



YOUR SCHOOLS SPECIAL EDITION

The Magazine of Thornton Township High School District 205 Fall 2014



Mr. Darren Robinson
Board President



Mrs. Toni Williams
Board Secretary



Mr. Edward Crayton
Board Member



Ms. Judith Gibbs
Board Member



Mrs. Lauren Green
Board Member



Mrs. Bernadette Lawrence
Board Member

From the Board of Education



PREPARING ALL DISTRICT 205 STUDENTS TO BE COMPETITIVE LEADERS IN OUR GLOBAL SOCIETY



BOARD OF EDUCATION



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Board Members, District Administrators and Student Board Members at Teacher Institute Day.



Board President Robinson and Board Member Green with Congresswoman Kelly.



Board President Robinson, Thornton Principal and Student Board Members have meeting with Mayor of Harvey and other dignitaries.

GREETING FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



It has been a privilege to serve as the Board of Education President and member for the past four years. There is nothing like serving the ever-changing youth of our community. We have worked hard to implement many innovative programs with the children's future in mind first. The Thornton Township High School District 205 Board of Education has set policies for the school district in accordance with state and federal laws to ensure a quality education for all District students. The Board worked to ensure a balanced budget with a five-year plan in accordance with Federal, State and Local guidelines that includes minimal impact upon successful student programs and activities.

With the approval of the Board of Education, the District 205 community has joined the Thornton Township Academy of Truck and Diesel Technology – Powered by Navistar for its grand opening on November 5, 2009. Navistar International Corporation owns subsidiaries brand commercial and military trucks, brand diesel engines, IC Bus brand school and commercial buses. The Navistar program is great for those not privileged to attend a four-year university.

Over a few years, in accordance with Federal (NCLB), State (Learning Standards/College Readiness Skills) and Local (District Improvement Plan) guidelines to increase the reading, writing, mathematics, science, communication, problem-solving, and technical achievement and application of learning for all college and career-bound students in District 205, the Board of Education has helped to install the following programs within our community; Nanoscience Program, Criminal Justice Program, Paralegal/Legal Assistant Program, Court Reporting/Verbatim Technology Program, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Program, Pre-Pharmacy Program, College Step-Up Program, Fire Cadet Program, and Biophysics Program.

We continue to transform our schools into community learning centers in accordance with Federal, State and Local guidelines in order to facilitate community involvement, volunteerism and partnerships which support the education of all students. Working hard to enhance the Thornton Township Teaching and Learning Partnership (TTTLP) is one of the board goals. TTTLP is an organization comprised of District 205 personnel and representative from each of our K-8 elementary districts.

The Thornton Township High School District 205 Board of Education issued \$50 million of working cash bonds. The purpose of this bond issue was to improve the facilities throughout the District. In January 2010 the Board of Education completed the Request for Proposal (RFP) process and Tria Architecture was hired as the District architect. In March 2010 the Board of Education identified several projects to be completed from the bond issuance. Additional projects will continue to be approved by the Board of Education until the \$50 million has been obligated.

The money from the bond issue has been spent on projects to be completed during a time frame. Please pardon our dust as we work to provide a better learning environment for the students, staff and community of Thornton Township High School District 205.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you for allowing me to serve our students and staff of District 205 and I look forward to working closely with our Future Leaders of Tomorrow.

Sincerely,
Darren Robinson
Board of Education President

GREETING FROM THE BOARD SECRETARY

District 205 continues to excel as one of the premier districts in the state. We have established programs that cater to the needs of all our students, which will prepare them to be college and career ready. Over the past few years, we have implemented state of the art science labs, an excellent AVID program, and great programs for our English Language Learner students, and candidate status for the International Baccalaureate program. Friday night football is bringing families together under the new lights at all 3 schools along with the new concession stands (that are currently being built.) Don't forget our award-winning band, speech and track programs. Bowling is back this fall for the first time in many years.

All of this could not be possible without the dedication from the teachers, administrators, staff, community and parents. Welcome back and get involved!

Toni Williams
School Board Secretary



GREETING FROM THE INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

With more than 5,000 students and 600 faculty, staff and administrators District 205 is proud of its role in fostering academic and personal success. Our schools are the pinnacle of the education system in Thornton Township and the epicenter of academic rigor, athletic prowess and professionalism.

In terms of academics, Thornton Township High School District 205 is committed to providing world-class college and career preparatory experience that enables our students to compete in a global society. This philosophy took root over a decade ago and has expanded to include curricular and programmatic offerings in almost every field of study from pre-pharmacy and engineering to the fine arts and communications with science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) woven into instruction across the curriculum. Teachers now have a greater ability to meet the needs of all students, differentiating instruction based on individual needs and learning styles. They also gain the opportunity to connect with students and their families on a more personal level, promoting a positive home-school connection.

Enrichment opportunities, extra and co-curricular activities are important in Thornton Township High School District 205 and our students participate at high levels. Whether we look at our award-winning athletics, drama, or music programs, there is something for every student. I invite you to see and experience the District 205 difference first hand! This publication is designed to familiarize you with the programs, policies and services of our schools and Board of Education. For the most current information and news, refer to the District website at www.district205.net.

Dr. Stacey D. McJunkins
Interim Superintendent



Board President Robinson, Board Member Lawrence and Navistar consultant, Mr. Dawson present award to Ms. Rampke.



Board Members, Interim Superintendent and dignitaries at annual Senior Student Board Ceremony.



Board Member Gibbs with Congresswoman Kelly at Thornwood graduation.



Board Secretary and Board President present award to Student Board member.

IMPROVEMENTS COMING AT A RAPID PACE



School improvements in District 205 have been underway in the past and continue this year as well. These improvements to our schools are designed to upgrade facilities and provide a safe and supportive learning environment. The program is currently underway at all District 205 High Schools. We constantly strive to provide the best learning environment for our students.

The renovation of the three high school cafeterias within Thornton Township High School District 205 occurred simultaneously. Each location had a unique challenge to overcome, whether a low ceiling height, a series of choppy additions or the need for multiple functions to occur within the space. A few challenges that all locations shared were slow and isolated serving lines, tired finishes with poor lighting and a general lack of character. With the new design, each space was infused with openness and a personalized sense of school spirit. While each school embodied a unique personality, the new finishes, fixtures and equipment were standardized throughout the district to simplify Operations and Maintenance. Student Board Members, Staff and Administration were involved in the design process, weighing in on issues such as sustainability, functionality, safety and aesthetics. Sustainable materials such as countertops made out of recycled milk bottles and composite paper millwork panels were used wherever possible. Student Board Members from each school worked together to select inspirational quotes and words for the "Spirit Wall" at their respective schools.

New concession stands are currently in progress at Thornton and Thornwood High Schools and will facilitate excellent customer service during athletic events to the student body, alumni and the community at large.

Other capital improvements include updated science labs, baseball scoreboards and elevators. New windows, air-

conditioning, stadium lighting and a renovated auditorium were completed at Thornton High School. Updated restrooms are in the process of upgrades at all three district schools.

The Board of Education is committed to providing a state of the art facility so our students are equipped to become competitive leaders in our global society.



Renovated Computer Labs



New Multi-Purpose Room

IMPROVEMENTS & ADDITIONS

AIMING AT AFFECTING OUR MOST IMPORTANT GOALS

We live in an increasingly sophisticated world that requires an increasingly sophisticated education in order to achieve success.

September 18th begins the second school year of our new administration. The administrative team has observed and assessed our district and now, with the support of the Board of Education, they will begin to implement their plan to make education in Thornton Township High School District 205 better than it was the year before. Our Interim Superintendent believes that sometimes you have to go slow to go fast. Over the past few months her administrative team has been meticulously evaluating curriculum and instruction, business operations and student services to improve service delivery and make adjustments to increase efficiency. Our administration plans to implement change in the right way, by explaining what we are doing and why, and listening to the people who do the educating in our district, our teachers.

This edition of the District 205 Your Schools magazine focuses on some of the improvements and additions the Board of Education has approved over the last several years. These improvements and additions are aimed at affecting our most important goals – achievement in the classroom and preparing all students for competitive college and career opportunities.

The Board recently approved a partnership with the Consortium for Education Change (CEC). CEC will work with the Board of Education, administration, faculty and community to establish community-based working groups that will drive school and district improvement based on data. These are the data points that the Board will use to measure the progress and success of our district.

The ultimate goal is to prepare our students for a world that requires increased independent thinking, creativity and collaboration. The Board of Education wants to teach our students to read and think critically, as well as provide them with the tools they need to work together to solve complex problems.

We know that strong community support is critical to building and sustaining a world class school district. The Board of Education invites the community to experience the district first-hand by visiting our schools and monitoring the District 205 website – www.district205.net.



New Science Labs



Thornton's Renovated Auditorium



Under Construction Concession Stands



Students in an intellectual disabilities class practice some team-building skills with their paraprofessional Jeanette Vasser. These students continue to work throughout the building as a team. Their teacher, Missy Fekete, continues to think of ideas to have the students interact with their peers. You can see this class delivering newspapers and assisting with recycling throughout Thornwood High School.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

District 205 has welcomed new students. Our district belongs to the ECHO Cooperative. Part of the ECHO Program is a group of students, who are PHI/VI (Physical Health Impaired and Visually Impaired). For many years, these students rode down to Crete-Monee High School. The families of these students are grateful that their children now go to Thornwood High School. We are thankful to the Board of Education, superintendent, principals and our special education personnel for their kind and thoughtful action.

In addition, Thornwood High School sponsors 11 Special Olympic events. One of those events is soccer. We are so proud to announce that our student, Miguel Castillo, has been selected to play on the soccer team in the Special Olympics World Games to be held in Los Angeles, California in June 2015. Congratulations to Miguel and his fine coaches. We know that they will represent our district well.

Special Programs is the largest department in our district. We meet the needs of our unique learners by providing services in a wide variety of ways. We are very excited to meet the challenges of learning in the 21st Century. We will be looking at each building throughout the year and will be providing snapshots of how students are learning in "Your Schools." We have dedicated staffs (teachers, paraprofessionals, social

workers, psychologists, speech therapists, occupational therapists, nurses and administrators), who commit themselves daily to working with students.

Thornton Township High School District 205 provides services for all students within the district who qualify



Jennifer Tesar, a special education teacher, works with a student on personal safety in the kitchen. Ms. Tesar teaches her students independent living skills, such as cooking, in her kitchen at school. In District 205, we are committed to safety first.



Jennifer Tesar, a special education teacher, works with a student on another independent living skill, sewing. You never know when a button is going to fall off. We work with students, so that they can function on their own as adults.



Lisa Zuccolo, a special education teacher, works with a student using an IDEA Grant Funded iPad on a lesson. Assistive technology really helps motivate our students to learn, and more importantly, access the regular curriculum.



Students in the autism program under the direction of their teacher, Michelle Liberio, learn about sorting the fruits and vegetables that they grew in their garden during summer school 2014. These fruits and vegetables remind all of us about healthy eating and nutrition.



Jennifer Tesar and Thomas Porter look at instructional material with a group of students. You can tell it is the start of school with the students' anticipation of learning on their faces.

within one or more of the fourteen categories of disability defined under IDEA, the Individuals with Disabilities Act. The fourteen disabilities for which a student can be considered eligible for special education services are: Autism, Deaf-Blindness, Deafness, Developmental Delay, Emotional Disturbance, Hearing Impairment, Intellectual Disability, Multiple Disabilities, Orthopedic Impairment, Other Health Impairment, Specific Learning Disability, Speech or Language Impairment, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Visual Impairment including Blindness. A student who qualifies for an IEP (Individualized Education Plan), within the eligibility criteria regulated by state and federal mandates will receive services.

District 205 provides a continuum of services based on the needs of the individual student with an IEP. An IEP team for

the student will determine the least restrictive environment in which the student can be successful both academically and socially. Along with providing the academic support that a student needs, support services are available including Counselors, Deans, Nurses, Social Workers, Speech Pathologists, School Psychologists and Occupational Therapists. Students with disabilities will receive services as determined by the IEP team.

A team of highly trained Counselors, Nurses, Social Workers, Psychologists, Speech Pathologists, Certified Teachers and Paraprofessionals all provide support to students with Individualized Education Plans.

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INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

MR. THOMAS PORTER
DIRECTOR OF PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES

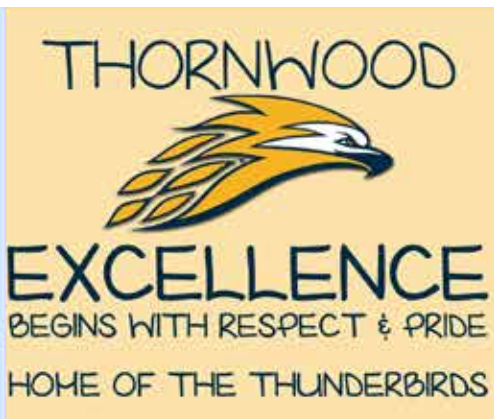
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MR. THOMAS WALSH
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

MS. WANDA RUSSELL
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

DISTRICT 205 MISSION STATEMENT

“Preparing all District 205 students to be competitive leaders in our global society.”