



Newsletter

F e b r u a r y 2 0 2 5

Outlook Academy

Student Reminders:

Student ID Procedures:

Students are required to wear their OA ID. Students are not allowed on campus without an ID. If you lose your ID, you must report to the main office to purchase a temporary ID. Students are not allowed in the hallway without a school ID.

Ventra Cards:

Lost, stolen, or damaged Ventra cards require new paperwork and a \$10 replacement fee. Please see Mr. Valant and/or Mrs. Verdin.

Attendance:

All student absences and/or early dismissals should be reported to the OA Main Office at 708-225-5875.

Our Truancy Department and Officer Owens conduct daily attendance checks. Questions about attendance should be directed to Officer Owens at 708-225-5871.



🎉 Congratulations, Janiyah Hill! 🎉

We are absolutely delighted to celebrate Janiyah Hill as our Student of the Month! Janiyah's dedication, hard work, and exceptional attitude have truly shone brightly in our school community.

Her commitment to excellence, both academically and personally, sets a brilliant example for her peers. Janiyah approaches each challenge with determination and a positive mindset, continuously striving to learn and grow.

Not only does she excel in her studies, but she also embodies the spirit of kindness, respect, and collaboration. Janiyah's willingness to help others and her enthusiasm for school activities make her a true role model.

Let's all take a moment to applaud Janiyah Hill for her outstanding achievements and contributions. We are incredibly proud of you, Janiyah, and excited to see all the amazing things you will accomplish in the future! Keep shining! ✨

With admiration and pride,

OA Security Staff



CONNECT WITH US

brower.loribeth@district205.net

708-225-5875 or 708-225-5879

UPCOMING EVENTS

For parent Information, comments, or concerns regarding attendance please contact Truancy Officer Owens at 708-225-5871.

- Remember to call the office when your student is going to be absent at 708-225-5875 or 5869.
- Please visit our webpage at www.district205.net/domain/315 to view pictures, download forms, get access to other links, and much more.

Parents/guardians of students may access attendance, grades, and assignments using one log-in at: <https://powerschool.ttdistrict205.net/public>



ACCESS Testing for English Learners which assesses proficiency in the domains of reading, writing, listening, and speaking will be approaching quickly in January.

If you need assistance in your classes, please reach out to me in 3495 or email me at cwest@ttdistrict205.net

We will have Honors and Attendance Awards Celebration in and I hope students are aiming to be a part of it!

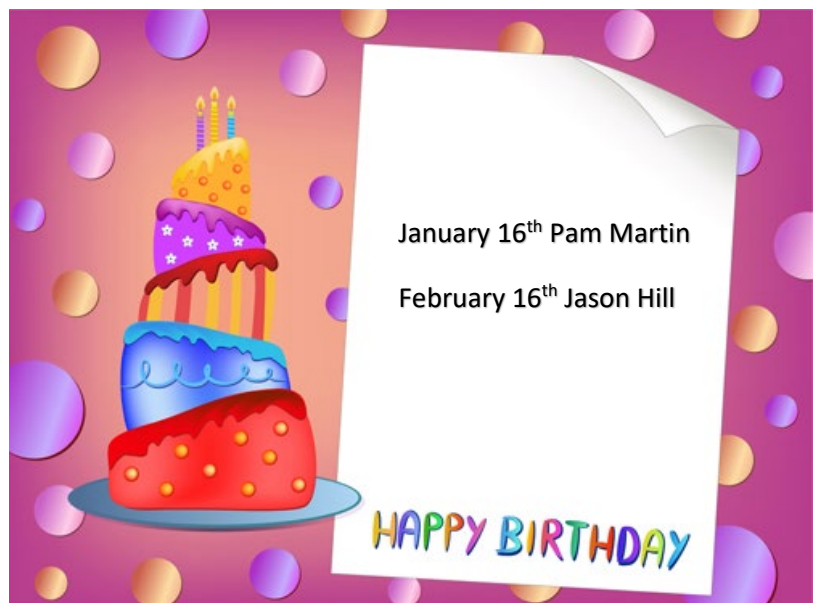
Look for information coming soon on a Girls' Group to meet for mentoring, discussion, and support.

District 205 Credit Recovery 2024-2025

Mrs. Patricia Malopsy-Fortier
District Credit Recovery Program
Administrator

If you have any questions regarding Credit Recovery, please contact your Home School Counselor and/or credit Recovery Building Coordinator or visit the district website: www.district205.net/areasofinstruction/creditrecovery

Outlook Academy
Mr. Josh Folsom
OA Credit Recovery Coordinator
folsom.joshua@district205.net



February

2024

From: Patricia A. Malopsy Fortier, Program Administrator

Happy February Everyone!

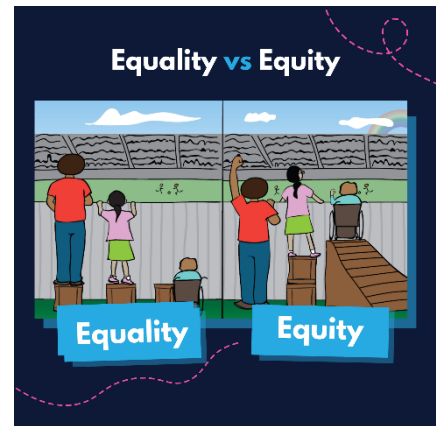
As we embark on the month of February, we find ourselves amidst a season of reflection, education, and, quite fittingly, a time to honor and celebrate the remarkable contributions and history of Black Americans. **Black History Month is a powerful reminder of the resilience, achievements, and the ongoing journey toward equity and justice that many have paved the way for.**

Throughout this month, our school will engage in a variety of activities designed to educate and inspire our students. From classroom discussions and historical documentaries to community events, we aim to honor the legacy of Black trailblazers and recognize the profound impact they have made on our society. We encourage you to explore these stories and engage in meaningful conversations with your children/loved ones about the importance of Black History Month.

Amidst our celebration, we are also cognizant of the governmental uncertainties that currently affect our nation. These challenges can sometimes create a sense of instability, but we remain steadfast in our commitment to providing a nurturing and secure environment for our students. Our faculty is dedicated to ensuring that your children continue to receive a high-quality education, regardless of the external circumstances.

In times like these, it is essential to foster a strong sense of community and support. We encourage open lines of communication and invite you to reach out with any concerns or questions you might have. Together, we can navigate these uncertain times and continue to uphold the values of respect, inclusiveness, and mutual understanding.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Let us make this February a month of growth, learning, and unity!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	National Counselors Week					
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Super Bowl			Board of Education Meeting	Parent Teacher Conferences	Valentine's Day	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Jason Hill's Birthday	President's Day					
23	24	25	26	27	28	
		Election Day				



Outlook Academy

STUDENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Academic Support

Mrs. Martin's Counselor's Corner

Khanmigo is Khan Academy's AI-powered tutor and teaching assistant, designed to enhance learning experience for students and support teachers in the classroom. It uses artificial intelligence to provide interactive guidance, answer questions, and facilitate deeper understanding in various subjects.

Key Features of Khanmigo

For Students:

- **Interactive Tutoring:** Provides step-by-step explanations for math, science, and other subjects.
- **Socratic Questioning:** Encourages critical thinking by guiding students to find answers rather than just giving solutions.
- **Writing Feedback:** Helps improve writing by offering suggestions on structure, grammar, and clarity.
- **Coding Assistance:** Supports students in learning programming with hints and explanations.

For Teachers:

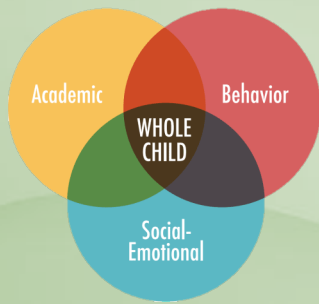
- **Lesson Planning Support:** Assists in creating customized lesson plans.
- **Real-Time Insights:** Helps track student progress and areas needing improvement.
- **Engagement Tools:** Provides activities and discussion prompts for classroom learning.

For Parents:

- **Homework Help:** Assists in explaining homework concepts to children.
- **Learning Companion:** Offers additional educational support beyond schoolwork.

How to Access Khanmigo

- Currently, Khanmigo is available through Khan Academy with a paid subscription (\$4/month) to support AI development and maintain accessibility for students worldwide.
- Users can sign up via Khan Academy's website and access Khanmigo through their accounts.



MTSS

Multi-Tiered System of Supports

From the Desk of Ms. Cheryl West MTSS/EL

February is here already! We spent January welcoming new students and getting them acclimated to OA so they can be successful here. We also continue to strive to educate the whole student and show up to support them not only in their academics, but in activities, athletics, and social emotional growth. Seeing students grow from the time they come to us until they leave is one of my greatest gifts as an educator.

Now that we are already halfway through a new term and everyone is settling in, we are in the midst of ACCESS testing for our English Learner population.

ACCESS testing is an assessment tool designed to measure how well English Learners (ELs) understand and use academic English. The test focuses on assessing four key language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. It's used to evaluate the progress of English Learners and determine how well they are acquiring English proficiency in these areas.

ACCESS stands for Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State. It is typically administered annually to students who have been identified as ELs, and the results help schools and districts monitor language development. The test provides valuable data that educators can use to plan appropriate instruction, track progress, and ensure that ELs are getting the support they need to succeed academically.

The test is aligned with state and national English language proficiency standards, and it provides scores in different proficiency levels, ranging from "beginning" to "proficient." These levels help identify where students are in their English language development, allowing for tailored educational support.

We look forward to the next month of supporting students, completing ACCESS testing, and learning.





Financial Aid Department

*From the Desk of Ms. Briana Holmes
College and Careers*

Students must use District Gmail to gain access to Google Classroom.

Completion and Confirmation of FAFSA and South Suburban College Application is REQUIRED for Graduation from Outlook.

COMPLETE FAFSA

BEGIN the 2024-2025 FAFSA TODAY!
Enrollment has opened! South Suburban College CODE: 001769

<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

FAFSA Instructions

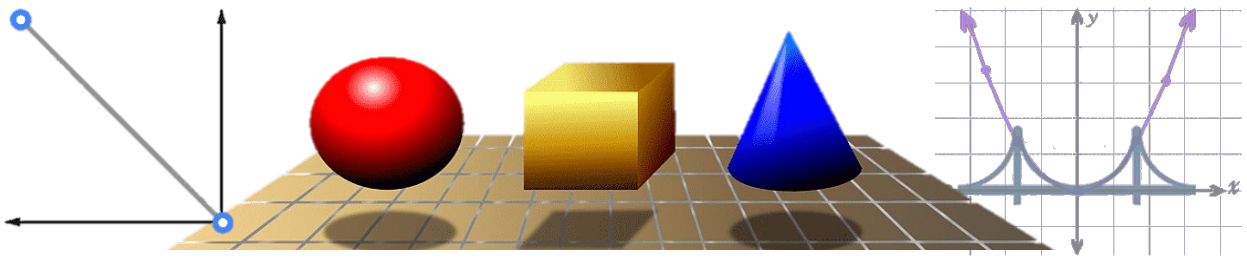
<https://www.ssc.edu/admissions-registration/financial-aid/>

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your FAFSA please email bholmes@ttdsitric205.net or call at 708-596-2000 ext. 3575.

Congratulations to Outlook's Briana Holmes! Welcome Legend to the Outlook Family!



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
FEDERAL STUDENT AID



Math Department

From the Desk of Mrs. Garza



As we begin a new quarter, students are diving into fresh challenges with a focus on teamwork and critical thinking. To set the tone, classes recently took on the **Spaghetti and Marshmallow Challenge**, a hands-on activity designed to encourage problem-solving, creativity, and collaboration.

In this engaging exercise, students worked in teams to build the tallest free-standing structure using only spaghetti and marshmallows. Through trial and error, they quickly learned the importance of communication, planning, and adaptability. Some towers stood tall, while others collapsed, but every group walked away with valuable lessons in perseverance and strategic thinking.

This activity set the stage for the quarter ahead, reinforcing the idea that success often comes from teamwork and learning from mistakes. With this mindset, students are ready to tackle new academic challenges and grow together as problem-solvers!

From the Desk of Mr. Bailey

We started the year off with a discussion of whether it is possible for a person to 'smell' the distinct color of playing cards. Can a person get 12 out of 12, right? The closest student got only 10. So, when a lady in England can do it, not with playing cards, but with Parkinsons disease, we should take notice. This project allowed us to begin to discuss how statistics and probability can change the world.

We finished our first chapter at the end of January. You should have received an email, at the email on record, with your student's current grade. If you have any questions concerning their grade, please email me. (rbailey@ttdistrict205.net)

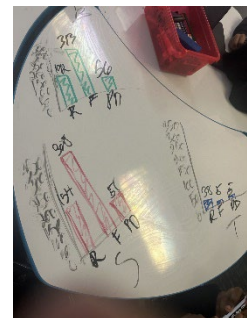
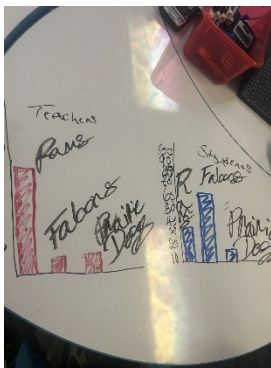
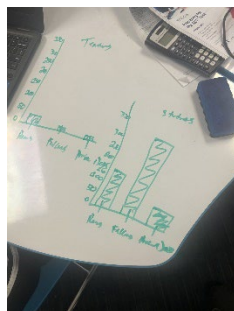
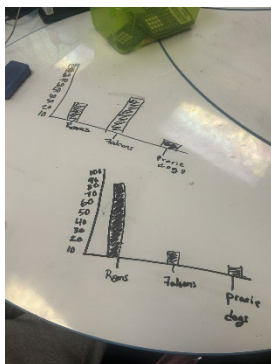
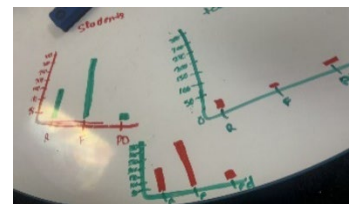
Currently, in this chapter, we have begun working with graphs. We are learning how to represent data and discuss meaningful ways to display the data we collect. We will continue to work through several types of graphs. This will lead us to be able to discuss how graphs can be misleading. We will try to understand each graph for what the numbers say and not what someone wants us to believe.

Week 5 – 2/3 to 2/7 - Graph Assessment and Graph Project.

Week 6 – 2/10 to 2/14 - Start Chapter on Measures of Tendency

Week 7 – 2/17 to 2/21 - Measures of Tendency Assessment and Project

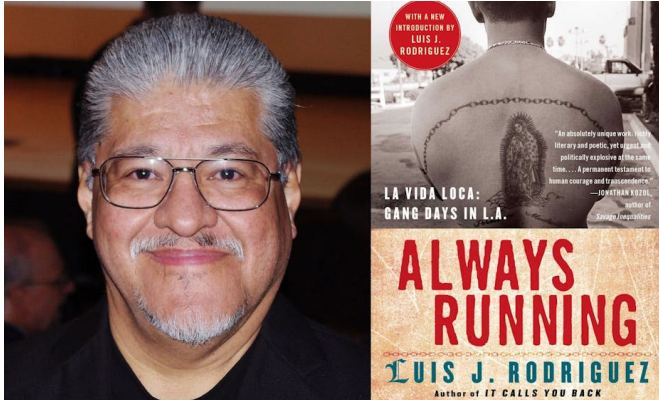
Week 8 – 2/24 to 2/28 - Probability





English Department

From the Desk of Mrs. Goodman



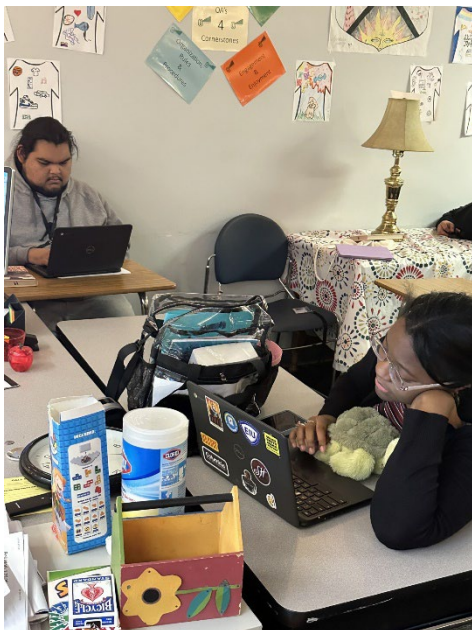
This quarter, our English IV students are embarking on a deeply personal quest: to reflect on their lives and identify meaningful changes or improvements they want to pursue. With this challenge, we hope to inspire growth, resilience, and self-discovery as they explore what it means to take charge of their future.

To guide us on this journey, we are completing *Always Running* by Luis J. Rodriguez, a powerful memoir chronicling the author's transformation from gang life to a life of purpose and success. Rodriguez's story provides students with a vivid example of how determination and self-reflection can lead to

remarkable change, even in the face of adversity.

In two weeks, we'll begin reading *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho. This timeless novel follows the journey of a young man in search of his "personal legend," teaching readers that the pursuit of one's dreams is as important as the destination.

As we move through these texts, students will reflect on their own "personal legends" and set goals for themselves, aligning with our class theme of self-awareness and growth. Be sure to ask the students about their reflections and insights—they may inspire you to embark on a journey of your own!





From the Desk of Mr. Folsom

In Mr. Folsom's class, we are discussing the final stretch and the best ways to avoid the dreaded "senioritis". So, we came up with a great list of things to do together:

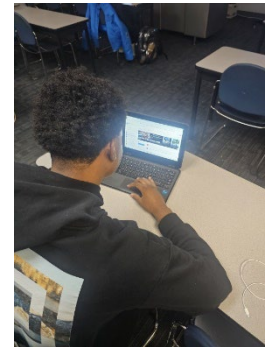
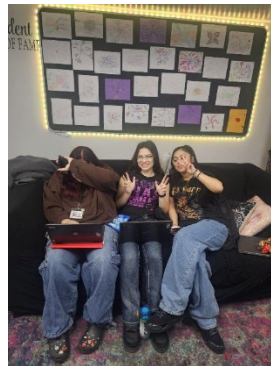
1. Set Realistic Goals Whether it is improving your grades, applying for school or jobs, breaking down big goals into smaller, more manageable steps. Aim for steady progress to ensure success.

2. Embrace Self-Care It is easy to get caught up in schoolwork and responsibilities but remember to take time for yourself. Whether it is exercising or just spending time with friends, self-care is essential for staying balanced and energized. Mental health is important!

3. Stay Organized A little organization can go a long way in reducing stress. Set up a planner, use apps to track assignments, and make it a habit to stay on top of your tasks. It will help you feel more in control and ready to tackle whatever comes your way.

4. Cultivate Positivity Commit to a positive mindset. Celebrate your small wins and learn from challenges. Surround yourself with people who inspire you and remember that setbacks are just opportunities to grow. Your attitude can make a huge

difference in how you approach each day!



From the Desk of Mr. Davidson

This month we turn our attention to the A.C.T. test. Illinois schools have been giving the S.A.T test for many years, but this year we are returning to the A.C.T. Reading and vocabulary are important elements of this test. We have lists of vocabulary words that frequently appear on these tests. A bulletin board with weekly words is in the hall next to 3489. Any student who wants a list of vocabulary words frequently found on the A.C.T. test can see Mr. Davidson in room 3489. Using this list to increase personal vocabulary will increase chances of a better score on the test as well as make students better readers and writers.

This month we also begin screening our new second-semester students to identify possible reading issues. It is our goal to screen all new students.

If your student has younger siblings at home who are just starting to learn to read, we have lists of the most frequently used words for new readers. Your student can get one for your use at home by coming by 3489 and asking for the "Frequent Word List".

Business Department

From the Desk of Ms. Digiacomo

Introduction to Business Semester 1

The students will start the marketing portion of the class. They will start with understanding how important demographics are, including: age, gender, income level, education level, occupation, marital status/family size, ethnicity and cultural background.

After they are able to determine demographic identifications they will write a marketing plan for including product, price and promotion and present it to the class.

Accounting Semester 1

The students have already learned how to analyze transactions and how it affects the accounting equation. Next, the students will be diving into one of the most fundamental tools in accounting: the T-account. Understanding T-accounts is essential for grasping the basic concepts of financial transactions.

A **T-account** is a visual representation of an individual account in the general ledger. It's shaped like the letter "T," where:

- The left side represents **debits**.
- The right side represents **credits**.

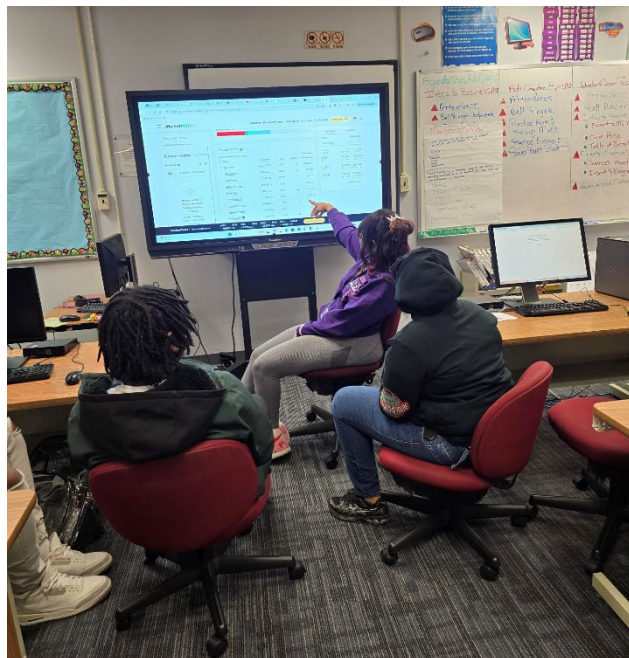
T-accounts help organize and track the flow of transactions within a business's financial system, making it easier to understand the effects of each transaction on various accounts.





From the Desk of Mr. Arrington


In the Intro to Business class (S2), students engage in discussions concerning taxation and tariffs and how they affect current events and one's personal and business finances. Additionally, students compared the interest yield on various savings, stock, and bond market accounts. Students participating in the MarketWatch virtual stock exchange enrich this chapter on savings and investing. Students learn investment terms such as P/E ratio to make smart investment choices. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place students receive extra points as well.



Game Rankings

Updated: Feb 6, 2025 at 9:41 a.m.

[Download](#) 

	Name	Net Worth	Last	Trades	Total Returns
1	Hollis Doss	\$11,152.40	0.25%	5	\$1,152.40
2	Malik Amaechi	\$10,317.06	1.57%	18	\$317.06
3	Cory Doss Jr	\$10,191.51	0.12%	2	\$191.51
4	Armonie Quarles	\$10,112.28	0.28%	4	\$112.28
5	Dasia Marx	\$10,074.01	-0.09%	50	\$74.01
6	Raven Patterson	\$10,031.94	0.07%	2	\$31.94
7	Demarcus Brandon	\$10,004.61	0.00%	2	\$4.61

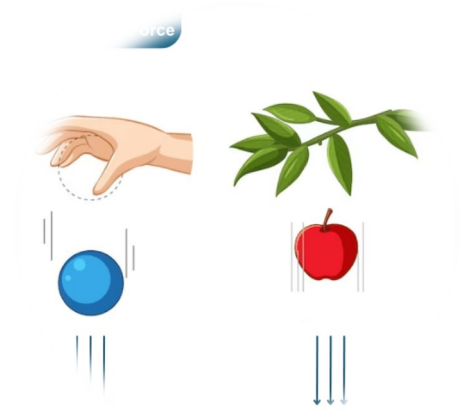
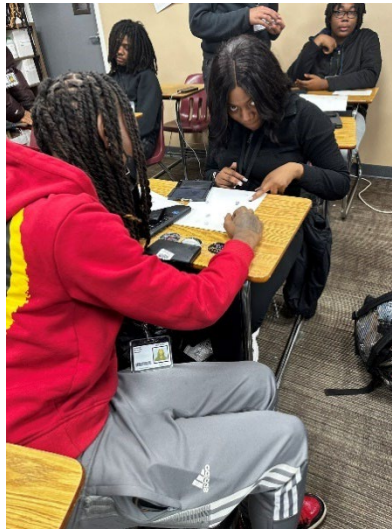


Science Department

From the Desk of Ms. Anderson

Integrated Science just are finishing their study of Earth Science. First, they investigated different types of Natural Disasters, then the role that gravity plays into our everyday lives. Next, IG students will delve into the wonderful world of Forensic Psychology.

Forensic Science students will continue their study of evidence types and how they are processed. They have already studied fingerprint evidence, ink and document evidence, and witness statements. This month they will be focusing on ballistic evidence and footwear evidence.





Social Studies Department

From the Desk of Mr. O'Leary

Dear Parents and Students,



As we step into the month of February, our Social Studies focus will delve into two key areas: the U.S. Constitution in Civics and global issues involving former President Donald Trump.

Civics: Understanding the Constitution This month, students will explore the foundational document that shapes our government, the United States Constitution. Through studying the Preamble, Articles, and Amendments, students will gain a deeper understanding of the rights and responsibilities granted to citizens, as well as the structure of government designed to protect those rights. We will also discuss landmark Supreme Court cases that have interpreted the Constitution over the years, helping students see how the Constitution evolves with society.

Global Issues: Examining the Impact of Donald Trump In our Global Issues unit, we will focus on the international and domestic consequences of Donald Trump's presidency. Students will analyze key events, policies, and decisions during his time in office, as well as the ongoing influence of his political legacy. Topics will include trade policies, foreign relations, and the role of social media in shaping public opinion. This unit will encourage students to think critically about leadership, political influence, and global governance.

We are excited to dive into these discussions and look forward to the insightful questions and debates that will arise from both topics.

As always, feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.



Social Studies

From the Desk of Mr. Martin

As we began semester, we are discussing how U.S. was torn apart due to the Civil War.

- Learning objectives for studying the Civil War might include:
Analyze the political, economic, and social factors that led to the Civil War, including issues of slavery, states' rights, and sectionalism.
- Recognize the roles and contributions of major figures such as Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, Ulysses S. Grant, and Robert E. Lee, as well as the perspectives of various groups like the Union and Confederate soldiers, abolitionists, and civilians.
- Evaluate the significance of major battles (e.g., Gettysburg, Antietam) and military strategies used by both the Union and the Confederacy.
- Understand how the Civil War affected American society, including changes in the roles of women, the impact on African Americans, and the economic consequences for the South.
- Investigate the goals, successes, and failures of the Reconstruction period, including the amendments to the Constitution and the challenges faced in rebuilding the nation.

Discuss the long-term effects of the Civil War on American politics, race relations, and national identity.

For students to make those connections to historical content,

- we watched the film "Glory." This movie tells the story of how runaway slaves joined the Northern Army and their courage helped turned the tide in favor of the North.

Glory objectives

Objectives/Student Outcomes:

Students will identify how the struggle to make an end to slavery a goal of the Civil War. They will expand their knowledge of the participation of black soldiers in the Civil War as well as the commitment of white abolitionists to the cause of ending slavery. Research and writing assignments in pursuit of these topics can be of great benefit in the study of the conflict that cost more American lives than any other.

Assessments following "Glory."

Here are the following assignments, please select one:

1. You are a soldier in the 54th Regiment, please write a one-page letter home to a loved one. In the letter, you will describe your experiences of fighting in the war.
2. You are a movie critic who just viewed the release of "Glory." Write a movie review about the historical accuracy of the film.
3. You are a journalist assigned to cover the 54th Regiment. Write a news story giving an account of what life was like for the African American soldiers.



Welcome to Visual Arts

From the Desk of Mrs. Martinez

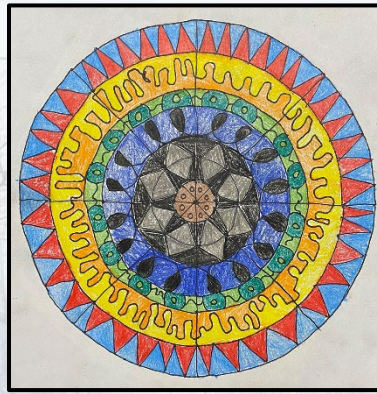
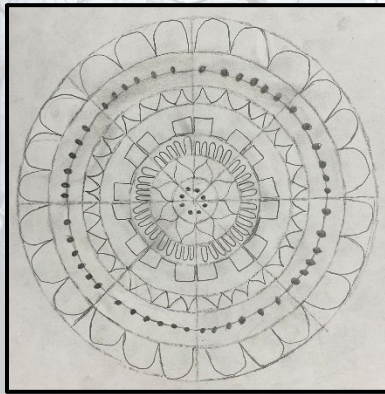
Welcome to Term 3 of Outlook Academy's Art Classes!

As we continue to explore our creativity, students have engaged in various projects that highlight essential artistic skills and concepts. This term, we have focused on blending techniques, symmetry, and vibrant use of color to enhance our artistic expression. Here's what we've been working on:

Intro to Art – Semester 2

Students in Intro to Art practiced blending techniques with oil pastels, which they applied to create a dynamic snake artwork. This project emphasized the elements of art—color and value—by exploring shading and smooth transitions between hues.

Additionally, students completed a radial symmetrical mandala art project using colored pencils. This activity allowed them to experiment with line, shape, and color while creating intricate and balanced designs. The mandala, a significant symbol in various cultures, represents unity, harmony, and the cyclical nature of life. By designing their own mandalas, students tapped into the meditative and mindful aspects of artmaking.



Painting Class

Painting students are currently working on a mandala project on canvas, using acrylic paint to bring their designs to life. This project challenges them to apply symmetry and color theory while honing their brushwork and layering techniques.

Additionally, painting students participated in a poster contest for the Illinois Secretary of State's Organ and Tissue Donation Program. This project allowed students to use their artistic talents to spread awareness about the importance of organ and tissue donation. Organ and tissue donation saves lives by providing transplants for individuals in need, giving them a second chance at life. By creating artwork that promotes this cause, students have contributed to a meaningful and impactful movement.

Honoring Black History Month Through Art

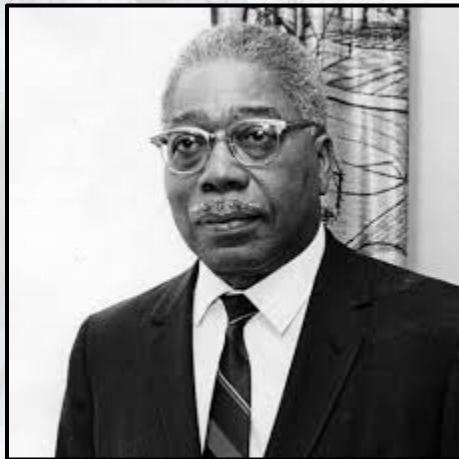
February is Black History Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the contributions, achievements, and rich cultural heritage of Black individuals throughout history. In the art world, Black artists have made profound impacts, using their creativity to tell stories, advocate for justice, and inspire generations. As we reflect on this month's significance, we honor artists who have shaped history through their powerful works.

Spotlight on Aaron Douglas

One of the most influential artists of the Harlem Renaissance, Aaron Douglas (1899–1979) is known for his bold and dynamic style that blends African traditions with modernist techniques. Often referred to as the "Father of Black American Art," Douglas used his work to illustrate the struggles, triumphs, and cultural pride of African Americans.

His paintings and murals are characterized by strong silhouettes, geometric patterns, and a striking use of light and shadow. Through his art, Douglas captured themes of heritage, resilience, and progress, often portraying historical narratives and the journey toward freedom and equality. His works, such as *Aspects of Negro Life* and *Song of the Towers*, remain iconic representations of Black culture and history.

In Disney's *The Princess and the Frog*, you can see his influence in the stylized, Art Deco-inspired animation during the "Almost There" sequence. The scene where Tiana envisions her dream restaurant, features flat, graphic shapes, limited color palettes, and layered silhouettes—very reminiscent of Douglas's iconic murals and illustrations. It's a beautiful tribute to his legacy!



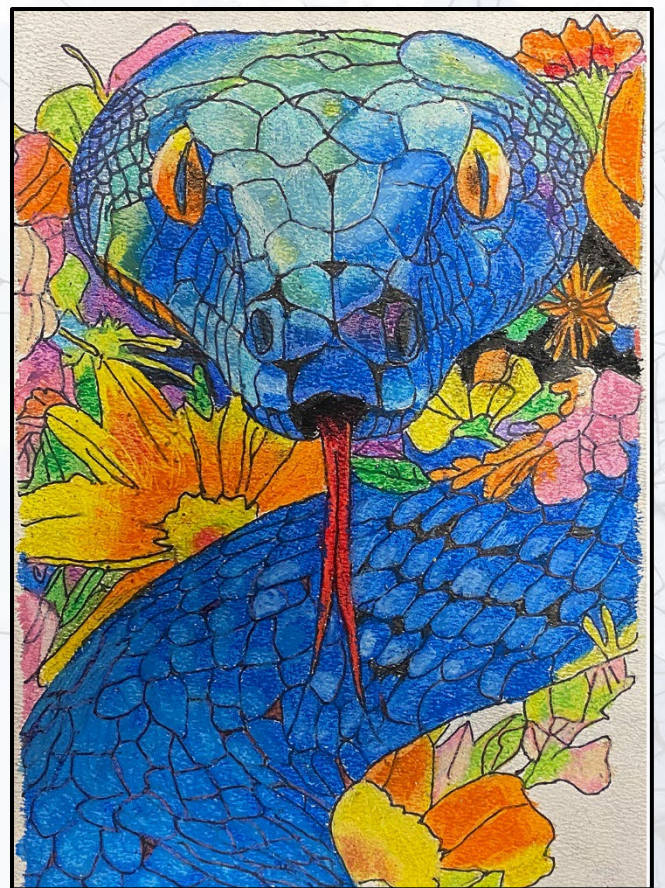
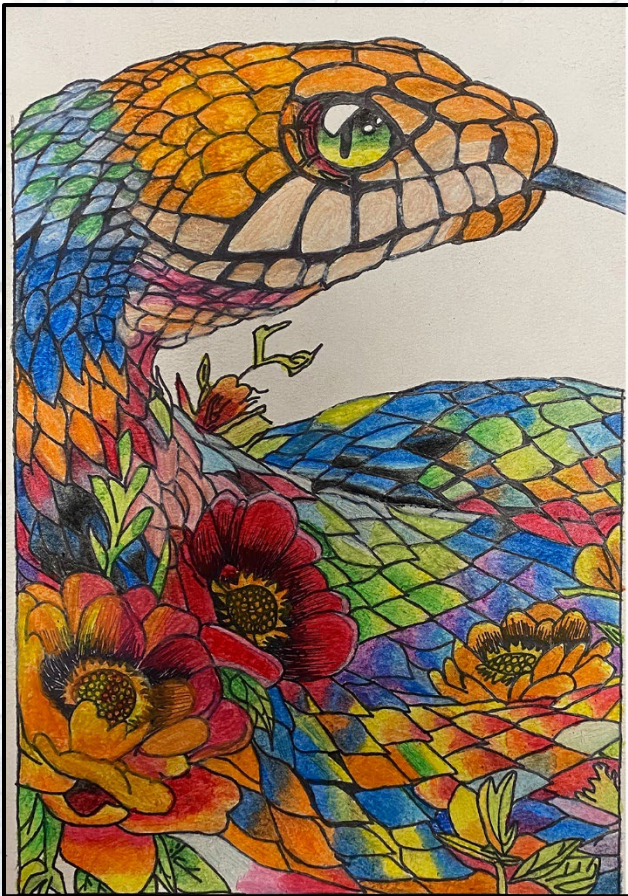
Engage, Learn, and Create

This month let us take time to explore and appreciate Black artists, both past and present. Whether through studying their works, creating inspired pieces, or engaging in discussions, we can all play a part in keeping these important stories alive.

Let us continue to use art to celebrate diversity, embrace history, and look forward to a more inclusive future!

Outlook Academy Art Department / Mrs. Martinez







Dear Outlook Academy Families,

Happy New Year! We have had a great start to the 3rd semester here in PE. With many new students joining us, we have focused on team-building activities to help everyone get to know each other and build trust. These activities have been a fun way for students to develop important communication and teamwork skills.

We're also gearing up for the Illinois State Fitness Testing by utilizing our fitness center and weight room. With 85-minute classes, we have plenty of time for both focused workouts and activities like basketball, volleyball, badminton, football, and soccer. Our goal is to offer a variety of physical activities that keep students engaged and help them find something they enjoy.

As we move into the semester, we're excited to see our students grow in both their fitness and teamwork abilities. Thanks for your continued support in making PE a positive experience for our students.





From Our Social Worker

From the Desk of Mr. Hill

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History is a vital part of world history, highlighting the achievements, struggles, and contributions of Black individuals and communities throughout time. It acknowledges the resilience and cultural impact of African Americans and the African diaspora in shaping societies, particularly in areas such as civil rights, literature, science, politics, and the arts. Black History Month, observed annually in February in the U.S. and Canada, and in October in the U.K., serves as a time to reflect on the progress made and the ongoing fight against racial injustice. The celebration educates people about figures who have played crucial roles in advocating for freedom, equality, and social justice.

One such influential figure is Marcus Garvey, a Jamaican-born political leader, journalist, and activist who championed Black empowerment and unity. In the early 20th century, he founded the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), promoting the idea of Pan-Africanism and self-reliance for Black people worldwide. Garvey's vision encouraged economic independence through Black-owned businesses and the repatriation of African descendants to their ancestral homeland. His famous "Back to Africa" movement inspired many and laid the foundation for later civil rights and Black nationalist movements. Despite facing legal and political challenges, his legacy continues to influence discussions on racial pride and self-determination.

School-Connect Social-Emotional Learning Recap: Lesson 2.5: Connecting with Peers

Building strong peer connections is essential for personal and professional growth. Here are five important strategies to connect with peers effectively:

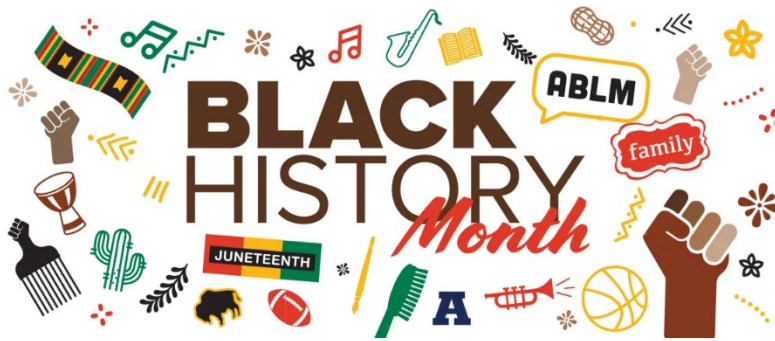
1. **Active Listening and Empathy** – Show genuine interest in what others have to say by actively listening and responding thoughtfully. This builds trust and shows that you value their opinions and experiences. Practicing empathy helps in understanding different perspectives and fostering deeper connections.
2. **Effective Communication** – Clear and respectful communication is key to building strong relationships. Whether verbal or non-verbal, expressing thoughts openly while being receptive to feedback enhances mutual understanding and cooperation.
3. **Collaboration and Teamwork** – Working together on projects, study groups, or team activities helps in developing a sense of camaraderie. Supporting each other in shared goals creates strong bonds and encourages mutual success.
4. **Consistency and Reliability** – Being dependable and following through on commitments strengthens relationships. Peers appreciate those who are trustworthy and consistent in their actions, as it builds a foundation of reliability.
5. **Engagement in Social and Professional Activities** – Participating in networking events, social gatherings, or online discussions provides opportunities to meet new people and strengthen existing connections. Being proactive in reaching out and engaging with peers helps in creating lasting relationships.



Outlook Academy

Assistant Program Administrator

From the Desk of Mr. Valant



February is recognized as Black History Month. It is a time to honor the significant contributions and achievements of African Americans throughout the history of the United States. There are countless contributions of African Americans to this country and its history, but many don't know who originally developed the idea to use the month of February to bring attention to these accomplishments. For this we go back almost 100 years. Historian Carter G. Woodson, who, in 1926, established "Negro History

Week" to promote the study of African American history. He selected the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, both significant figures in the fight against slavery. Over time, this observance evolved into Black History Month, officially recognized in 1976 during the U.S. Bicentennial. Today, it serves as a dedicated time to honor and reflect upon the profound contributions of African Americans throughout history.

Later in the month, on February 17, 2025, the United States will observe another holiday. Presidents' Day, a federal holiday celebrated on the third Monday of February. Originally established in 1885 to honor President George Washington's birthday, the holiday has since evolved to recognize the contributions of all U.S. presidents. It's a day for Americans to reflect on the nation's presidential history and the individuals who have shaped its leadership. As both observances occur in February, this month offers an opportunity to reflect on the intertwined histories of African American contributions and presidential leadership in shaping the United States. Hopefully there will be opportunities for all to learn something new about the great events and people celebrated in February.



ADULT TRANSITION PROGRAM

Program Director

From the Desk of Dr. Wayne



The young adults went on a field trip to the Chicago Urban League for a job-fair where they received links for employment opportunities with small organizations. They also had seminars on professionalism, hygiene, and attire in the workplace. They offered the young adults gently used suit jackets, shirts, wallets, belts, and other attire for interviews. The teachers noted that this was a great experience for our young adults.

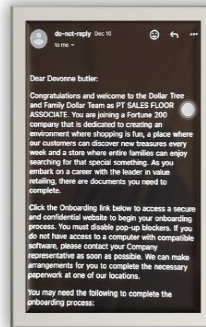
After returning from break, 18 young adults registered for a college course that started the week of January 21, 2025. The students are eager about their new classes. They have all met with the disabilities office to ensure they receive appropriate accommodations.

At Thornwood, Mr. Eaves states that his young adults are still working and seeking employment. He and Mr. Williams are having conversations with the township for some possible work opportunities.



Adult Transition Program

From the Desk of Ms. Neita



I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Devonnie Butler for being hired at Dollar Tree in Chicago as a Sales Floor Associate. This is a wonderful achievement! Additionally, I want to express my gratitude to Ms. Brownlee for posting the position and supporting Devonnie in this journey.

STRESS RELEASE ACTIVITY



Ms. Neita taught an SEL unit on stress management. The students made stress balls.

The purpose of making stress balls is to provide a tactile tool that can help students manage stress and anxiety by offering a physical outlet to squeeze and release tension, which can improve focus and concentration during class, particularly for students who learn best through kinesthetic activity; essentially acting as a calming mechanism to help them stay grounded and attentive.

Adult Transition Program

From the Desk of Mrs. Stewart

This month in our Adult Transition Program, students explored two essential life skills: navigating implicit bias in the workplace and mastering budgeting through our engaging Game of Life lesson. During our workplace readiness discussions, students learned how to recognize and address implicit bias, empowering them to advocate for themselves and foster inclusive work environments. In our budgeting activity, modeled after real-life financial scenarios, students made decisions about expenses, savings, and unexpected costs, reinforcing the importance of financial planning. These lessons help build confidence and practical skills for greater independence and success in adulthood!

