



Newsletter

N o v e m b e r 2 0 2 5

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 Room 3489, 3rd floor 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.



Way to Go, Superstars!



We are sending a HUGE shout-out to all our amazing **Session 1 Academic Achievers!**

You have worked hard, stayed focused, and shown what it means to shine bright!

High Honors – You went above and beyond! Your hard work and determination really paid off!

Honors – You showed great effort and a positive attitude every step of the way!

Attendance Awards – You showed up, stayed focused, and made every day count!

Perfect Attendance – You did not miss a single day—WOW! That is true dedication!

We are so proud of each of you. Keep reaching for the stars and showing the world what you can do!

Keep learning, keep growing, and keep being awesome!



Honors

Mackenzie Anthony
Ariyanne Burton
Keith Collins
Rakiyah Dawkins
Kariea Dobbs
Ryan Eason
Vanessa Espinoza
Sharday Guyton
Zeniyah Henry-Gaines
Trevion Hymon
Davon Martin
Dwayne Pikes
Ashanti Pitts
Deisy Rocha
Taliyah Terry
Jeremiah Woodard

Attendance

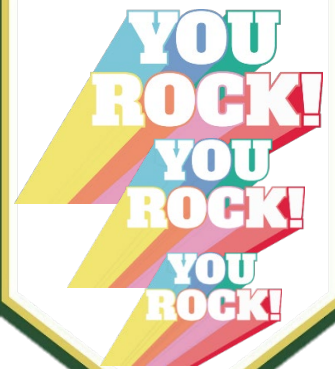
Erron Coleman
Vanessa Espinoza
Cesar Estrada
Rachel Fizer
Montrell Parchman
Serenity Perez
Dwayne Pikes
Joseph Rivera
Joshua Rivera
Malachi Terry
Karla Valentine

Perfect Attendance

Marcel Williams

High Honors

Katelyn Harris
London Hayes
Takiyah McGee
Luca Ocegueda
Daniella Thomas
Yulyssa Oliveros



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>

Reporting an Absence, call
708-225-5875 or 708-225-5871

Veteran's Day
November 11th

District Holiday
Basket Give Away
November 25th

Thanksgiving Break
November 26th-28th



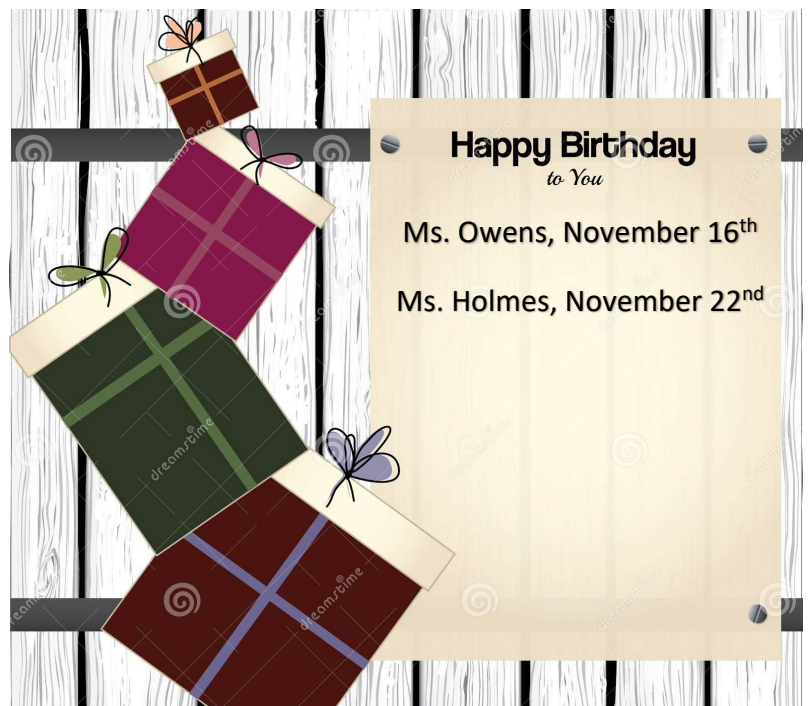
District 205 Credit Recovery 2024-2025

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



November

2025

From: Patricia A. Malopsy Fortier, Principal

Dear Parents, Students, and Staff,

As the crisp air and golden leaves usher in the month of November, we find ourselves entering a season filled with gratitude, reflection, and community spirit. This time of year, reminds us of the importance of coming together — to honor, to celebrate, and to give.

us Veterans Day

On November 11, we pause to honor the brave men and women who have served in our armed forces. Their courage, sacrifice, and dedication to our country deserve our deepest respect and appreciation. We encourage everyone to thank a veteran and reflect on the freedoms we enjoy because of their service.

Thanksgiving

Later this month, families across the nation will gather around tables to share meals and memories. Thanksgiving is a time to express gratitude — for loved ones, for learning, and for the many blessings in our lives. We are especially thankful for our school community and the support, kindness, and resilience you show every day.



Holiday Basket Giveaway


In the spirit of giving, we are excited to announce our annual Holiday Basket Giveaway. These baskets will be filled with seasonal treats and essentials to help brighten the holidays for families in need. If you would like to nominate a family or contribute items, please contact OA's main office. Together, we can make the season a little warmer for everyone.

The Start of the Holiday Season

November marks the beginning of a joyful stretch of celebrations. Whether you observe traditions with family, friends, or within our school community, we hope this season brings you peace, warmth, and connection.

Thank you for being part of our school family. Wishing you a meaningful November and a heartwarming start to the holiday season.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
	 Alzheimer's Awareness Month 					
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Daylight Savings		Election Day				
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		Veterans Day	Board of Education Meeting 6:30 pm			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Ms. Owens' Birthday						Ms. Holmes' Birthday
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		District Holiday Baskets	Thanksgiving Break – No Classes			
30						



Please take time
to read and
understand OA's
Code of Conduct

OA Classroom Code of Conduct



1. **PREPARED** for the day, arrive on time and bring all the necessary resources with you.
2. OA Student IDs must **ALWAYS** be on and visible. Students are required to have a visible ID from the moment they enter the building until they leave the campus.
3. Enter and Exit the classroom **QUIETLY**. Remember you are on a college campus and are held to the highest standards.
4. Personal electronic devices are **NOT** permitted during instructional time. Only D205 issued devices and headphones are permitted in OA Classrooms.
5. Upon entering an OA Classroom, students **MUST** secure any cell phone in an assigned classroom phone pouch for the duration of the class period.
6. **LISTEN** while your teacher is speaking and follow instructions.
7. Work Hard, Ask Questions, Try Your **BEST!**
8. Bathrooms are accessible before school, during passing periods, lunch and after school. Do **NOT** ask to leave class to use the bathroom.
9. Head coverings, hooded sweatshirts, jackets, and coats are **PROHIBITED** in OA Classrooms. Students may request a locker to secure personal belongings; please see Ms. Verdin for a locker assignment.
10. OA students are allowed to have a clear book bag on campus, and **ONLY** a clear backpack. No oversized bags or purses are allowed on campus.
11. Students **MUST** adhere to the South Suburban College and District 205 student dress code.
12. **ALL IN FOR THE WIN!**





Academic Support

Mrs. Martin's Counselor's Corner

Why being employed does not always prevent homelessness:

- A study by the University of Chicago found that 53% of people staying in shelters had formal earnings in the same year they were homeless.

Several factors explain the disconnect:

- Housing affordability: Rents and housing costs have grown faster than wages in many places, making even full-time work not enough to secure stable housing.
- Underemployment & unstable work: Many jobs available to people at risk of homelessness may be part-time, seasonal, on-call, or low-wage, which leads to income volatility and lack of housing stability.
- High living costs beyond rent: Utilities, transportation, food, healthcare — all add up, increasing the burden even when someone is working.
- Lack of savings or safety net: A job may pay today, but without savings or buffer, a small emergency (car repair, health issue) can result in housing loss.
- Limited housing options: In many cities, the demand for affordable housing outstrips supply; landlords may require high credit scores, large deposits, or restrict housing for people with past evictions or limited income.
- Systemic issues: Structural factors (e.g., discrimination, zoning laws, and lack of affordable housing development) contribute. Some sources call attention to “working but homeless” as the new frontier of housing insecurity.

JUNIORS/SENIORS...Did you know??

If you are exploring the idea of ENLISTING in one of the Military Branches, you can take the **ASVAB Test** here at Thornridge on Thursday, November 21, 2025, to see which Military career best fits you! Start exploring now!

Be sure to register for this test using the link below.

The **ASVAB** (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) is a **standardized test used by the U.S. military to assess aptitude and potential for various military careers**, helping determine enlistment eligibility and job placement.

Link to register:

<https://forms.gle/yehGSrm6RFHXJx1o7>



MTSS

Multi-Tiered System of Supports

From the Desk of Ms. Cheryl West MTSS/EL

1st quarter flew by here at Outlook Academy and we are already underway with 2nd quarter. As we continue our commitment to fostering a supportive learning environment for all students at Outlook Academy, I wanted to share some effective strategies from our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework. These approaches aim to ensure every student receives the necessary resources to thrive academically and socially.

1. Universal Supports

- **High-Quality Instruction:** We prioritize engaging, evidence-based teaching methods to meet diverse learning needs. Differentiated instruction allows teachers to tailor lessons based on students' strengths and challenges.
- **Positive Behavioral Interventions:** Establishing clear behavioral expectations and recognizing positive behaviors helps create a safe and respectful classroom environment.

2. Targeted Supports

- **Small Group Interventions:** Students who need extra assistance participate in small group sessions focusing on specific skills. This targeted approach helps address individual challenges while fostering collaboration.
- **Progress Monitoring:** Regular assessments help track student progress. This data allows educators to adjust interventions as needed, ensuring every student stays on track.

3. Intensive Supports

- **Individualized Plans:** For students requiring more intensive support, we develop personalized learning plans that outline specific goals and the strategies needed to achieve them.
- **Collaboration with Specialists:** Our team includes school counselors, psychologists, and other specialists who work together to provide comprehensive support tailored to individual needs.

4. Family Engagement

- **Open Communication:** We encourage families to stay involved in their child's education. Regular updates and opportunities for feedback ensure we work together to support each student's journey. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me at west.cheryl@district205.net or cwest@ttdistrict205.net or on at (708) 225-5874.





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.

South Suburban College held an event where students could explore their college options. I had the opportunity to speak with representatives from various colleges and discuss finances, financial aid, and scholarships with our students. Additionally, there are financial support programs available for our students.



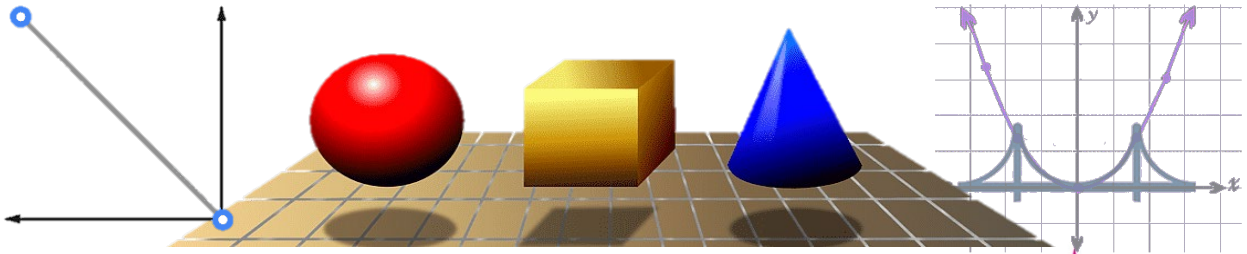
The FAFSA application process is starting for this year. For more information on completing your FAFSA, please stop by my office or visit the following website: www.studentaid.gov.

holmes.briana@district205.net

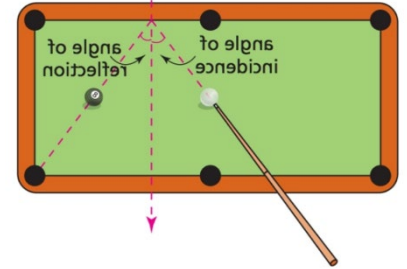
708-225-5861

SSC Office - 3475

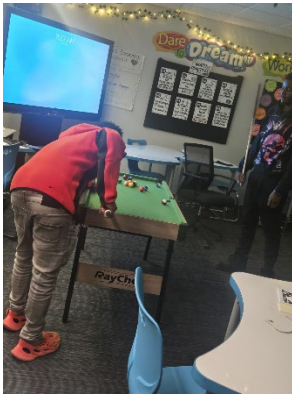




Math Department



From the Desk of Mrs. Garza



Students recently explored how math concepts play a major role in the game of billiards. By connecting geometry, angles, and force to real-world gameplay, they discovered that math could help improve their pool skills! Students enjoyed experimenting with different shots, predicting ball paths, and testing their calculations in action.

What made the activity even more engaging was how students helped each other. They were sharing strategies, discussing the “perfect angle,” and asking thoughtful questions like, “How do I know which angle gives me the best shot?” It was a fun and interactive way to see math in motion and learn that problem-solving does not just happen on paper; it happens on the pool table also!

From the Desk of Mr. Bailey

The second quarter of statistics is well under way in November. We have completed our lessons on terminology. The students will begin to explore the concept of a normal distribution. We have begun working on the measure of central tendency.

During the next several weeks we will explore z-scores of the normal distribution. We will understand how percentiles and areas under the normal curve relate to total populations. We will then move on to frequency tables and graphs.

You should have received an email, at the email on record, with your students' current grade. If you have any questions concerning their grade, please email me. (rbailey@ttdistrict205.net)

The pictures below are of students exploring measures of central tendency with M&M's. They will discuss the mean, the median and the mode of the number of candies in a package. Which measure is the most accurate? When to use each measurement. Why do they all end up close to the same number?

Week 3 – 11/3 to 11/7 - Plinko and Measures of central Tendency

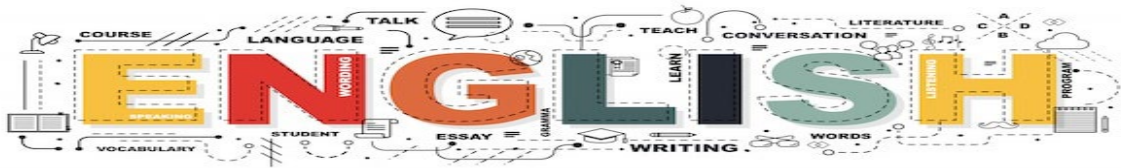
Week 4 – 11/10 to 11/14 - Z-Score and Assessment

Week 5 – 11/17 to 11/21 - Area under Normal Distribution

Week 6 – 11/24 to 11/25 - Assessment and Frequency Tables

Week 7 – 12/1 to 12/5 - Continue Frequency Tables





English Department

From the Desk of Mrs. Goodman

Semester 1: Exploring Careers and Futures

Semester 1 students have begun their **Career Research Project!** Each student is researching a career field that interests them, exploring details like education requirements, salary range, job outlook, and daily responsibilities.

💡 *The goal:* To help students make meaningful connections between their personal interests and potential future careers. Along the way, they are learning how to locate **credible sources**, use **APA citation style**, and organize their ideas into a professional **Career Research Paper**.

Semester 2: Reading *Night* by Elie Wiesel

Semester 2 students are reading **Elie Wiesel's memoir *Night***—a powerful and emotional account of his experiences during the Holocaust. Through this text, students are engaging in discussions about **identity, resilience, and humanity**, and reflecting on how history continues to shape our world today.

As part of this unit, students participated in a powerful hands-on activity:

📷 *The photo featuring all the students, shows their recreation of the actual size of the cattle cars in which Jewish prisoners were deported to concentration camps.* This experience helped students better understand the unimaginable conditions people endured during that time.

Student Artwork Spotlight 🎨

This month's featured artwork is a **hand-drawn image created from a student's perspective of arriving at a concentration camp.**

The drawing powerfully captures the fear, confusion, and loss experienced by those arriving at the camps for the first time. It serves as a moving reminder of the human stories behind the history we read.

Looking Ahead

- ✅ **Career Research Papers** (Semester 1) – In progress
- ✅ ***Night* Reflection Essays** (Semester 2) – Coming soon
- ✅ Continued discussions, peer collaboration, and student showcases throughout the month.





From the Desk of Mr. Folsom



Last week, seniors had an incredible opportunity to attend the 3E Expo, an event dedicated to guiding students toward their post-high school paths, whether that is employment, enrollment in college, or enlisting in the military. The expo was a fantastic mix of inspiration, information, and networking, with various organizations showcasing opportunities tailored for our graduating class.

Students engaged with local businesses, college representatives, and military recruiters, gaining valuable insights into their future options. Many left feeling motivated and equipped with resources to help them make informed decisions about their next steps.

In addition to the expo, our classroom activities have been buzzing with energy as we focus on setting career and life goals. Recently, we have been creating mind maps—visual tools that help us explore our ambitions and outline the steps needed to achieve them. This exercise has encouraged creativity and self-reflection, allowing students to connect their passions with potential career paths.

We are encouraging everyone to keep the momentum going! Reflect on what you learned at the 3E Expo and continue to build on your mind maps as we move closer to graduation. Whether you are looking to enter the workforce, pursue higher education, or serve our country, remember that each step you take now is paving the way for your future.



From the Desk of Mr. Davidson

At a recent reading conference I attended, the discussion turned to attention span. Research on the average attention span of students over the years has indicated a shocking decrease at every age and grade.

Attention spans, which were measured in minutes, have decreased recently too, in many instances, only a matter of seconds. This decrease has many negative effects on a student's ability to learn and a teacher's effectiveness in the classroom. Much research leans to the effect of phone, iPad, and computer usage by children as the main reason for this decline.

While there are lots of good reasons for children to use these devices, the overall trend indicates that, as a nation, we are using them so much that they are having a negative impact on our ability to learn effectively and efficiently. Limiting screen time personally, as well as for our children, is now an important part of being a good learner.

SOCIAL STUDIES

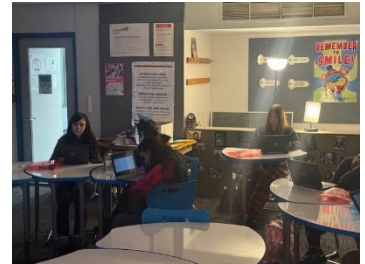
From the Desk of Ms. Digiacomo and Mr. O'Leary

As the second session begins, our Social Studies classes are diving into exciting new topics that build on the foundation students developed earlier in the year. Students are encouraged to stay organized, keep up with assignments, and actively participate in class discussions as we move into more complex and engaging material.

In Civics, students are exploring the different types of government systems used around the world. By comparing these systems, they will gain a better understanding of how the U.S. Government operates and what makes it unique. This unit will help students prepare for the upcoming Constitution Test, which will assess their knowledge of the principles, structure, and functions of our government.

In Economics, students focus on the essential concepts of scarcity, trade-offs, and opportunity costs. Through the study of production possibilities, students are learning how individuals, businesses, and societies make decisions about how to best use limited resources. These lessons encourage critical thinking and real-world application of economic reasoning.

As we move forward this semester, students are encouraged to ask questions, engage in class discussions, and make connections between what they are learning and current events. Our goal is to help students develop a deeper understanding of the world around them and how government and economics shape the decisions we make every day



From the Desk of Mr. Murray

A new term of sociology has started in Mr. Murray's class. Students started by exploring theoretical perspectives through a sociological lens and then applying it to themselves. Students are now starting to learn what social institutions are and applying it to their own lives through vigorous discussion and exploration of themselves.

A wild section of Ancient World History has appeared! In this class, students learn about the start of civilization, cultures and practices that were developed, and how all of this has led to where we are today! Did China establish a global trade network through the Silk Road? Did the Greeks' philosophical debates establish a set of morals and norms we abide by? Did the Romans develop the government the United States is based on today? All these concepts are being explored in depth through simulation, analysis, and discussion.





Science Department

From the Desk of Ms. Anderson

Integrated Science S2 students are continuing their study of Earth Science. First, they investigated different types of Natural Disasters. Currently, they are investigating the role that gravity plays in our everyday lives, by analyzing how to adapt our everyday comforts so that they will function in a zero-gravity atmosphere.

Forensic Science (Semester 2) students have wrapped up investigation of Digital Forensics and are starting the journey into Medical Forensics. This will be the last stop before we begin to analyze real life cases.





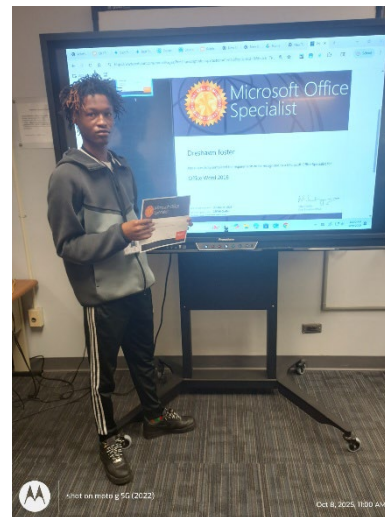
From the Desk of Mr. Arrington

In Intro to Business, students explored key financial concepts including saving and investment planning, credit fundamentals, and stock investments in personal finance. Second session students learn how to determine stock risk as they learn to buy and sell stocks using the Market Watch virtual investment game. Students also learn how real-world events such as the Federal Government shutdown affect the market. Students are now learning the different types of consumer credit and credit responsibilities. Using handouts, team activities and learning tools such as Edpuzzle, Quizizz, and

Kahoot! review, students strengthened their financial literacy.

In Education & Career Tech, students focused on developing personal career readiness skills, including creating professional resumes and understanding essential workplace vocabulary. Learners worked step-by-step through key resume components, practiced formatting techniques, and reviewed soft and hard skills that employers' value. Study guides and team activities were used to help students build confidence in presenting themselves professionally.

Senior students in the Advanced Computer Applications class began building word processing skills in preparation for the Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) certification. Students have already learned how to use SmartArt, WordArt to communicate ideas. They are also learning how to organize information using tables. They will also learn how to develop proficiency by inserting images, charts, and other documents using MS Word. As students learn these skills, they move closer to becoming MOS certified in preparation for enrollment, enlistment or employment.



Welcome to Visual Arts

Welcome to Term 2!

The fall season is upon us, and we are excited to welcome our new Term 2 art students! As the leaves change, we're reminded that creativity, like nature, transforms with each season. This term, we'll continue exploring the Elements of Art and personal expression through hands-on projects that engage imagination and creative growth.

Term 1 Project Highlights

- **Pinch Pot Animal Planters**

Students used air-dry clay to sculpt animal-shaped planters, emphasizing the Elements of Art: Form, Texture, Space, Color, and Line. Each planter was painted with acrylics and filled with artificial moss and succulents, combining function with creativity and craftsmanship.

- **Grid Drawing Cartoon Project**

Through the grid method, students learned precision and observation, recreating their favorite cartoon characters while applying Line, Shape, Color, Texture, Form, Space, and Value. This project strengthened technical drawing skills and introduced color theory and acrylic painting techniques.

- **Mixed Media Alebrije**

Inspired by Mexican folk art, students designed vibrant Alebrijes using acrylic paint and felt fabric. They explored Color, Shape, and Texture to express emotions and identity. The final creatures celebrated creativity, culture, and personal symbolism.

Art Quote of the Season

“Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.”

— Albert Camus

For high school students, this quote reminds us that change can be beautiful. Each challenge or transition—like a falling leaf—can lead to new growth, creativity, and opportunities to blossom in unexpected ways.

Art and Self-Care

Art is more than expression—it's therapy for the mind. As we move through the busy school year, remember to:

- Take creative breaks: doodle, color, or collage.
- Use art to express emotions.
- Try mindfulness while painting or sculpting.
- Celebrate progress, not perfection.

Your art is your voice—let it help you recharge and grow.

Stay creative, inspired, and kind to yourself this season.

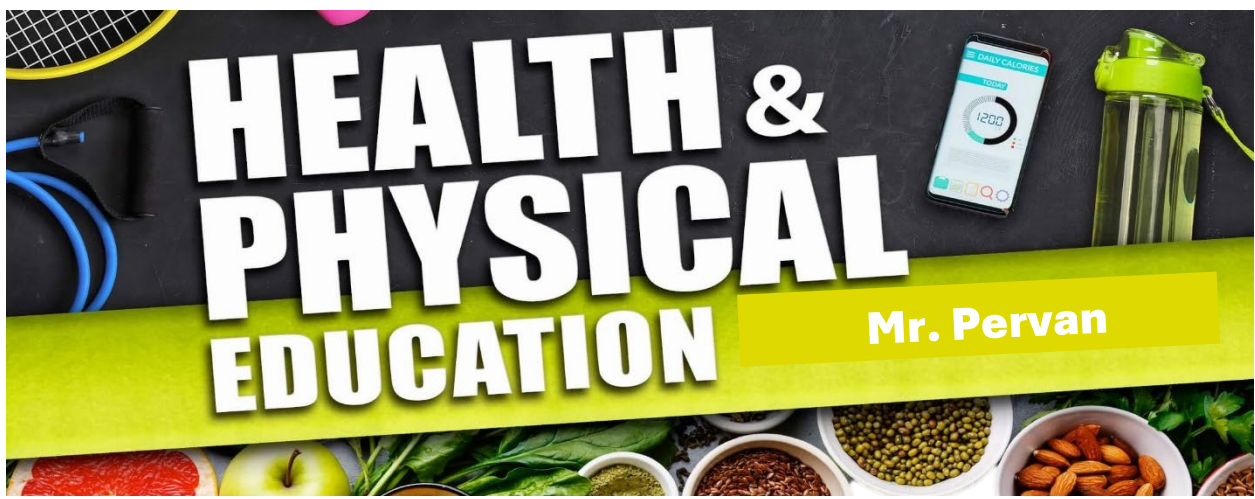
— **Mrs. Martinez, Visual Arts Instructor**











From the Desk of Mr. Pervan



As we begin our second semester here at Outlook Academy, our students are settling into the “getting to know you” phase and building strong connections through teamwork and active engagement. This month, we have been focusing on team-building activities and exploring our outstanding facilities, including the free weight room, fitness center, and gymnasium. Students participated in scavenger hunts to identify various types of fitness equipment and learn about their proper use and functions.

In the coming weeks, we will be preparing for our FitnessGram fitness testing, and students will spend the first part of class engaged in structured workouts. Each student will use individualized workout cards to complete 3–5 exercises, performing three sets of each. Following workouts, students can participate in gameplay activities such as basketball, badminton, or volleyball. During this time, I provide one-on-one coaching to ensure every student understands basic techniques and rules of each sport. Our goal is to help every student feel confident, motivated, and successful as they continue developing their fitness skills and teamwork throughout the semester.

Beyond skill-building, our larger goal is to promote lifelong healthy habits. We emphasize the importance of consistent exercise and making physical activity a regular part of daily life. Developing these habits early helps students recognize that maintaining fitness is not just a short-term goal; it is a lifelong commitment to their overall well-being. By encouraging consistency, perseverance, and self-care, we aim to inspire students to strive toward becoming the healthiest and most physically fit versions of themselves, both now and in the future.



SOCIAL WORKER

NURSING COUNSELING HAPPINESS DAUGHTER CARE TOGETHER HELP OFFICE ELDERLY DISCUSS HEALTH COMMUNICATION NURSE

From the Desk of Mr. Hill

Celebrate World Kindness Week this November

World Kindness Week is celebrated each year during the week of November 13. It is a time to focus on spreading kindness, positivity, and joy in our everyday lives. Even small gestures like holding the door open, offering a smile, or sharing kind words can brighten someone's day and create a more positive environment for everyone. This special week reminds us that kindness doesn't have to be complicated to be powerful.

During this week, people, schools, and communities around the world come together to promote kindness and compassion. It is a chance to be intentional about helping others, showing respect, and building stronger connections. Kindness can inspire change, bring people together, and make the world a better place. By making kindness a daily habit, not just during this week, we can keep that spirit alive all year long.

S.E.L. Recap

Identifying your personal strengths is a crucial part of developing into the best version of yourself. When you know what you are good at, whether it is problem-solving, leadership, creativity, kindness, or teamwork, you can make smarter choices about your goals and how to reach them. Recognizing your strengths builds confidence and helps you handle challenges more effectively because you know what skills you can rely on.

Here are several practical ways students can identify their personal strengths:

- **Reflect on what comes naturally to you.** Pay attention to the skills or activities that feel easy or enjoyable; these often point to your strengths.
- **Notice your wins and proud moments.** Think about times when you succeeded, helped someone, or felt proud of your effort. What strengths helped you get there?
- **Ask for feedback from others.** Teachers, friends, and family may see strengths in you that you do not always recognize in yourself.
- **Pay attention to what energizes you.** If something excites or motivates you, it is likely tied to one of your natural abilities or interests.
- **Take personality or strength assessments.** Tools like StrengthsFinder or simple school-based surveys can help you discover your unique traits.
- **Look for patterns.** Notice which skills you use in different areas of your life, at school, in sports, with friends, or at home.
- **Try new things.** Exploring new clubs, classes, or activities can reveal hidden strengths you did not know you had.



Outlook Academy →

Assistant Program Administrator

From the Desk of Mr. Valant

Outlook Academy Students Explore Future Pathways at the 3E Expo

Outlook Academy students recently attended the 3E Expo at the Tinley Park convention center. This event is dedicated to helping District 205 students explore their options for life after high school. The Expo—focusing on Education, Employment, and Enlistment—provided students with a variety of opportunities to meet with representatives from universities, colleges, businesses, trades, and the military.

Throughout the day, students engaged in meaningful conversations about potential career paths, college programs, and training opportunities. In addition to networking with professionals and recruiters, students attended informative workshops on creating effective résumés, completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), and developing strategies to present themselves successfully to employers and college admissions teams.

Students expressed enthusiasm about the event, noting that it gave them valuable insights into their next steps after graduation. The 3E Expo not only inspired students to think critically about their futures but also equipped them with practical tools to help them succeed in their postsecondary journeys. Some of the students even had time to take a moment and talk to individuals that had chosen to pursue careers in cosmetology/barbery as seen below.



ADULT TRANSITION PROGRAM

Program Director

From the Desk of Dr. Wayne

Our Adult Transition Program students have been busy and thriving this month! Three of our classes attended the 3E Expo, where they had a fantastic time connecting with college and employment organizations, exploring exciting opportunities for their futures. The new ATP students at the college are gearing up to take their placement tests and choose their spring semester classes, moving towards an exciting step toward greater independence. Meanwhile, our Thornwood students continue to sharpen their job skills in creative, hands-on ways. One classroom even took a fun trip to Target, where students learned how to choose appropriate clothing for different occasions. It has been a month full of learning, growth, and memorable experiences for everyone in ATP!



Adult Transition Program



1
FINANCIAL
SUPPORTS



2
COMMUNITY
CONNECTION



3
PARENT/PEER
SUPPORT



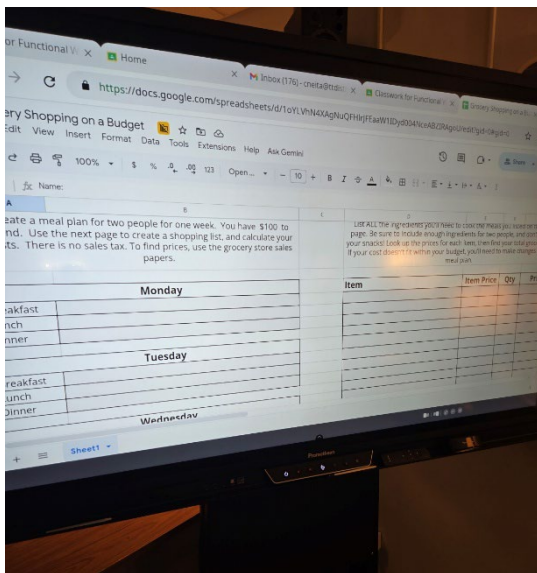
4
YOUTH
INDEPENDENCE

From the Desk of Ms. Neita



The Adult Transition Students recently completed a hands-on lesson about grocery shopping on a budget. As part of the activity, students practiced creating shopping lists, comparing prices, and making thoughtful choices to stay within a set budget. This real-world learning experience helped students strengthen important life skills such as planning, budgeting, and decision-making—all while building confidence for independent living.

In a recent Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) lesson, Adult Transition Students explored strategies for managing stress. As part of the lesson, students made their own stress balls—a hands-on tool to help release tension and promote relaxation. Activities like this help students practice healthy coping skills and build emotional awareness.



Adult Transition Program



1
FINANCIAL
SUPPORTS



2
COMMUNITY
CONNECTION



3
PARENT/PEER
SUPPORT



4
YOUTH
INDEPENDENCE

From the Desk of Mrs. Stewart

Adult Transition Program | Focus: Money Management & Independent Living Skills

This month in our Adult Transition Program, students in Room 3367 focused on money management, income breakdown, and budgeting as part of their independent living skills. We learned how to read paystubs, understand gross and net income, and create simple budgets to plan for real-life expenses. We explored how to create a simple budget to manage expenses like housing, transportation, groceries, and personal spending. Students discussed “needs vs. wants” and how planning ahead helps them stay on track with their financial goals. During our Group Budget Scenario Activity, students worked together to manage a sample monthly income, deciding how to pay bills, meet needs, and still save responsibly. This hands-on project helped students build teamwork, problem-solving, and financial awareness of all essential skills for independent adult living.

Looking Ahead

In December, we'll continue building life skills by exploring shopping on a budget and holiday spending choices. Students will practice comparing prices, tracking receipts, and making smart money decisions during the holiday season.

Quote of the Month

“A budget is telling your money where to go instead of wondering where it went.” – Dave Ramsey

