



Thornton Township High School District 205
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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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From Our Classrooms to Theirs: District 205 Desks Arrive at Tanzanian School
Retired student desks begin a second life at Centenary Secondary School in Songea, Tanzania

South Holland, IL – [Desks](#) that once filled Thornton Township High School District 205 classrooms are now helping students learn more than 8,000 miles away. A shipment of 200 student desks and three teacher desks donated by District 205 has arrived at Centenary Secondary School, a school of the Catholic Archdiocese of Songea in southern Tanzania.

When the shipping container was opened, the welcome committee was the student body itself. [Video](#) from the school shows students climbing into the container and carrying out all 200 chair-desks one by one, along with the three teacher desks. They set them in neat rows across the school's red-earth courtyard until the desks stretched nearly the length of the building.

The whole school then gathered behind the rows for a moment of thanks. Students took seats at the new desks while a priest led a prayer and blessed the donation. A religious sister joined the celebration, and the students' smiles said the rest.

The desks will now serve Centenary students in their classrooms for years to come. The school's motto, printed on its uniforms, is "Building Knowledge, Character & Competence." Every desk is now part of that mission.

"These desks held our students' notebooks, their exams and their big ideas. Rather than let them sit in storage or end up in a landfill, we wanted them to keep doing exactly what they were built to do: support young people who are eager to learn," said Dr. Nathaniel Cunningham, Jr., Superintendent of Thornton Township High School District 205. "Watching the students at Centenary Secondary School carry them in with such joy is a powerful reminder that education connects us across any distance. Our District 205 family is proud to be a small part of their story."

The donation was made possible through Building Our Own Community, which coordinated shipping and connected the district with the school. The desks came from Thornridge, Thornton, and Thornwood High Schools where they were replaced as part of Securing Tomorrow Today classroom renovations program.

For District 205, the project is a reminder that resources one community outgrows can open doors for another. It also shows our students that their schools are part of a much larger world.

[Watch](#) the students at Centenary Secondary School welcome their new desks.

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About Thornton Township High School District 205: Thornton Township High School District 205, located in South Holland, Illinois, is a leading educational institution dedicated to providing exceptional education and fostering a supportive student environment. District 205 schools, Thornridge, Thornton, and Thornwood, are committed to empowering minds, inspiring futures, and preparing students for college, career readiness, and lifelong learning. For more information about Thornton Township High School District 205, please visit www.district205.net.