15-\$20 ea; decorative toss pillows \$1-\$2 ea; duvet covers, asst. sizes \$3-\$5 ea. 708-481-6907

Sure Fit sofa covers \$20; Sure Fit loveseat covers \$15; large chair covers \$8; decorative toss pillows \$2 ea. 708-481-6907

Small kitchen appliances, \$5-\$20 (coffee makers, toasters, juicer). 708-481-6907

Wall hanging shelves to display plates, \$5-\$20; assortment of wall clocks \$10-\$30; decorative wall mirrors \$10-\$30. 708-481-6907

Champagne and wine glasses (crystal) 6 pc for \$10; crystal decanters \$5-\$10-\$15 ea. 708-481-6907

Vintage Madame Alexander doll "Degas Girl" #15075 in original box, wrist tag & stand, \$45; barbie dolls \$5 ea. 708-481-6907

Bed sheets twin size \$2 ea; full sz \$3 ea; queen sz \$4 ea; king sz \$5 ea. 708-481-6907

Asst. rugs (from throw rugs to room sz rugs) \$10-\$100; decorative wall pictures \$10-\$25 ea; rugs (runners also) 708-481-6907

Original furbies \$3-\$5 ea; Ty beanie babies \$2-\$3 ea; barbie dolls \$5 ea. 708-481-6907

3 pc Fiesta canister st \$30 obo; asst. Corningware oven pcs \$3-\$5 ea. 708-481-6907

Anchor hocking 38 pc set of dishes, white w/gold trim \$20; Pyrex bowls and bakeware \$3-\$5 ea. 708-481-6907

Asst. colors Fiesta dishes ea pc \$3; Pyrex bowls \$3-\$6 ea; early Pyrex dishes (pastel colors) \$3 ea pc; casual dishes, white. 708-481-6907

Collection of porcelain tea pots; asst. tin containers. 708-481-6907

Small white wood cabinet for bathroom or kitchen, 22" x 27" x 7", \$25. 708-481-6907

Gently used scrubs (medical uniforms) 2 for \$3; white lab coats (new) \$3 ea. 708-481-6907

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