



THORNTON TOWNSHIP  
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 205

# BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

**DECEMBER 18, 2024**

Serving All or Portions of the Following Communities:

Hazel Crest | Lansing | Markham | Phoenix | Blue Island | Burnham | Calumet City  
Posen | Riverdale | South Holland | Thornton | Dixmoor | Dolton | East Hazel Crest | Harvey

PHONE: 708-225-4000

[district205.net](http://district205.net)

[@ttdistrict205](https://twitter.com/ttdistrict205)

# **OPEN SESSION**

C A L L   T O   O R D E R

# **ROLL CALL**

# **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**





# **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

A. Report from Curriculum Committee



# CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Annual Thanksgiving Giveaway Organized by Patricia Fortier



Our families received turkeys, stuffing, mashed potatoes, macaroni and cheese, and more to create a delicious Thanksgiving feast.





# COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

- B. Report from Finance & Facilities Committee
- C. Report from Policy Committee
- D. Report from Discipline Committee

# CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session Minutes** dated November 13, 2024
- B. Approval of District 205 Bills:** Dated November 13, 2024, through December 17, 2024
- C. Personnel:** Approval of Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires & Terminations dated December 17, 2024
- D. Ratification:**
  - i. Approval of the Varsity Wrestling Tournament, Overnight Trip, Lincoln, IL, December 26-28, 2024
  - ii. Approval of the Girls Basketball Tournament, Overnight Trip, Edwardsburg, MI, December 13-14, 2024
  - iii. Approval of PRESS Plus Policy 2:265 Title IX Grievance Procedure



# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

*We now open the Public Participation section of our agenda. At this time, members of the community are invited to address the Board. We ask that you state your name and town, limit your total time to two minutes, and talk only about items on the current Board Agenda.*

*In addition, if your comments are of a critical nature about specific people, the Board requests that you present your comments during the personnel portion of the “executive session.”*

*Your name will not be called if you do not sign in and list a topic or the topic is not on the current Board agenda or if public participation has begun.*

# FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA)

DR. DOSS





THORNTON TOWNSHIP  
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 205

# COMMUNICATIONS

N E W S F R O M T H E S C H O O L S



# THORNBRIDGE

FALCONS



THORNTON TOWNSHIP  
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 205



*With the Semester winding down,  
Thornridge's Student Council and National  
Honor Society sponsored a Holiday Spirit  
week of fun for all!*





# THORNBRIDGE

FALCONS

ON

SPOT  
ADMISSION

With

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

JSU



THORNTON TOWNSHIP  
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 205



*Congrats to these TR Scholars! On November 18, 2024 – TR attended a D205 Jackson State University in-person visit at Thornton High School, where 15 of the 16 attending were accepted "On-the-Spot." Congrats to these TR Scholars!*

PHONE: 708-225-4000

[district205.net](http://district205.net)

[@ttdistrict205](https://twitter.com/ttdistrict205)





# THORNBRIDGE

## FALCONS



**THORNTON TOWNSHIP**  
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 205

We, the Thornridge Falcon Family, are delighted to announce that Abdulbasit Lawal, one of our graduating seniors, has been admitted to the University of Notre Dame with a QuestBridge National College Match Scholarship valued at over \$350,000.

This highly selective scholarship will cover all four years of undergraduate studies and provide options for additional expenses. Thornridge salutes Abdulbasit for his commitment to

academic and personal success, as he is one of the 2,627 Finalists chosen as Match Scholarship Recipients, with 90 students paired with Notre Dame. Abdulbasit has consistently demonstrated his intellectual prowess, with an outstanding academic record that has kept him in the top 5% of his class throughout high school. His strong participation in the Science Club, Art Club, Stage Crew, and Scholastic Team demonstrates his unwavering commitment to academic excellence.

Abdulbasit is an extraordinary student who handles himself maturely and has a natural ability to lead others to success. Furthermore, Abdulbasit plans to attend the University of Notre Dame as an accounting major.

Congratulations, Abdulbasit; your Thornridge Falcon Family is proud of you!

*Congratulations!*





# THORNTRIDGE

## FALCONS



THORNTON TOWNSHIP  
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 205



*On December 4th, the District 205 Choir and the Thornridge Concert Band took the stage in the David L. Eanes Performing Arts Center to bring together holiday music and cheer for TR's Annual Winter Concert. The choir performed "Our Gift For You," "Betelehemu," "I Smile," and "Do You Hear What I Hear." The band performed the "Star-Spangled Banner," "Chester," "Onward Thornridge," and "Festive Fanfare." Here's to a holiday season filled with music and joy!*

PHONE: 708-225-4000

[district205.net](http://district205.net)

[@ttdistrict205](https://twitter.com/ttdistrict205)





# THORNBRIDGE

## FALCONS



THORNTON TOWNSHIP  
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 205



*A few of Thornridge's scholars had an opportunity to attend The Hip Hop Nutcracker, a contemporary dance show that reimagines the classic Nutcracker ballet, celebrating community and hip-hop culture. The TR scholars, along with Dr. Moore and TR Staff took away the message that love conquers all and that the magic of the holidays can bring people together.*





## Economic Students Visit The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

On December 4th, Thornton Economics students from Mr. Feltz's and Ms. Jones' class had the opportunity to visit the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago Money Museum and meet with a Federal Reserve Vice President of the Bank Supervision Department. She presented on the role of the Federal Reserve, showed a short video highlighting the goals and role of the Federal Reserve and answered student questions. Afterwards, students went through a variety of exhibits including spotting a counterfeit bill and acting as the Federal Open Market Committee member voting on the appropriate adjustment of interest rates. They also got to see a million dollars in \$1 dollar bills, \$20 dollar bills, and \$100 dollar bills. Students were also able to see currency dating as far back as the American Revolutionary War.







The 2025 Senior Class Officers hosted their first blood drive of the year on 12/9/24. There were over 30 whole blood donations collected from students, staff, and an awesome parent. Every 2 seconds a patient in the U.S. needs a transfusion. About 1 in every 7 people will need one at some point in their lives. **We are so PROUD of our students and staff.**







High School Nation teamed up with Dunkin' Donuts across the Country and distributed millions of dollars in gift cards to Schools Nationwide. We are proud to say that Thornton Township High School received enough \$5 gift cards for our entire student and staff body. Over the past 3 weeks, Principal Whitaker visited classrooms distributing cards to every student and staff at TTHS.





## STUDENTS & STAFF DUNKIN DONUT GIFT CARD GIVEAWAY





# Illinois State Scholars



**Oluwanifemi Ajayi**

**Hallie Argueta**

**Hilary Argueta**

**Autumn Arnold**

**Audrey Davis**

**Jociaya Edwards**

**Haley Fair**

**Sapphir Gilder**

**Isis Hernandez**

**Daopu Isokariari**

**Zimbiat Jimoh**

**Daniel Martinez**

**Jeremy Price**

**Andrea Ramirez**

**Ashley Hernandez**

**Curtis Spence**

**Taylor Thrasher**





**Congratulations to Miguel Martinez and Jerichiah Harris!**

**We are so proud of Miguel Martinez and Jerichiah Harris for successfully completing their certification in aircraft mechanics and receiving on the spot job offers!!!**

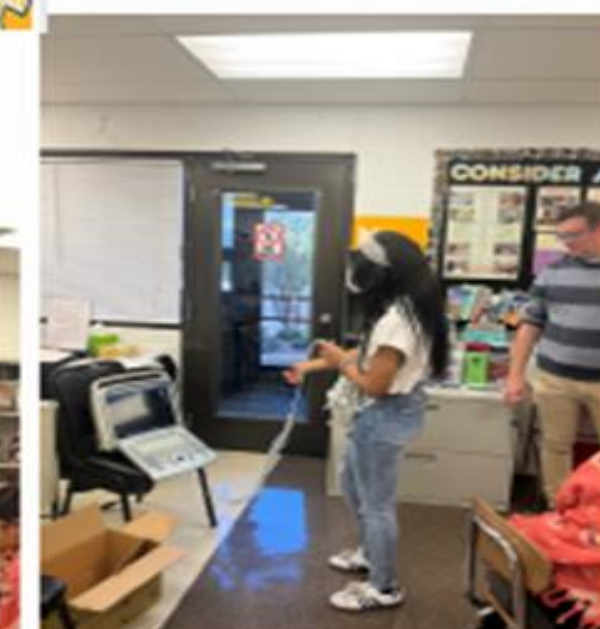
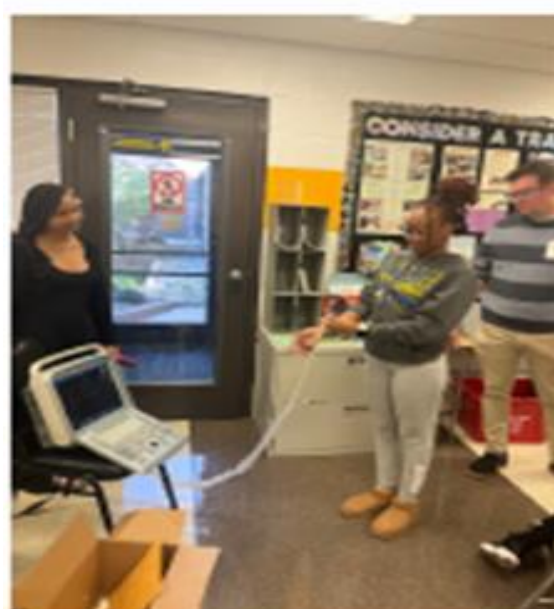
**They will further their education at Olive Harvey College taking full advantage of the incredible opportunities available.**

**We are proud of your achievements!**





## TRADE SCHOOL THURSDAY'S MEDICAL DAY



**Each month, Thornwood High School hosts Trade School Thursday, a special event designed to introduce students to various trade school opportunities and career paths. This month, students had the exciting opportunity to learn about the Echocardiogram program at South Suburban College.**

**Students interested in exploring healthcare careers, particularly in the field of medical imaging and cardiovascular technology, were able to gain valuable insights into the program and its potential career opportunities.**

**We are proud to provide our students with these hands-on learning experiences, helping them discover and pursue their passions for the future!**





# SPECIAL OLYMPICS FLOOR HOCKEY

T H U N D E R B I R D S



THORNTON TOWNSHIP  
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 205



We had a great day today filled with full bellies, great sportsmanship and pure fun! We took bronze medals home today ( first time we haven't won gold in three years). They played great and we are so proud! Thank you for all your support!

PHONE: 708-225-4000

district205.net

@ttdistrict205





# SPECIAL OLYMPICS SNOWSHOE TEAM

T H U N D E R B I R D S



THORNTON TOWNSHIP  
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 205



This weekend our  
Snowshoe Team competed  
at Mt. Greenwood Park.

Please join us in  
congratulating Zachery  
Woods on his Gold Medal in  
the 100 M race and Miyanah  
Holloway on her Gold  
Medals in both the 50M and  
100 M race!





# Celebrating Success at PEACE Center

- **14 Honor Roll Students**

This semester, we proudly celebrate 14 outstanding students who achieved Honor Roll status, showcasing their dedication and perseverance

- **Mock Interview Day**

Students participated in a school-wide Mock Interview Day, gaining valuable experience in professional communication and interview skills. This activity helps prepare them for future career opportunities and builds confidence in navigating real-world scenarios

- **College and Career Expo**

Special thanks to the Board of Education and the College and Careers Team for organizing a phenomenal expo. Our students had a wonderful opportunity to connect with diverse exhibitors addressing the 3 E's in meaningful ways.





# Exceptional Achievements

## Jackson State University Visit

Kudos to the College & Careers Team for facilitating the Jackson State University visit at Thornton. Four of our senior students attended, and we proudly announce that one were accepted!

**Kudos Rashod Stamps who will become a Jackson State Tiger this fall!**



## U.S. Marine Corps

We also celebrate **Alexander Ward**, who has been accepted into and commissioned by the United States Marine Corps. He will begin his service in Summer 2024. Thank you for representing PEACE with honor and distinction!

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**YOU DID IT!**





# Gratitude & Teamwork

## Thank You!

To the Board of Education, District Office, and the entire District 205 family, we extend our deepest gratitude for your unwavering support. Your contributions help PEACE achieve its goals and uplift one of the most valued populations in our district. Together, we are transforming lives and creating brighter futures.

## Wishing You Happy Holidays!

As we wrap up Semester 1, we wish everyone a joyful and peaceful holiday season. Thank you for being part of our success story this year!



## & Happy New Year!



# **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Presentation: CEDA- Mr. Fickes





# Special Projects

Building Pathways, Strengthening Communities, Shaping Futures.

**Presentation - 2024**

**Michae' Wiley Ph.D.- Deputy Director  
of Special Projects Presenter**







# Introduction to CEDA's Special Projects

CEDA Special Projects, a division of the Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County (CEDA), is committed to fostering personal and professional growth while building stronger community connections.

## Key focus areas include:

- Advancing Economic Development
- Fostering Mental Wellness and Youth Expression
- Connecting Communities



# Uplift



## **Employability Skills Training & Certifications:**

Builds foundational workplace skills in communication, teamwork, problem solving, resume development, and interview preparation. Participants gain industry-recognized certifications tailored to their career goals.



## **Hands-on Experience:**

Provides real-world opportunities through practical tasks and structured summer internships, fostering professional growth and expanding networks.



## **Career Pathways:**

Establishes connections with employers to support long-term career opportunities and sustainable success.



## **Desires Outcomes:**

This comprehensive approach prepares participants for their first job and equips them with the tools and confidence to build successful, long-term careers.



# PurpleX

The Purple X Program, conducted in collaboration with the Vent Program, engages youth ages 14–24 by enhancing their knowledge of mental health and wellness while promoting self-expression through the arts. Participants explore creative mediums and gain hands-on training to master these skills, fostering both wellness and creativity



## Program Components

### Mental Health and Wellness:

- Builds awareness and understanding of mental health and emotional well-being.
- Develops emotional regulation, empathy, and tools for personal growth.
- Includes field trips to experience art in motion and inspire creativity.

### Creative Arts Training:

- Focuses on photography, videography, music recording, creative writing, and podcasting.
- Provides hands-on training to build artistic proficiency and confidence.



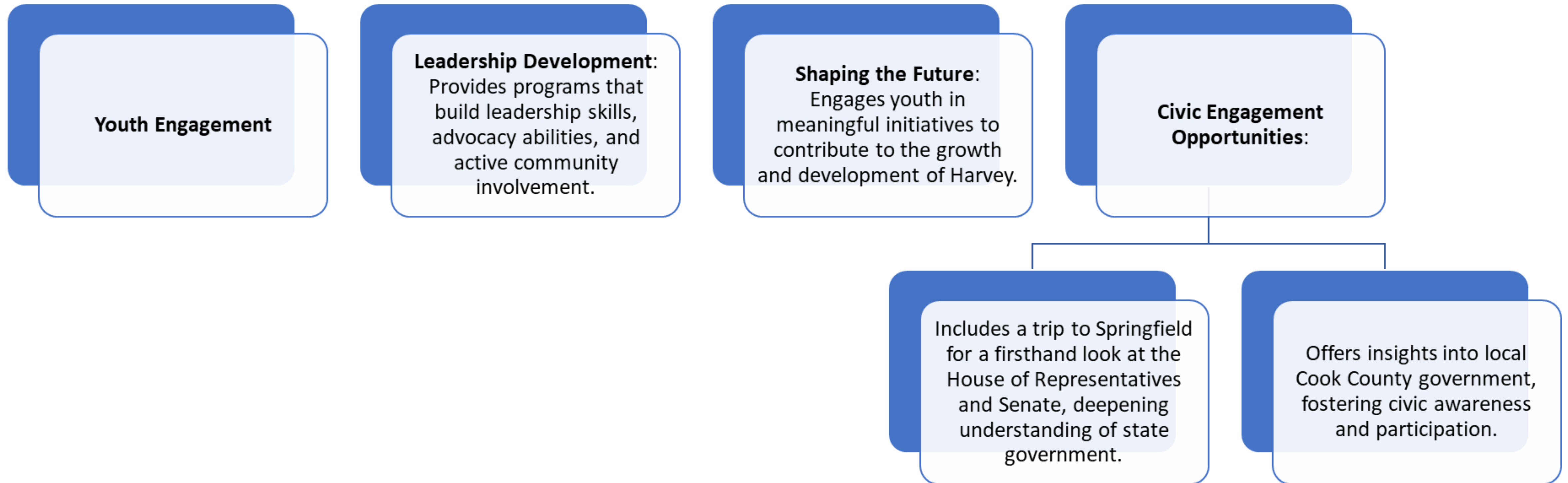


The Harvey Neighborhood Network, funded by The United Way and Cook County, Illinois, is a collaborative initiative dedicated to improving the quality of life in Harvey. By uniting local organizations and stakeholders, the program addresses critical areas such as education, safety, health, and economic development. Through youth engagement, leadership development, and civic education, the program equips participants to actively contribute to their community's growth while fostering collaboration and long-term impact.





# Upcoming Opportunities for Harvey Residents





Upcoming  
Opportunities  
for ALL  
students ages  
14-24 to attend



**AUDITORIUM**  
THE THEATRE FOR THE PEOPLE

# TOO HOT TO HANDEL

THE JAZZ GOSPEL MESSIAH

Get ready for an unforgettable musical adventure! Too Hot to Handel: The Jazz-Gospel Messiah takes Handel's classic masterpiece and brings it to life with a high-energy blend of jazz, gospel, blues, and swing. This is no ordinary concert—it's an inspiring celebration of music that will have you clapping, singing, and feeling great! Discover more about Purple X, where creativity meets self-expression and growth!

 Saturday, January 11, 2025



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING, PLEASE  
CLICK QR CODE TO REGISTER, SOMEONE WILL  
CONTACT YOU WITH MORE DETAILS

**Free**

Dinner to follow!



For questions regarding the event, please  
email **Machelle Anderson**, [manderson@cedaorg.net](mailto:manderson@cedaorg.net)

 COOK COUNTY HEALTH

 PurpleX





# Upcoming programming open to all youth ages 16–24 living in Illinois.

## Join The CEDA Uplift Employability & Life Skills Program/ Certificate Program

Learn the skills necessary to gain and  
keep employment!

### About the Program:

12 to 24-week earn while you learn program  
\$100 per week stipend (given after  
completion of program). Earn up to \$2,400!

- 12-week employability program:
  - Employment 101
  - Career exploration
  - Professional resume development
  - Interviewing skills
  - Workplace ethic and conduct
  - Financial literacy & goal setting
- Earn certifications and trainings.
  - Opportunity for long-term employment after completing total course.



Scan QR code to  
pre-register today!  
Space is limited to 30  
participants ONLY!



### Qualifications:

- South Suburban Cook County Resident
- 16–24 yrs old
- Participants 18–24 interested in medical field, manufacturing and warehousing are strongly encouraged to pre-register!



### Thornton Township High School

15001 Broadway Avenue  
Harvey, Illinois 60426

Contact us for upcoming program  
schedule.

For more information contact Kasandra Henderson  
at [upliftharvevinfo@cedaorg.net](mailto:upliftharvevinfo@cedaorg.net) or 773-636-6723





# Questions

## C o n t a c t   I n f o r m a t i o n

M i c h a e '   W i l e y ,   P H D

7 7 3 - 5 9 0 - 3 2 2 7

m w i l e y @ c e d a o r g . n e t





# **NEW BUSINESS**

B. Presentation: Diesel Program- Mr. Fickes





# Thornton Township District 205 Diesel Engine Technology and International



- ✓ New Partnerships
- ✓ New Brand—Continued Excellence in curriculum and certification
- ✓ Generous Donation—(2) A-26 Engines for student learning experiences
- ✓ New student opportunities in classroom and workplace opportunities





# **NEW BUSINESS**

C. Recommended Approval: District 205 French Class European Trip, June 15- 24, 2026-  
Mr. Craigmile & Mr. Fickes



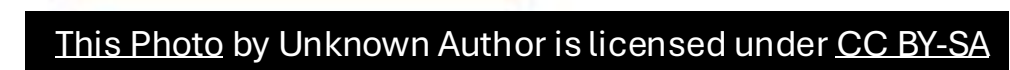
# **NEW BUSINESS**

D. Recommended Approval: Financial Literacy- Ms. Liaskos, Mr. Yiakos, & Mr. Fickes



\_\_\_\_\_

Gus Yiakos, TW PE, Health, FACS, and DE  
Divisional Leader

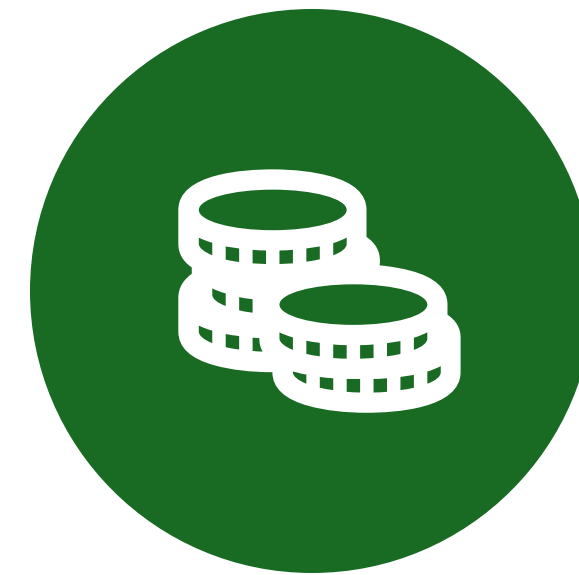




# Program Goals - Every student will”



Make sound financial decisions throughout their lives



Understand the basic function of the economy



Become savvy consumers



Become prudent savers and investors



# Program Overview

Incorporating the 3 E's

ACT Prep

Math Initiatives

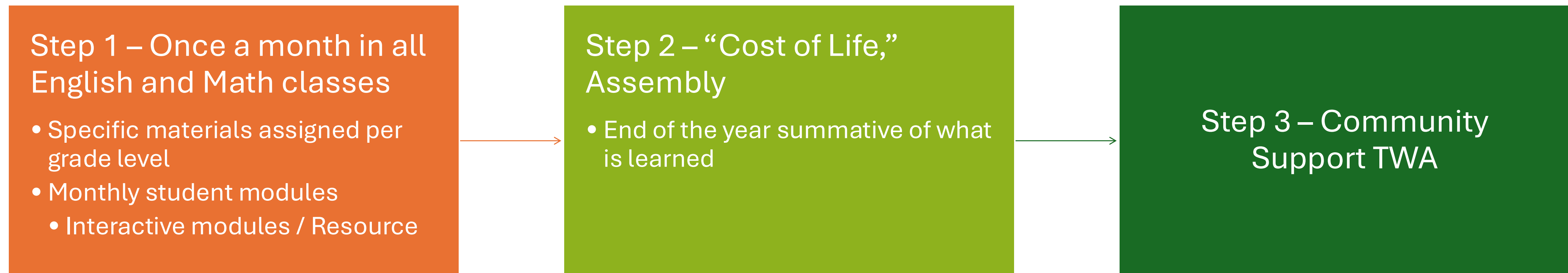
English Informational  
Reading

Community Outreach /  
Support Program

- TWA (Thornton Wealth Advisors)
- Alumni / Community Members
- Support Students after they graduate



# Program Details



Approval needed to create a planning committee to create, plan and review curriculum materials. As well as review programs that can be used such as The Money Vehicle.

Goal is to begin 2025-2026 School Year to pilot at Thornwood High School



# **NEW BUSINESS**

E. Recommended Approval: 2024 Tax Levy Resolution- Mr. Horton



# **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**



# EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Motion to enter into Closed Session, pursuant to 2(c) of the Open Meetings Act to consider the following:
  - The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees;
  - Student discipline;
  - Individual Student Issues;
  - Collective negotiating matters; and
  - Pending, probable or imminent litigation



# **RECONVENE OPEN SESSION**

- A. Board of Education Decision Regarding Faculty Association Grievance #092124- Removal of TT Assistant Girls Basketball Coach
- B. Board of Education Decision Regarding Faculty Association Grievance #092224- Consecutive Year Evaluation at TT
- C. Board of Education Decision Regarding Faculty Association Grievance #092324- Consecutive Year Evaluation at TT
- D. Possible Action to Approve Notice to Remedy for Tenured Teacher A
- E. Possible Action to Approve Resignation Agreement and Release for Teacher B
- F. Recommended Approval: Assistant Superintendent/CSBO Contract Approval



# **ADJOURNMENT**

**Next Regular Meeting**

**January 8, 2025**

**THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL**

District 205 Vision: Building an exemplary high-quality organization that produces major gains in student achievement and prepares all students to be productive citizens in a global society.

District 205 Mission: To develop productive citizens who are enrolled, enlisted or employed at the completion of high school.

District 205 Core Values: Empathy, Trust, Pride, Responsiveness, High Expectations with High Support Integrity, Commitment to Excellence, Innovation, and Collaboration