

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.



Staff Wellness Bingo Brings Energy to Outlook Academy

This quarter, Outlook Academy staff participated in a Staff Wellness Bingo challenge that encouraged healthy habits, movement, mindfulness, and connection with colleagues.

Staff members completed a variety of wellness activities and shared their progress throughout the challenge, creating positive energy and friendly encouragement across the building. The challenge concluded with a wellness social and raffle where participants submitted their Bingo cards and celebrated the end of the quarter together.

The activity served as a reminder that when staff support their own wellness and one another, it strengthens the entire school community.



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>



ACT TESTING

March 31st

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

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



March

2026

From: Patricia A. Malopsy-Fortier, Principal

March is here, and we have so much to look forward to!

This month, our school is celebrating **Women's History Month**, a time to recognize the achievements and contributions of women throughout history. Students will explore inspiring stories, participate in hands-on activities, and learn about leaders who continue to shape our world today.

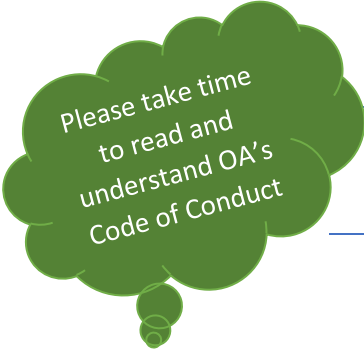


We are also gearing up for **St. Patrick's Day on March 17**. Students are encouraged to wear green and enjoy a day filled with themed activities that connect culture, creativity, and fun.

With spring right around the corner, March is the perfect time for growth, curiosity, and new learning opportunities. Our March graduates took their finals and are ready to walk the stage in May. We cannot wait to see what our students accomplish post-OA.

Welcome SPRING!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Pulaski Day No School			Final Exams	Fanal Exams	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Day 1 of the 4 th Term		Board of Education Meeting 6:00 p.m.	Mr. Davidson's Birthday	Teacher Institute Day – No Classes	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		St. Patrick's Day				
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
	Mrs. Garza's Birthday	ACT Testing Day				



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

Multigenerational homes are a growing trend in the United States, and the increase has been noticeable over recent decades. Here's a clear overview of what that means and *why* it is happening:

How Much the Trend Has Grown

- The share of people living in multigenerational households (homes with two or more adult generations) has more than doubled from about 7% in 1971 to around 18% in 2021. That is roughly 60 million people now living in these arrangements.
- In recent *home buying* data, 17% of buyers purchased homes intended for multigenerational living — the highest percentage on record.

Why Multigenerational Living Is Increasing

1. Economic Pressures

Housing costs, rent, mortgages, and student loan debt have made living alone harder. Sharing housing expenses helps families manage costs.

2. Caregiving

Many families choose multigenerational living to care for aging parents or grandparents at home rather than pay for assisted living.

3. Young Adults Staying Home Longer

More adults in their 20s and 30s are living with parents — often because they're delaying marriage, building careers, or saving money.

4. Family and Cultural Factors

For some groups, especially immigrant families, living with extended family is already a cultural norm and has become more common overall.

Who's Most Likely to Live in Multigenerational Homes?

- Young adults (especially ages 25–34) are more likely today to live with parents than in past generations.
- People from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds historically have had higher multigenerational living rates, and this contributes to the overall rise.
- The “sandwich generation” (middle-aged adults caring for kids *and* parents) also plays a big role in driving demand for larger or flexible home layouts.



MTSS

Multi-Tiered System of Supports

From the Desk of Ms. Cheryl West MTSS/EL

ACCESS Testing Completed!

Our students have successfully completed the ACCESS for ELs assessment! We are incredibly proud of the focus, determination, and perseverance they demonstrated throughout the testing process.

ACCESS testing helps us better understand and support our multilingual learners as they continue developing their English language skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Thank you to our students, teachers, and families for your encouragement and support during this important time!

Term 2 Honor Roll Celebration

We had a luncheon to celebrate the achievements of some of our students. Congratulations to all our students who earned **Honor Roll** for Term 2! Your hard work, dedication, and commitment to academic excellence truly shine.

Earning Honor Roll reflects consistent effort, responsibility, and a positive attitude toward learning. We are so proud of you—keep up the amazing work!

Attendance Matters!

We also celebrated students with outstanding attendance during Term 2. Coming to school every day and on time makes a tremendous difference in student success.

Regular attendance helps students:

- Stay engaged in learning
- Build strong routines
- Strengthening friendships
- Reach their academic goals

Thank you to our families for making attendance a priority!

As we move into the next term, we look forward to continued growth, achievement, and celebration. We look forward to a great 4th term!



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/afsa>

FAFSA Instructions

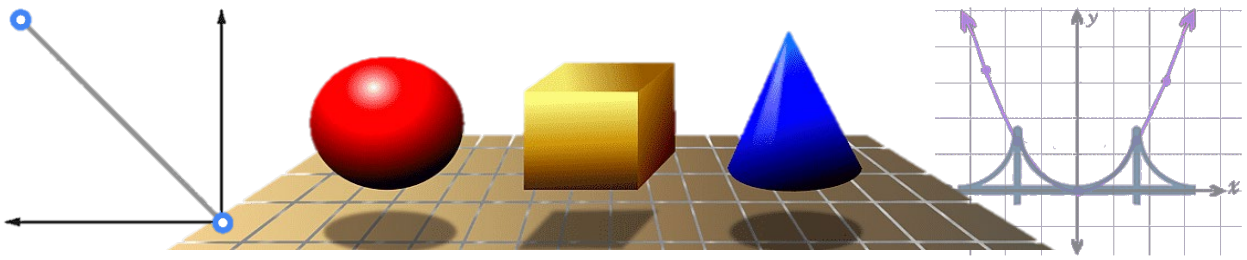
<https://www.ssc.edu/admissions-registration/financial-aid/>

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your FAFSA please email bholmes@ttdistrict205.net or call at 708-596-2000 ext. 3575.

OA has been working together with our community and has an opportunity for our students to get a job working with the forest preserves and can eventually elevate and make more money. Our students that work with Mr. Arrington to be certified in Microsoft are really using this to their advantage and wanting to find office-based roles. We will be having tours with the Barbershop/Cosmetology to get some of our students started and registered for the next semester.

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.





Math Department

From the Desk of Mrs. Garza

As a new term begins, I am excited to welcome a new group of students into my math classes. Each term is a fresh opportunity for students to build confidence, strengthen their mathematical thinking, and discover that they can learn and understand math, even when it feels challenging at first.

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics conference in Indianapolis. The experience provided many ideas and strategies that I am excited to bring back to the classroom. One area I am especially looking forward to exploring with students is how to use artificial intelligence as a learning tool. Rather than simply searching for answers, students will learn how AI can help them ask better questions, check their reasoning, and deepen their understanding of mathematical concepts.

As we begin this term together, I look forward to supporting students as they grow in their skills, confidence, and problem-solving abilities while continuing to explore new ways to learn mathematics.

From the Desk of Mr. Bailey

As March begins, we are putting the finishing touches on Statistics Semester 1. We have worked through our lessons on graphing and data. The students have been able to explore the concept of normal distribution. We have searched distinct types of data and been able to identify which types of data form normal distribution.

Starting in the 4th quarter, the students will begin the Financial Algebra course. Students will learn about the process of submitting taxes, buying or leasing a car, and purchasing a house.

If you have any questions concerning their grade, please email me.

rbailey@ttdistrict205.net

3rd Quarter

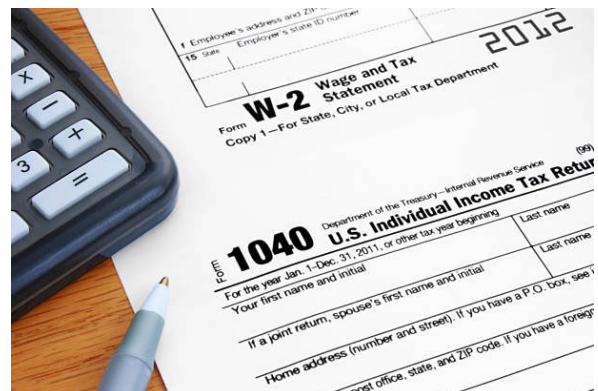
Week 9 – 3/2 to 3/6 - Review and Semester 1 Final

4th Quarter

Week 1 – 3/9 to 3/13 - Review of Relevant Mathematic Procedure

Week 2 – 3/16 to 3/20 - 1st Assessment and Research Employment

Week 3 – 3/23 to 3/27 - Research Career Opportunities





English Department

From the Desk of Mrs. Goodman



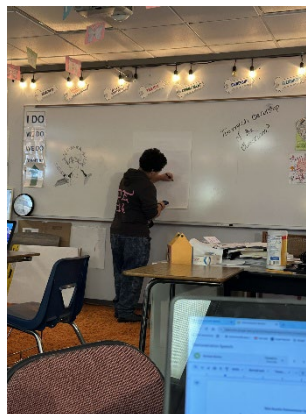
Spring is just around the corner, and we are excited to move into the **final term of the school year!** We recently wrapped up our **third-term final exams**, and I want to congratulate students on their hard work and focus as they completed their projects and assessments. Finishing another term is a big accomplishment, and it shows how much progress students have made throughout the year.

With **only eight short weeks left**, we are ready to jump into new and engaging material.

In **English class**, students will begin reading the inspiring novel **The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho**. This story follows a young shepherd named Santiago as he searches for his “Personal Legend,” or life’s purpose. Throughout the novel, students will explore themes about dreams, perseverance, and the importance of following one’s goals—ideas that connect strongly to their own futures as they prepare for life after graduation.

In **Speech class**, students will begin with their **Introductory Speeches**, an opportunity for them to introduce themselves and share something meaningful about who they are. This activity helps us begin building confidence in speaking in front of others. Students will also start learning about the **communication process**, including how messages are sent, received, and interpreted in different situations. These foundational skills will help them become stronger communicators in school, work, and everyday life.

This final term always moves quickly, but it is also one of the most meaningful parts of the year as we watch students continue to grow and prepare for their next steps. I am looking forward to a great last term filled with thoughtful discussions, strong presentations, and plenty of learning along the way!





From the Desk of Mr. Folsom



ACT Prep: Balancing Stress in the Classroom

As the ACT approaches, students in our English classroom are diving into a blend of rigorous prep and stress-relieving creative outlets. The countdown to test day can be a nerve-wracking experience, but we are finding ways to not only prepare but also relieve the stress that often accompanies such an important exam.

ACT Prep: Focusing on Skills and Strategy



Over the past few weeks, our focus has been on honing the critical skills necessary for success on the ACT English section. From grammar and punctuation exercises to reading comprehension strategies, students are tackling each question type with increased confidence. We have incorporated timed practice tests to simulate the test environment, allowing students to manage their time effectively and gain a sense of the exam's pacing.

As we move closer to the big day, we are proud of the effort our students are putting in. They are not only preparing for the ACT but also learning to manage stress in a healthy, productive way. Here is to combining hard work and creativity to achieve success on the ACT—and beyond!

From the Desk of Mr. Davidson

Our screening process has shown that most Outlook students can decode or “sound out” words relatively successfully. But, sounding out a word is just the first step in reading. To read effectively, they must be able to connect meaning to the word they have “sounded out”. Many times, I encounter students who can sound out the word but have no meaning or definition for the word they have pronounced correctly.

This lack of meaning may lead to problems understanding what has been read. This is where vocabulary work can increase a student's reading ability to a great extent.

Starting this quarter, Outlook students will be offered individual vocabulary instruction. This will allow students to work at their own pace and leave the program when they feel they have mastered the elements of vocabulary improvement.

Our goal is to help each reader become more effective and improve their comprehension.

SOCIAL STUDIES

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

Welcome to the Fourth Quarter!



As we begin the final quarter of the school year, we want to take a moment to welcome everyone back and set the stage for an exciting and productive finish. The fourth quarter is always an important time—it is an opportunity for students to apply the knowledge and skills they've developed throughout the year while preparing for the transition to the next grade level.

In **Economics**, students will focus on real-world financial decision-making, global trade, and the role of governments in the economy. We will explore how economic policies affect individuals, businesses, and nations, and students will complete a culminating project that

connects economic concepts to current events.

In **Global Issues**, we will examine some of the most pressing challenges facing our world today. Topics may include international conflict, environmental sustainability, global inequality, and the role of international organizations. Students will analyze multiple perspectives and work on solutions-based discussions that encourage critical thinking and civic awareness.

Fourth Quarter Focus:

- Staying organized and keeping up with assignments
- Participating in class discussions and collaborative activities
- Preparing for final projects and assessments
- Making strong academic choices to finish the year successfully



Please continue to check the online gradebook and classroom updates regularly to stay informed about assignments, upcoming assessments, and important announcements.

Let us make this last quarter a strong one. We are proud of the progress students have made this year and look forward to seeing them continue to grow academically and as thoughtful global citizens.

Thank you for your continued support!

From the Desk of Mr. Murray



A new wave of sociology students is ashore! To conclude the third term of Sociology I, students combined everything they had learned and applied it to various case studies. The students chose to look at the movie *Menace II Society* and apply sociological theories to the character's actions, motivations, and environment. They also discussed how the film displayed various forms of inequality like racism, poverty, gender inequality, and more. Those students then move on to take Sociology II, a new course devised by yours truly that explores all the themes of Sociology I but in a more in-depth way. Why do people commit crime? Why do certain genders commit certain types of crimes at a higher rate? Can the way you were raised be reasoning for criminality? These are all questions that are being explored in Sociology II, with many more to come!

SOCIAL STUDIES

From the Desk of Mr. Martin

US History

We studied 19th Century Immigration

Learning Objectives

Historical & Cultural Understanding

Articulate the U.S. as a nation of immigrants recognizing how immigration has shaped American culture, language, and traditions.

Describe historic waves of immigration to the U.S., including specific time periods and associated countries.

Compare and contrast the experiences of immigrants from different countries and historical periods.

Identify motivations and rationales for immigration throughout history, including the "push and pull factors" that drive people to leave their native countries.

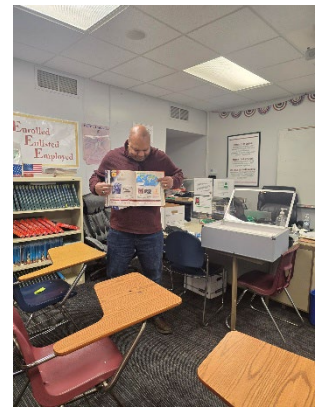
Recognize and evaluate stereotypes and myths surrounding immigrants and immigration, both historically and today.

Apply historical analysis skills to critically evaluate sources and understand the interdependence of immigration with social, cultural, and political developments.

The student have been having some discussions about the genesis of Immigration and comparing it to what's happening currently with this topic.

We've discussed why immigrants choose to come to the US and the conditions they found in the big cities.

Many of the students have had interesting observations about the current state of immigration and why the melting concept has come into question.





Science Department

From the Desk of Ms. Anderson

This month Integrated Science S2 students focused on how human beings impact the environment. They studied real life incidents/disasters such as Chernobyl, Deepwater Horizon, and the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill to learn how these are still impacting us today.

The Forensics Semester 2 students participated in a school-wide mystery. Students were tasked to investigate (collecting, processing and analyzing evidence) the crime using the forensic techniques learned in class. Once this portion was completed, students were then divided into two groups – the prosecution and defense team and tasked to present their case. Students got to interact with OA Staff members (who participated as suspects and witnesses), who commented on how engaged students were.



From the Desk of Mr. Arrington

Business and Technology Classes Preparing Students for the Future

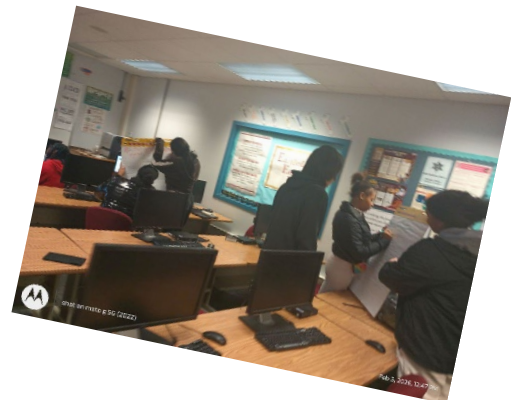
During the 3rd session, students in **Introduction to Business** gained real-world skills designed to prepare them for college and career opportunities. Topics included entrepreneurship, business planning, marketing, finance, and economic principles. Students learned the corporate structure including the roles of the CEO, COO, CFO, Manager and supervisor. Students also learned how companies grow from partnerships into successful Limited Liability Corporations (LLC).

Advanced Computer Apps students continue learning how to create documents, spreadsheets, and presentations used in the workplaces. This class gives students the confidence that they can succeed in today's job market. To date, Outlook students have passed 20 Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) certifications. After passing the MOS exam each student completed a resume in preparation for enrollment, enlistment or employment. Congratulations to the following 3rd Session students who received their MOS certification:



Danielle Amari Thomas, Deveon Dokes,

Eason Ryan A, Jahmer R Sellers, and Kelly Burnett III.



Welcome to Visual Arts

Wrapping Up Term 3

As Term 3 ends, the visual arts classes have stayed busy creating, experimenting, and strengthening their artistic skills through hands-on projects that encouraged color choice, craftsmanship, creativity, and personal voice.

Highlights from This Term

- **Chinese New Year Multimedia Dragon Canvas:** Students created mixed-media dragon canvases inspired by Chinese New Year celebrations. Using materials such as paint, Posca markers, oil pastels, yarn, fabric, buttons, and glitter, students explored line, color, texture, pattern, and value while designing vibrant, symbolic artworks.
- **Stained Glass Watercolor Toucan Art:** Students designed watercolor animal paintings with a stained-glass effect, practicing layering, blending, transparency, and bold outlined sections. This project helped students connect watercolor techniques with strong composition and color harmony.
- **Embroidery on Paper: Animal Line-Art Stitching:** Students transformed printed animal templates into stitched artworks on cardstock. Through hole punching, threading, and backstitching, they developed patience, precision, craftsmanship, and confidence while using line, texture, and color in a new way.

Looking Ahead to Term 4

With the start of spring and Term 4, take time to refresh, reset, and begin anew with fun, small-scale art activities that build skills while keeping creativity high. Some easy and engaging spring art ideas include:

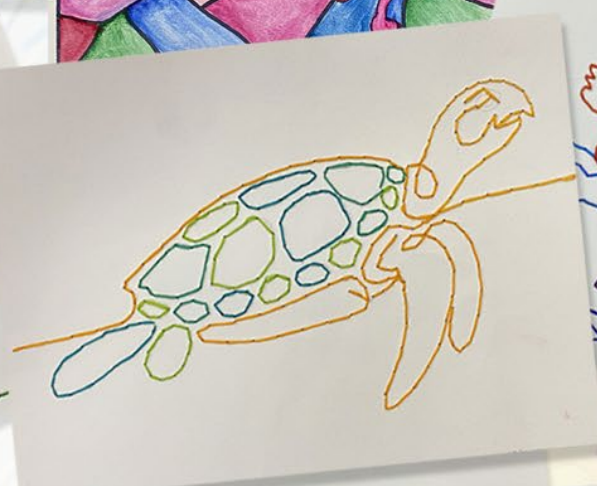
- mini watercolor flower studies
- symmetry butterflies with paint or markers
- spring collage bookmarks
- positive and negative space shamrock or floral designs
- paper weaving with bright seasonal colors
- small mixed-media self-expression cards

Stay creative and inspired.

Mrs. Martinez, Visual Arts Instructor









From the Desk of Mr. Pervan

As we move through the month of February, students in our Physical Education and Fitness & Nutrition classes are preparing for the end of the semester and upcoming final exams. At this time of year, it is always busy, and our classes are focusing on both maintaining physical activity and reviewing the concepts we have learned throughout the semester.

In our Boys and Girls Physical Education classes, students are currently preparing for our standardized fitness tests. To get ready, we have been incorporating a variety of workouts and conditioning activities designed to improve strength, endurance, and overall fitness. In addition to these workouts, students continue to stay active through team sports and activities such as basketball, volleyball, soccer, and badminton. These activities not only help students stay physically active, but also reinforce teamwork, effort, and sportsmanship.

In our Fitness and Nutrition class, students are finishing their monthly workout and meal plans. Throughout this unit, students have been learning how to design balanced meal plans and effective workout routines that support healthy lifestyles. As the semester ends, we are also reviewing key concepts in preparation for the final exam.

It has been great to see the effort students are putting into their work and their willingness to challenge themselves physically and academically as we approach the end of the semester.



THE DELICIOUSLY BALANCED PLATE
QUICK TIPS TO CREATE A NUTRITIOUS MEAL

Reach in the freezer
Frozen fruits and veggies are loaded with nutrients. They're often packaged when they're ripe and delicious.
Look for fruit or veggie blends to boost variety.

1/2 FRUITS & VEGETABLES

1/4 LEAN PROTEIN

Choose power proteins
Proteins are your body's building blocks. They're in every cell of your body, not just your muscles.
Look for lean proteins you can enjoy any time of day, like eggs and beans.

1/4 WHOLE GRAIN

Grab ready-to-go grains
Many whole grains provide dietary fiber which can support a healthy heart and healthy digestion.
Look for grains you can enjoy in a jiffy like oats, corn tortillas and pre-cooked rice.

SOCIAL WORKER

ENURSINGCOUNSEL
COUNSELING
HAPPINESS
DAUGHTER
CARE
TOGETHER
HELP
OFFICE
ELDERLY
DISCUSS
HEALTHY
COMMUNICATION
NURSE

From the Desk of Mr. Hill



Each year in March, we celebrate National Social Work Month, a time to recognize and honor the dedicated professionals who support students, families, and communities every day.

National Social Work Month was first organized in 1963 by the National Association of Social Workers to encourage public support and understanding of the social work profession.

In 1984, a joint resolution of Congress officially recognized March as National Professional Social Work Month. It was proclaimed by Ronald Reagan under Proclamation 5167 on March 22, 1984.

School social workers play a vital role in helping students succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. They:

- Provide social-emotional support
- Help students navigate challenges at home or school
- Connecting families to community resources
- Assist in crisis situations
- Promote a positive and safe school climate
- Advocate for student well-being

They are often the bridge between school, home, and community. Social workers are advocates, problem-solvers, listeners, and supporters. They work behind the scenes and on the front lines to ensure every student feels seen, heard, and supported.

This March, let us take time to recognize the compassion, dedication, and resilience of social workers, especially those who serve our school community every day.

A Special Thank You

To all social workers:

Your work changes lives!
Your care builds confidence!
Your presence creates hope!

Happy National Social Work Month!



Outlook Academy

Assistant Program Administrator

From the Desk of Mr. Valant



Across our nation and around the world, the men and women of our military stand as a powerful reminder of courage, dedication, and selfless service. Every day they commit themselves to protecting the freedoms we hold dear and helping maintain peace and stability in places that need it most. Their work often happens far from home and out of the public eye, but the impact of their service is felt by countless people whose lives are safer because of their willingness to serve.

Military service requires extraordinary sacrifice. Those who wear the uniform spend long months—and sometimes years—away from their families, missing birthdays, holidays, and everyday moments most of us take for granted. They face uncertain and often dangerous conditions, putting their own safety on the line so that others may live in peace. Behind every service member is a family that also shares in this sacrifice, offering constant support while carrying the weight of worry and pride.

At Outlook Academy, we are especially mindful of this sacrifice because several of our recent graduates are currently serving overseas. Their decision to serve reflects the character, determination, and commitment to others that we strive to nurture within our school community. We are incredibly proud of them and grateful for the example they set.

To those graduates—and to all the brave individuals serving in our armed forces—please know that your efforts do not go unnoticed. Your courage matters. Your sacrifices matter. The work you are doing to protect and support people around the world is deeply appreciated by the entire Outlook Academy community.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with you and with your families during this time. We look forward with great anticipation to the day when you return home safely, and we will be ready to welcome you back with the gratitude and respect you have earned.

Thank you for your service, your sacrifice, and your unwavering commitment to keeping others safe.

ADULT TRANSITION PROGRAM

Program Director

From the Desk of Dr. Wayne

As midterms approach at South Suburban College, our young adults are balancing long study sessions with meaningful opportunities to give back. Through an inspiring partnership with Student Life and Leadership, students are leading a program designed to support both their peers and the broader community. Together, they've organized events that provide food, clothing, and essential necessities, ensuring that everyone has access to the resources they need to thrive. Even during this busy academic season, their commitment to service continues to strengthen campus connections and build leadership skills that extend far beyond the classroom. Students are also looking forward to an enriching visit to the DuSable Black History Museum and Education Center, where they will explore exhibits highlighting African American history, influential leaders, art, and the ongoing pursuit of social justice.

The students at Thornwood High School have been just as busy. Representatives from P.A.C.E. at National Louis University recently visited to speak with our students and staff about their postsecondary transition program and the opportunities it provides for continued education and career development. While one class sharpened their culinary skills with their grocery store visit to complete a lesson from their Unique Curriculum where they purchased ingredients and prepared homemade burritos together. Another class has been actively seeking employment. We are proud to share that one student has secured a position as a School Crossing Guard, helping ensure students travel safely to and from school each day. Their dedication to growth, independence, and community involvement continues to make the ATP staff proud.

Adult Transition Program



FINANCIAL
SUPPORTS



COMMUNITY
CONNECTION



PARENT/PEER
SUPPORT

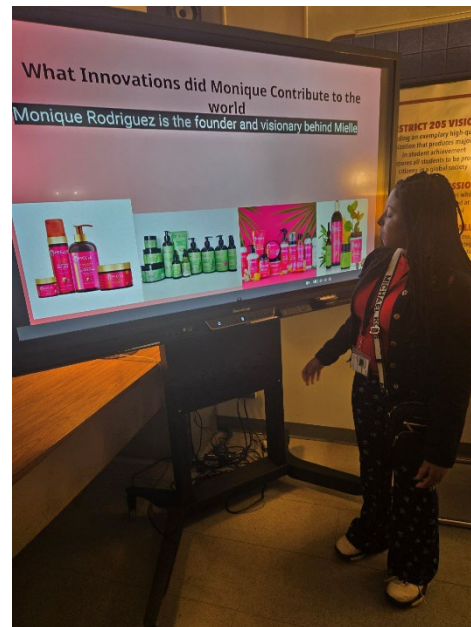


YOUTH
INDEPENDENCE

From the Desk of Ms. Neita

In recognition of Black History Month, the Adult Transition Students successfully completed an in-depth research project highlighting the achievements and lasting impact of prominent Black entrepreneurs. Through this project, students explored the innovation, leadership, and perseverance demonstrated by influential business leaders throughout history.

In addition, the Adult Transition Students actively participated in the democratic process by taking part in early voting for the 2026 primary election at South Suburban College. Prior to voting, students completed a comprehensive research project focused on civic engagement, the electoral process, and key issues surrounding the 2026 elections. This hands-on experience reinforced the importance of informed participation and civic responsibility within our community.



Adult Transition Program



1

FINANCIAL
SUPPORTS



2

COMMUNITY
CONNECTION



3

PARENT/PEER
SUPPORT



4

YOUTH
INDEPENDENCE



From the Desk of Mrs. Stewart



This Black History Month, our students engaged in powerful research and debate centered on influential Black political leaders and their impact on their communities. Through examining leaders such as Tiffany Henyard, Napoleon Harris III, John Lewis, Harold Washington, Lori Lightfoot, and Bobby Rush, students explored both the positive contributions and the criticisms that come with leadership. They analyzed how leadership is shaped by accountability, public perception, community representation, and measurable outcomes. As part of their case study on Barack Obama vs. Bobby Rush, students worked in electoral teams to defend their leader's leadership style, focusing on grassroots organizing, coalition-building, and their commitment to the people of Chicago. Students also reflected on leadership through the lens of the film *The Great Debaters*, learning how students at Wiley College, led by Melvin B. Tolson, used debate as a form of resistance and empowerment, even challenging institutions like Harvard University during segregation. These lessons helped our students understand that leadership is not only about holding positions of power, but also about influence, courage, voice, and responsibility to the community.

In addition to their academic growth, our students are actively preparing for their futures by job hunting and exploring career pathways for the spring and summer. They are working diligently to complete applications, build workplace readiness skills, and reach their short-term goals of securing employment. Through hands-on experiences and career exploration, students are gaining clarity on their long-term direction, whether through trade programs, industry certifications, or college education. This process is helping them build independence, confidence, and a sense of purpose as they transition into adulthood. We are proud of their determination to not only learn from history, but to apply those lessons toward building meaningful careers and becoming the next generation of leaders in their communities.

