

# YOUR SCHOOLS

WINTER 2019

## INSIDE

- Million Dollar Scholarships
- New Building Renovations
- Outlook Partners with SSC
- Restorative Justice



THORNTON TOWNSHIP  
**DISTRICT  
205**  
HIGH SCHOOLS



Thornridge



Thornton



Thornwood



# Superintendent's Message



*District 205 Superintendent Dr. Nathaniel Cunningham Jr.*

The 2018-2019 started on a great note and has continued to get better! I am in my first year as Superintendent of Thornton Township High Schools District 205, and it already feels like home!

I received a warm welcome into District 205 and continue to experience that every day through my interactions with the Board of Education, administration, students, and staff.

I follow a very collaborative and decisive leadership style, in which I collect input from my staff and my administration to make the best decisions for the district.

At the very beginning of the school year, we were featured on a segment of FOX 32 Chicago's Morning

News show called "Pep Rally Friday." This segment highlighted our school district in the aspects of academics, athletics, activities, and school spirit.

I was honored to participate in this historic event

***"We have  
an excellent  
student body,  
with students  
attending  
Historically  
Black  
Colleges and  
Universities..."***

which showcased our students, and the support they receive from their families and communities.

We have an excellent student body, with students attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Stanford, Harvard, and everywhere in between. It brings me great pride to know that District 205 prepares students for higher education by providing a variety of academic programs. Some of these include AP and International Baccalaureate (IB) classes.

Something that I have learned from my decades of experience in the education sector is that education is not a one-size fits all approach. What works for one student may not work for another. District 205 provides alternative programs such as The Adult Transition Program (ATP), Outlook Academy, and the PEACE Center which promises that no child is left out.

We have accomplished many of our goals in educating our students, but there is so much more to look forward to. Our district will be undergoing a complete rebuilding of our IT infrastructure. This will provide us with upgraded technology for our staff and students. This is just another step we are taking to further enrich the educational quality of District 205 students.

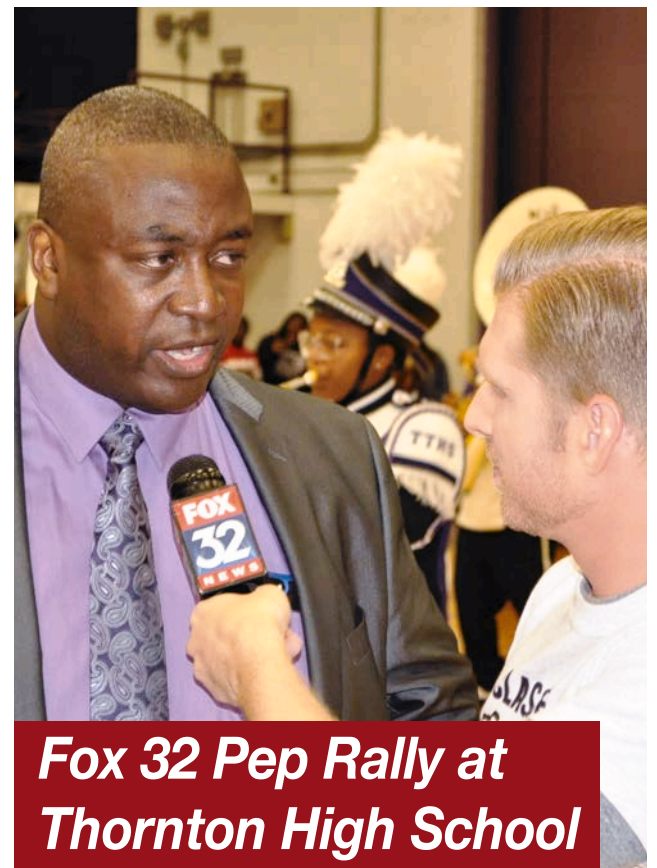
Our Curriculum Department has also been busy in making strides to further improve our students' educational experience at District 205. By bringing in agencies such as ECRA and Harvey Silver and Associates, our district is learning what works best for our students.

I want to thank everyone in the district and community for their support. My door is always open for bigger and better ideas for our students as we continue to team together to move us forward!

*Nathaniel Cunningham Jr.*  
**Nathaniel Cunningham Jr.**  
Superintendent of Schools



***Dr. Cunningham and family are welcomed to the community***



***Fox 32 Pep Rally at Thornton High School***



# Board President Message



Board President Nina Graham

As the President of the Board of Education for Thornton Township High Schools District 205, I am committed to the excellence of our student body.

As a former educator, I am well aware of what curriculum and procedure our district should follow to ensure the highest levels of success as a district.

I have been very fortunate to work with stellar board members, and to be allowed the opportunity to offer guidance and leadership to this great district. The past few

years have been exciting, and our students never cease to amaze me with how bright they shine.

This past September, we were featured by FOX 32 Chicago on a morning news segment they call, "Pep Rally Friday," which highlighted our students and their talents. Our segment had the highest viewership of any Pep Rally Friday segment in the history of the show. This not only showed the pride our students have, but also the support they receive from the community.

Before winter break, I attended a blanket drive initiated by The Adult Transition Program, where students made blankets to distribute to the residents of Aperion Care Nursing home in Dolton, Illinois. Students and senior citizens hold a special place in my heart. It was so heartwarming to see students giving something back to those who paved the way for their futures.

***"Our district has a great track record of students graduating..."***

Our district has a great track record of students graduating, and either pursuing further education, joining

the military, or entering the work force. Through their dedication, diligence, and tireless efforts, 2018 graduates of District 205 secured an astounding 19 million dollars in scholarship offers collectively between all three schools.

At Thornton, both Valedictorian, Frances Walker, and Salutatorian, Montunrola Adebogun, of the 2018 class received over one-million dollars each of scholarship offers. Both ladies are now attending number one ranked, Princeton University.

When we look ahead, we see another promising year. For the 2019-2020 school year, District 205 has 29 Illinois State Scholars! One of these Scholars – Caileb Travier of Thornton - has received a full-ride scholarship to Stanford University in California!

The State Scholar Program publicly and personally identifies graduating high school seniors who possess superior academic potential. Students from nearly every high school in Illinois compete in the program.

Thornridge – Adeola Adedeji, Evelyn Espinoza-Reyes, Zhanayah Johnson, Destanie Jones, Cynthia Morales, Kiara Randall, Kayla Robinson, and Angel Williams.

Thornton – Arin-Ola Adewole, Christina Garcia, Chicoyah Hunt, Brynyah Marks, Julio Neri, Carlos Rios, Caileb Travier, Abdul Vhora, Mohammad Vhora, Khaliyah Williams, Michael Williams.

Thornwood – Justin Abram, Franese Coupet, Abraham Cruz, Jeremy Howard, Andrea Martin, Ariana Martin, Maia Moore, Jesus Perez, Cheyenne Robinson Fitz, Nakaya Short. The Board of Education vows to continue making efforts in every aspect to make our schools more conducive to learning and progress. Our commitment is to provide academic excellence to our students in their educational pursuits at Thornton Township High Schools District 205.

*Nina Graham*

Nina Graham, Board President



**Thornton vs. Thornwood football game**



**Thornton marching band plays at pep rally**



# District 205 Board of Education



**Ms. Nina Graham**  
Board President  
Graham.nina@district205.net



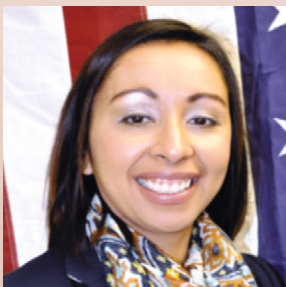
**Mr. Albert Butler**  
Board Vice President  
Butler.albertj@district205.net



**Mrs. Annette Whittington**  
Board Secretary  
Whittington.annette@district205.net



**Mr. Ray Banks**  
Board Member  
Banks.ray@district205.net



**Mrs. Leticia Cruz**  
Board Member  
Cruz.leticia@district205.net



**Mrs. Bernadette Lawrence**  
Board Member  
Lawrence.bernadette@district205.net



**Mrs. Almetta Vasser-Moody**  
Board Member  
Almetta.moody@district205.net



**Student Board**

## DISTRICT 205 STUDENT BOARD MISSION STATEMENT

To use our leadership positions to represent District 205 students, improve our schools, and give back to the community. We will do this by providing quality programs and acting as a sounding board to the superintendent and Board of Education.

## VISION

With humility, humbleness, and hard work, the Student Board of Education will represent and serve our peers, schools, and community. By using our leadership skills, we will work to ensure that all students receive a high quality, well-rounded high school experience.



# ALICE Training Keeps Students Safe

**Brett Fickes**

*Director of Curriculum and Instruction*

The District 205 Curriculum and Instruction Department offers a comprehensive curriculum to meet students' needs and interests, with a variety of offerings in the core areas, as well as electives.

I am always focused on finding new ways and programs for our students to thrive. From our various academic programs such as International Baccalaureate (IB), AVID, and our alternative programs, my team and I are committed to the success of every District 205 student.

Just as important as our educational pursuits is the safety of our students and staff. This is why we are working towards becoming an ALICE certified district!

ALICE, which stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate, is the NUMBER ONE active shooter civilian response training for all organizations.

When we consider the randomness and unpredictability of active shooter incidents, we can approach the issue in one of two ways. We can assume it won't happen here and do nothing; or we can embrace the fact that preparedness and awareness are keys to helping protect our students, faculty, staff, visitors and ourselves should we have an active shooter situation.

During our January 28 Teacher's Institute Day, we brought our curriculum into practice by hosting an all-



staff active shooter training followed by breakout sessions where staff could ask questions and learn more. The knowledge from this training can be applied to incidents outside of the district as well.

We are grateful to our staff for participating in this training and joining in on our efforts to make District 205 the safest possible place for your child to get an education!

# 4.7 Million IT Upgrade

**Toriano Horton**

*Assistant Superintendent of Business Operations*

The Business Operations Department of School District 205 ensures the financial fluency and up-to-date technology for all district buildings. This year, our district will go through a complete infrastructure rebuilding with technology, as part of a 4.7 million-dollar project approved by the Board of Education.

The project, which will be financed at zero percent interest over five years, will be installed by Cisco, the worldwide leader in IT and networking. The project will be overseen by the William Everett Group, the same group that is responsible for our IT audit.

In regards to our IT audit, District 205 was successful once again. This was also the second year in a row where District 205 has received Illinois' highest financial rating.

Another thing the business department is doing with our parents and students in mind is offering free registration for District 205 students. From now until March 1, students can register for free! For those who register between March 1 and June 1, they will receive a discounted rate. Anyone who registers after June 1 will have to pay regular price.

The Business Operations Department will always work towards the betterment of our schools, to ensure that our students get the highest level of education while within our walls.

# Exciting Building Renovations Now in Progress

**William J. Garrett**

*Manager of Operations*

The Operations Department of School District 205 is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the many physical buildings that make up our district. Efficient and well-planned maintenance creates an environment that is conducive to learning for our students and faculty. Our mission is to improve building infrastructure and the functionality of our buildings and grounds.

This school year, a large amount of care and attention is being directed toward the upcoming washroom renovations for Thornton and Thornridge High Schools. This project, will focus on the complete replacement and upgrade of 50 washrooms. These bathrooms will not only be practical, but will be built with the students, staff, and community in mind. The design will be ADA compliant and not only stand the test of time, but the materials have been selected to be easily cleaned and maintained. All of the renovation is set to take place during the Summer of 2019 and be available for use upon the start of the next school year.

At Thornton, new flooring and upgrades have occurred inside of the OT building. At Thornridge, new Unit Ventilators were installed to replace 6 failing units in the C-wing. At Thornwood, the South Field House has been painted to bring in needed revitalization. Throughout District 205, gym floors have been sealed, and all necessary building preventative maintenance has been done. As an attempt to reduce the use of paper throughout District 205, work orders are paperless. Faculty can request repairs, service, and alterations, by logging onto the maintenance portal provided by the administration.

We look forward to taking on new challenges in an effort to assist all students of Thornton Township High School District 205 achieve their educational goals.



**Washroom Renovations in Progress**



# Thornridge

## H I G H S C H O O L



*Davon Bolden leading the 400-meter dash during the 2018 IHSA State Meet.*



Principal Ebonie Williams

### ***From The Desk of Principal Ebonie Williams***

We are doing some great things here at Thornridge. We are here to successfully assist our students with post-secondary education and to help them select a career of their choice. So, we anchor everything with our students first, and that's something that our district takes very seriously.

Our four-year graduation rate has increased over the last two years and we are looking forward to seeing the numbers rise. We are also doing some wonderful things with our parent-teacher engagement.

In thinking about giving our students restorative practices to repair some of the damage that might have been done in childhood, we offer our Restorative Practice Intervention Program here at Thornridge. Since the 2018-19 school year began, we have partnered with the Cook County Southland Juvenile Justice Council, where we work with Dr. Sheniqua Jones at the SJJC. Dr. Jones is training our students, staff, and parents on restorative practices.

As part of the Restorative Practice Program, we have created a room called the TR3R Reset Room, where the "R" stands for reset, relate and restore. We have a reset counselor and a restorative practitioner. They both work

with our school's staff, dean, counselor, and teachers to make sure that our students are not receiving discipline, but restorative practices.

As part of the intervention program, we have implemented peace circles and through that initiative, we have seen some positive results. I am also proud to announce that we no longer have in-school suspension. We desire that our students remain in their class to receive as many instructional hours as possible. As a result of our intervention program, we are already seeing a shift in our school's environment.

### ***TR's Parent Report Card Initiative***



*Thornridge has initiated the Parent Report Card, a program that encourages parents to become more involved in students' academic success.*

Thornridge has initiated the Parent Report Card Initiative which is part of the TR Parent Advisory process. The purpose of the card is to get parents more involved in students' achievements. The more parents are involved in student's events and activities, the greater the students' achievements will become.

Throughout the year, parents are invited to attend a number of school events. When do they participate in

these events, an administrator will sign off on the parent's report card. We invite parents to attend events like Back to School Night, Parent Advisory, FACE Summit, PTA meetings, Chat & Chew, among others school activities. At the end of the year, parents with the most signatures are awarded a dinner and several thank-you prizes for their participation in academic activities. The school encourages family and parents to participate.

### ***Scholarship funding soaring high for TR seniors***

A student's four-year academic and or athletic performance(s) are critical components in getting students a full scholarship. The scholarship covers tuition, room, and board for on-campus students.

As of January 23rd, our graduating class of 2019 has earned more than \$2.6 million dollars in scholarships and grants. Our students have been admitted to top ranking schools such as Northwestern University, Loyola University, and Hampton University. Last year, the class of 2018 earned \$3.3 million dollars in scholarships and grants from August 2017 – May 2018. We expect to surpass this total by May 2019.

This year, there are several TR students receiving more than one full scholarship offer from various schools. Omotola Elujulo has received a full scholarship offers from Lewis University, McKendree University,



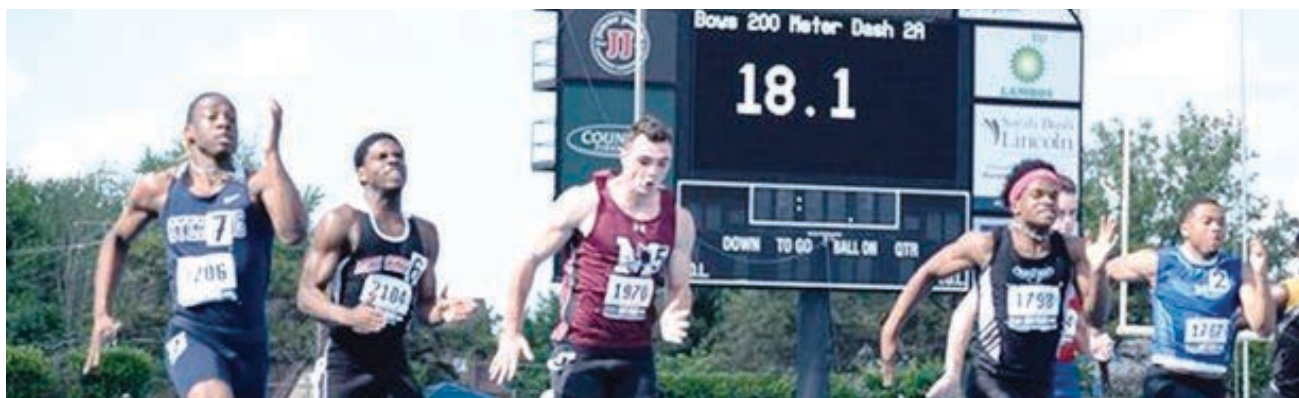


**TR Special Olympics First Place Basketball team**



**Boys bowling team**

Roosevelt University, and Chicago State University. Evelyn Espinoza has received a full scholarship from Valparaiso University, De Paul University, and Northwestern University. Also, a full scholarship offer goes to Ms. Angel Williams, who will choose either Hampton University, Iowa State University, or University of Missouri, and last but not least Nimotalai Lawal has received a full-ride opportunity at Loyola University and



**Leondre Pollard leading the 200-meter dash at the 2018 IHSA finals**

Ball State University.

We would like to congratulate all of our TR senior scholarship recipients for their four-year academic success and we wish them the very best!

### **Falcons Athletic Update**

We are excited about our athletic teams, ranging from bowling, basketball, and football. Each of the team's records have improved. Track and Field is our strongest competitive sport in terms of ranking. We currently have three students who are returning State Medalists. Last year, as a junior, Leondre Pollard became a State Medalist. Since his freshman, sophomore, and junior year, Davon Bolden has been a State Medalist. As a junior, Corey Thomas still holds the title as a State Medalist, which he has held since his freshman year. All three athletes are being recruited by multiple universities.

We are also proud to announce that we have participated in the state meet every single year. As a matter of fact, there was an article recently published with a preview of the track season ranking us among the top teams in the state.

We also want to announce that the boys' basketball

team is doing some great things within the conference. They are the second most successful athletic program in our school. The team have won seven of their last eight games. The star male athletes for basketball are Justin Clark, Grant Hall, and Devon Bolden. Justin and Grant are underclassmen and have not received any national attention, although Devon is one of the state's elite track stars. Other basketball team members include Elijah Harris, Brian Smith, Darryl Thomas, Cornell Motley, DeSean Crawford, and Jeremiah Hamilton. For TR's Football team, Kendrell Hoskins served as the team's quarterback, and Elijah Harris was the team running back for the 2018-2019 school year. Kendrell Hoskins served as captain of the football team and has a 3.0 G.P.A. The team did not rank nationally and they ranked last in the conference.

Senior athletes for the TR'S Girls' Basketball team are Mychelle Carter and Jokeyla Ryce. Team captains are Sarai Funches and Jokelya Ryce.

Bowling team leaders for this school year are Chris Moore and Romeo Patrick Holmes. For three years in a row, the bowling team have received the title as Sectional Qualifiers.



*TR seniors receiving multiple full scholarship offers. From left: Angel Williams, Evelyn Espinoza, and Nimotalai Lawal. Not pictured Omotola Elujulo.*

# Thornwood

## H I G H S C H O O L



### Thornwood Halloween High welcomes community families



Principal Don Holmes

#### **From The Desk of Principal Don Holmes**

As a graduating member of the class of '94 from Thornwood High School, I take no greater pride in being in this position than had I followed my initial dream of being an NFL player. As a matter of fact, for me this is more rewarding because when I go home, I understand that I had the opportunity to have an effect on the lives of our future. When I say that, I mean that. At the end of the day, our students will be the ones taking care of us when we can no longer do that. I want to make sure we are in great hands. So, we have to do all we can now to make that happen.

As a Building Principal, I am understanding more and more that while we are here it is our job as leaders

and teachers to build a community. We want to make sure that the community has access to our school resources, and to the knowledge that we have, and we intend to pull everybody forward. The model around Thornwood is "Thunderbird excellence starts with my effort," and that applies to each and every person whether you are a student, parent, teacher, administrator, or any one of our stakeholders in the Thornwood High School community. We are asking that you give your best effort because, at the end of the day, I don't know a better purpose than helping people to become better at helping to strengthen our communities.

Life is not easy and education is the key to success. If we want our students to be prepared to compete in this global society, they need a world-class education. Understand that there are going to be challenges and possibly interferences. There are going to be things that try to draw the student's attention away from their goals.

We are here to help them stay focused and finish strong - and to prove to the world what Thunderbird nation is all about.

#### **Halloween High comes to Thornwood**

On October 31st, Thornwood High was converted into Halloween High. Students and children from local communities had an opportunity to come into the school to trick-or-treat, hear scary stories, play games and just have a great time. Thornwood teachers and staff brought their children out to participate in the event.

For the Halloween theme, event planners changed one of the school's hallways into a haunted house theme and converted the school's library into an old farmhouse. The Halloween event was in its eighth year of production. Fourth-grade students and under were invited to participate.





## Jasmine Mitchell and Morgan Reed sign scholarship letters of intent

### Girls' basketball team demonstrate academic talent

Thunderbird girls' basketball team brought a lot of heat over the course of the school year as they competed with teams around the country. Just recently, they took part in the New Orleans All-State Championship series. The team currently rank number three in the state, which set their record at 18-1. Word has it that a freshmen student on the team is being recruited by the University of Miami. The team have Coach Kevin Green to thank for their positive winning streak.

Not only do these young ladies bring exceptional talents on the basketball court; they are also making notable academic strides in the classroom. Eight of the female students are enrolled in AP courses and seven students are in the IB program. The average GPA for the girls are 3.3, which make them eligible to attend Division

1 colleges and universities.

### Hispanic Heritage Month in the spotlight

On October 12th, Thornwood celebrated its Hispanic Heritage Month. Principal Holmes, incoming principal for Thornwood shared that the school definitely wants to celebrate a diversity of cultures and to ensure that everyone within the student body are equally represented. Entertainment for the event included Latino dancers and Mariachi singers.

Miss Alma Roque, a Spanish teacher, and Amaris Winters, Activity Director, and Special Education teachers were instrumental in putting on the event. The HHM event is in its fourth year of production. The program, which was held in the gymnasium was attended by Thornwood student body.

National Hispanic Heritage Month kicked off September 15 and ran through October 15. Performances

includes cultural dances, story-telling, singing and display of artifacts such as jewelry and handmade items.

### Thornwood girls rank high in shot put division

Jasmine Mitchell and Morgan Reed are outstanding female athletes. Jasmine is number two in the state for throwing the shot put. Just recently she qualified for number three in the nation as she competed nationally. She has earned a full-ride scholarship to Ole Miss University (Oxford, Miss.)

Morgan is a multi-sport athlete who plays volleyball. She throws the shot put as well. Morgan ranks number 15 in the state. She has a full school scholarship to Western Illinois University. Congratulations Jasmine and Morgan!!



# Thornton

## HIGH SCHOOL

### *From The Desk of Dr. Tony Ratliff:*

Thornton High School is off to a healthy start this school year in terms of academic and career expectations. We had a great school year last year and we are striving to exceed our many accomplishments from last year. We are a healthy school academically, socially and emotionally. We ended the district year witnessing high rates of graduation, and students' ACT scores were on the rise. The number of our students in Illinois State Scholar program increased and the number of IB diplomas were up. We started off this school year in building a well-rounded student body. We are doing some great things academically and within our extracurricular activities, we are competitive within the conference. To name a few, we have some great things going on within our marching band program, speech and drama activities, as well as our cheerleading and dance programs. As I've mentioned, we have increased in the Illinois State Scholar Program. We have been holding steady between 12 and 14 scholars over the last several years. When you consider where we are within the region, and how we compare to other high schools in our region, we are amongst the highest. We are doing great things in getting students' college and careers ready, and pushing them to transition to the next phase of their lives. In the south suburban region, we rank 51% in the FAFSA (Free Application for Student Aid) program. By far, we rank the second high school in

this region of South Cook County receiving FAFSA funding. We have developed our MTSS (Multi-Tier System) program, which is managed by a great MTSS staff here at Thornton. In the MTSS program, we address chronic truancy and mentor students, as well as address social and emotional concerns. The MTSS program offer our students the extended academic support they need. Our concerns are keeping our students on the right track and continue to find ways to assist every student who need our assistance.



*Fox 32 highlights Pep Rally on live TV*



*Principal Tony Ratliff recently completed his doctorate degree in Educational Leadership at Chicago State University. In referencing his doctorate degree, he remarked, "I believe I should serve as a model for my students and my staff."*







### ***Ib Program: An Educational Jewel For Thornton Students***

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Program is an internationally recognized curriculum that offers 11th and 12th-grade students an opportunity to earn the IB diploma as well as earn college credit while still in high school.

Thornton has seen tremendous success for the students in the IB Program. Thornton began teaching IB in 2016 with our first IB class graduating in 2017. That group began with 21 students. The program has now grown to include 58 students. To date, 11 Thornton students have earned the prestigious IB Diploma, far surpassing other suburban IB schools in our area. Prepscholar.com, an online IB blog reported that students must score 24 points or more between all of their IB exams to get a diploma. The blog further explains that if students score 24 points or more, they will receive their diploma provided that all CAS requirements have been met. There is no “N” awarded for theory. Seventy-four percent of students enrolled in IB courses have earned college credit for their work. Sixty-seven of the students re-enrolled in IB Language and Literature have received college credit for their work. Thornton students have received over 250 college credit hours. Finally, 2 students earned a number of college credits that they began their first year of college with enough credits to nearly qualify them for sophomore status.

In addition, Thornton IB students have been accepted and received scholarships to some of the most prestigious universities in the country. These include Vanderbilt University, the University of Illinois, Stanford University, Princeton University, Northwestern University, and the University of Notre Dame.

Also, Thornton IB students have made great contributions to our local as well as international communities. Thornton students have completed over 4,000 hours of community service. They have volunteered at food banks, provided essential needs baskets for the homeless and raised money to buy water purification systems for villages in Africa. IB has been a tremendous success and a game changer for Thornton students.

Both AP (Advanced Placement) and IB courses are advanced programs that run parallel in the sense that they both offer college credits to students expecting to enter college. Mr. Brad Ablin is Thornton Township High School IB Coordinator.

### ***The Wildcat Band Played On***

Drumming its way to the top, and keeping to the HBCU trot, the Wildcat Band is too hot to stop. Competing against fierce competitors, still, the band played on and it wins, time and time again.

James W. Render III is the Band Director, who no doubt plays a central role for the “awesomeness” of the Wildcat Band. Render is a gifted musician and has directed the band with a high rate of success for more than ten years. Receiving numerous awards during the first half of the 2018 school year, the band is at the top of its game among high school bands.

To keep the band in an upbeat manner, Render ensures that the band receives adequate exposure by making appearances in local parades and high school band competitions. To get the drums rolling, the band started off this past summer rehearsing several times a week. In August, band students participated in the Bud Billiken Back to School Parade which is routinely held in August. At the Bud Billiken Parade, the band won first place in the Band Division. Render shared that the band will be leading the Billiken parade in August.

Through the years, Render said the school has embraced what he has been doing and everybody has been on board. He added that the students have been good and he has a desire to keep the momentum going and use the band’s accomplishments as an opportunity for the students.

As the school year quickly transitioned into fall, the band took part in the Rich Central Battle of the Bands where they came in First Place in the Single-A Show Style Division. The band also received Best Overall Drum Major out of all of the drum majors who participated in the show.

During the football season, the band performed at six games. Additionally, they also participated in the Chicago Football Classics held at Soldier Field. The band came in third place for Battle of the Bands. Some of the participating bands the students competed against came from a mixture of suburban and Chicago Public Schools. The schools included Rich Central High, Proviso East, and King High School. The band also participated in the Columbus Day and Thanksgiving Day Parade held on State Street. **GO WILDCAT BAND!**

### ***On The Right Track: Career Plan For Seniors***

Theresa King’s College and Career office at Thornton High is busy these days with graduating seniors submitting their College and Career Plan. King, who serves as a Career Counselor at Thornton makes it a top priority for graduating seniors to submit their post-high school plan. She wants students to know how to put a career plan together. She explained that it is totally up to the seniors to have a plan.

King explained that part of the career plan is that students must show proof that their FASFA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is complete and submit proof that they have applied to South Suburban College.

During graduation, one of the main goal at the College and Career office is that every senior must leave Thornton Township High with a post-high school plan. The students choose from five plans including applying to a two-year college, a four-year university. The Post-High School Plan encourages them to choose work, go to the military, or enroll in trade school.

Students receive a certificate congratulating them on their completion of their plan. The Career Plan Certificate states the following: This is the Post-High School Plan that you completed. Following through to enrollment is your choice and must be completed by you. We wish you well and hope you will use the Plan to pursue your dreams.

In case if students failed to remember their career plan, King has offered a few ways to help them keep track of their plans. They receive an email copy from the career office. A copy is emailed to their parents, teachers, their senior portfolio staff, as well as to their counselor and career office.

As an additional incentive for completing their forms, students are encouraged to participate in the Post-High School Plan Challenge, which is a classroom effort for all seniors to submit career plan forms. When they do, the classroom is entitled to a pizza party. Graduating seniors who complete the Post-High School Plan receive a purple and yellow lanyard and a purple and white T-shirt. That reads: “Senior with a plan.”

**Thornton’s Career Counselor, Theresa King presents Loniqua Davis with a yellow and purple lanyard along with a purple t-shirt that says: “Senior with a plan,” Davis, who is a graduating senior will attend Prairie State College this fall.**





# Outlook

## Academy



### *Outlook Academy moves to South Suburban College in South Holland*

#### **What is Outlook Academy?**

Outlook Academy has a mission to help young adults complete their high school education. These students have renewed their commitment to completing their high school education - and earning their District 205 diploma. The Outlook Academy is now in its third year -- and growth has been amazing! This school year, the program has grown to a 300-student waiting list.

Outlook Academy was foreshadowed 10 years ago with District 205's Extended Summer School and 13th Graders Programs. Today, Outlook Academy has become a high-school completion program unique in the nation for its focus, methodology and effectiveness. Students are able to complete high school whether they need one class or an entire year's worth of schooling. Scheduling the right classes is never a problem for Outlook Academy students; the program offers the courses enrollees need—and only those courses. How is this possible? By assessing every single student and what they require to graduate. It's lean, efficient, and very effective.

With its recent move to the South Suburban College main campus, Outlook Academy is even more convenient to district 205 students. Students who couldn't make the trek to Chicago State University for classes can now make the short trip to SSC to finish their high school education.

And this is something Outlook Academy director Patricia Malopsy-Fortier stresses: "This is not an online



school—it's classrooms and teachers in a building. Everything in the program is designed to give the students what they need to learn. We address learning styles. We have flexible scheduling for working students and students with children. The school is open 365 days a year for students who can only come to class at night or on weekends. Classes are scheduled based on the courses the students need, so the class schedule changes every 9 weeks. No other school in the U.S. does this."

Outlook Academy boasts only veteran teachers, all of whom chose to teach in the program—it's where their

hearts are. Courses offered range from English and Math to Business and Foreign Languages. Dual credit courses are in the works, giving students both high school and college credit for those courses. And a 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant of \$5 million over 5 years has enabled the program to add after school programs, clubs, field trips, and other enrichment.

Last year was great... but next year will be even better as the program continues to grow, become stronger and especially, to graduate more students with ever-better skills.





**Outlook students learning French**



*Dr. Jerry Doss and William Garrett with Patricia Fortier put plans in place for Outlook Academy at South Suburban College*



**Outlook Academy Faculty**





PEACE

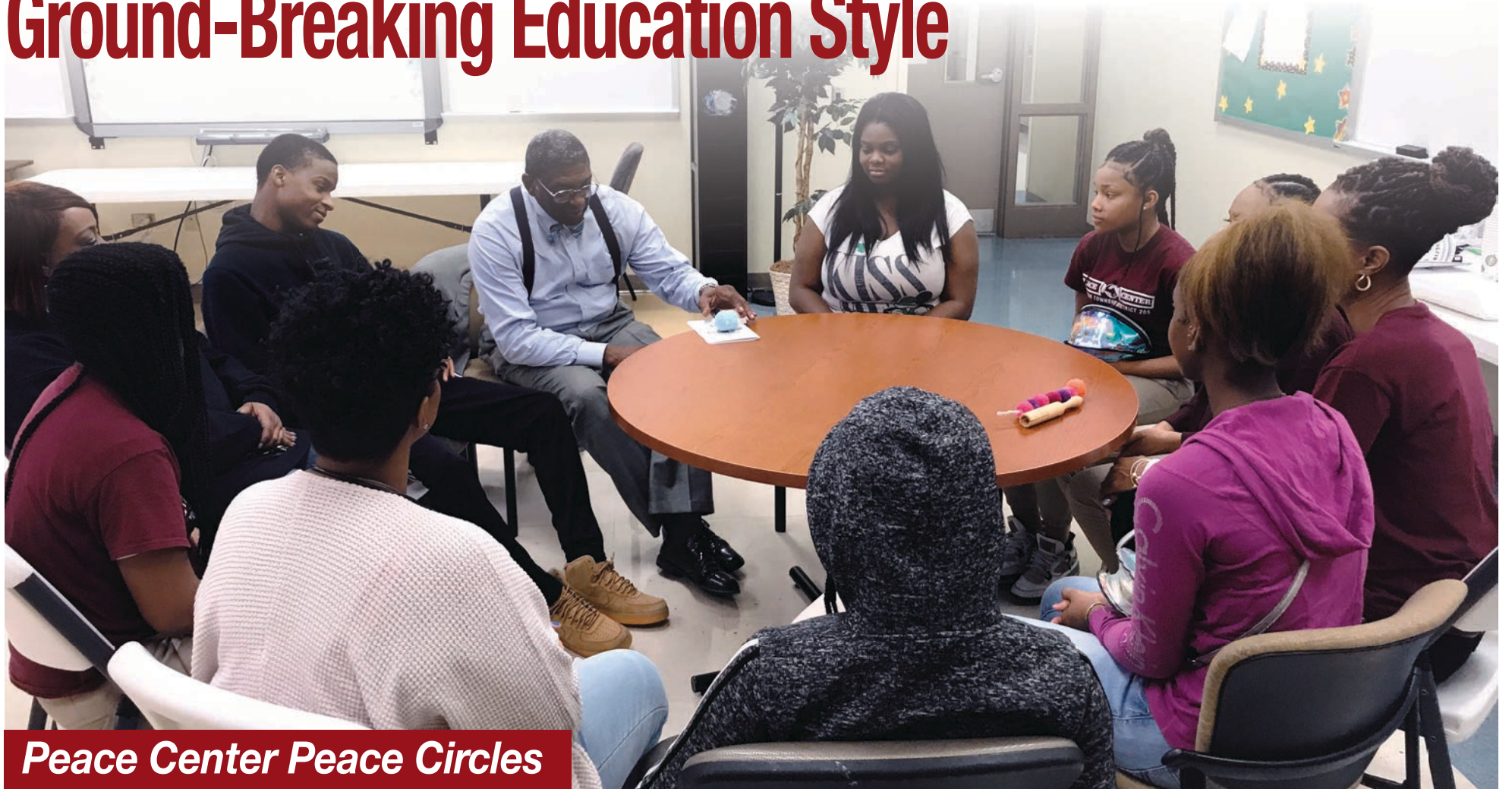


CENTER

THORNTON TOWNSHIP, DISTRICT 205

# Peace Center

## Ground-Breaking Education Style



### Peace Center Peace Circles

It's the PEACE Center's third year! Attendance is up, grades are steady, and Restorative Justice is making change in the classroom and in students' lives.

The Peace Center's ground-breaking education style of incorporating Restorative Justice enables teachers and staff to engage students who have been cast aside, and redirects them into a path of restoration and success. From day one, as soon as they walk in the door of the school, students are welcomed and celebrated. PEACE Center is a participant in the District-wide initiative known as ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) - the practice of looking at a student's experiences instead of saying "what's wrong with this kid?"

As PEACE Center administrator Tyran Cox-Bey explains, "We use haptics all day - touching, hugging - to filter how a student is doing, to sense if they are having a good day or a bad day. If a student is upset, immediately a counselor or social worker can step in and see what's going on, even before they enter the classroom, where behaviors can cause misunderstanding or disruption. Then teachers are informed so they understand what the student is dealing with."

Peace Center has implemented several important

innovations that help students adapt and learn. One of these techniques are Peace Circles. Originally a class,

*"...teachers are informed so they understand what the student is dealing with"*

it has since become incorporated into the daily routine. As Cox-Bey says, Peace Circles result in "a reduction in discipline issues in the classroom, and the teachers and the students become a community, which helps the classroom feel safe and secure."

Mindfulness classes are another innovation. Mindfulness teaches students methods of de-stressing and calming. Students are subsequently monitored to see how often discipline issues arise, and so far the classes have been highly successful. The instructor of the classes is Dr. Uday Shinde of Governors State University, who has taken a special interest in the lives of students at Peace Center.

Another innovation to help students achieve progress—and gain rewards—is Incentive Days. When students achieve a level 5 status—that is, no discipline issues, perfect attendance, no tardies, appropriate dress, and passing in all classes—they are celebrated with a party with popcorn and cotton candy, gift cards (which are donated to the program), and certificates. Further incentives for level 5 students are dress-down days, field trips, college tours, and more.

Given the advances made by students, PEACE



Center was excited to host a job fair On Oct 30, 2018, organized by Wendy Clark. Employers representing the trades, arts, and professions participated. A DJ came out and the atmosphere was energetic. It was enthusiastically received by students and more such events will be planned in the future.

Understandably, the Peace Center has received attention for it's unique approach. The PEACE Center was the recipient of a \$1,000 gift from Dr. Redd of the Carey Redd Foundation in support of the program's fundamental tenet of Restorative Justice. Dr. Redd, a Thornton Township High School graduate, visited the school November 9, 2018 to hand deliver the gift. Dr. Redd participated in a Peace Circle with students and shared personal stories of his own trials and accomplishments.

Looking forward, on Feb 13 the Restorative Justice team (headed by Aneka Ross) and a group of students will hold an open house to showcase what Restorative Justice is all about. In the morning parents will come and visit classes to see what's being taught and to experience the classroom setting. The second half of the day, the community will be invited in to see a presentation about Restorative Justice and how it helps cut off the pipeline-to-prison that often begins in the teen years and escalates to serious crime. The PEACE Center's successful program demonstrates how dealing with the small incidents early on can change the direction of a students life.



**Peace Center Incentive Days**



**Generous donation from Dr. Redd of the Caray Redd Foundation**





# DISTRICT 205 MISSION STATEMENT

Thornton Township High School District 205 puts students first and will provide a challenging and engaging curriculum, use evidence-based teaching practices, connect learning to life experiences and maintain a safe, nurturing, technology-rich environment that addresses social justice and partners with family and community members.

## District Administration

**Dr. Nathaniel Cunningham, Jr.**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

**Dr. Jerry B. Doss,**  
*Human Resources*

**Mr. John Arrington,**  
*Director of College & Careers*

**Mr. Brett Fickes,**  
*Director of Curriculum & Instruction*

**Mr. Toriano Horton,**  
*Business Department*

**Mr. Robert Penman,**  
*Director of Research, Assessment & Quality Analysis*

**Mr. Thomas Porter,**  
*Director of Pupil Personnel Services*

## School Administration

### **Thornridge High School**

*Mrs. Ebonie Williams, Principal*

*Dr. Quitman Dillard, Assistant Principal*

*Ms. LaQuitha Snow, Assistant Principal*

### **Thornton Township High School**

*Dr. Tony Ratliff, Principal*

*Mr. Benjamin Blakeley, Assistant Principal*

*Ms. Jennifer Kuyper, Assistant Principal*

*Ms. Wanda Russell, Assistant Principal*

### **Thornwood High School**

*Mr. Don Holmes – Principal*

*Ms. Maria Brown - Assistant Principal*

*Mr. Todd Hall - Assistant Principal*

*Mr. Thomas Walsh - Assistant Principal*

### **Outlook Academy**

*Ms. Patricia Fortier - Administrator*

### **Peace Center**

*Mr. Tyran Cox-Bey - Administrator*