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Thornton Fractional District 215
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Thornton Fractional District 215 Launches Career Development Department

Lansing, IL- Thornton Fractional High School District 215 students will have added opportunities under the district's new [Career Development Department](#) that launched this summer. The department's mission is for individual students to achieve work-based learning opportunities, to attain hands-on training in high skill, high demand areas of the labor force, and to provide increased access to post-secondary education opportunities.



The new department is led by [John Robinzine, Assistant Superintendent of Career Development, and Ricardo Johnson, Director of Career & Technical Education.](#)

The Career Development Department provides opportunities for Thornton Fractional High School District 215 students to engage in career preparation and development, and helps students achieve employability in their preferred career pathways. The department focuses on increasing opportunities for students to attain education for employment through career and technical education courses, dual and concurrent enrollment courses and programs, post-secondary certification training, community partnerships, and career pathway development.

The launch of the Career Development Department will encompass several [new initiatives](#) that have already begun for the 2021-22 school year. A new two-year **barbering and cosmetology program** is being housed at Thornton Fractional North High School, and graduates of the program will be eligible to attain a professional license in cosmetology or barbering.

The new **electrical program** consists of two courses that move students toward a post-graduate apprenticeship with International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 134 (IBEW)/ NECA. Local 134 is providing licensed staff to teach courses on the fundamentals such as Electrical I and Electrical II and will provide a week of training in the summer, along with graduation for participating students. Students participating in this program have opportunity to advance over the course of several years into full time positions. District 215 is hosting an open house September 16th for the inaugural class of the electrical program, their families, school administrators, and Board of Education members. State Representative Will Davis, who facilitated in establishing the new electrical program, will also be invited to attend.



A **future teachers initiative** will utilize a grant from the Illinois State Board of Education to offer two dual credit courses to juniors and seniors interested in pursuing a career in education. In partnership with South Suburban College and Governors State University, students in the future teachers program will receive dual credit for taking Foundations of Teaching and Educational Methodology. The grant funds will also be used to provide off-site practicum experiences, develop a teacher mentorship program, fund “Grow Your Own” grants or scholarships and will help support the activities of the district’s “Future Teachers Club,” which was formed at the beginning of the 2020-21 school year.

Students in [dual credit courses](#) are dually enrolled in both high school and college level courses and have the opportunity to simultaneously earn high school credit and college credit at no cost. District 215 recently added a **dual credit health course** and offers several other dual credit courses with South Suburban College, including business writing, Microsoft Office technology, engineering, and building construction. A dual credit biology course is also being planned for the near future.

Dr. Sophia Jones-Redmond, Superintendent, stated, “I am so excited that we are able to offer so many amazing new opportunities to District 215 students. Mr. Robinzine and his team are working hard and accomplishing great things to ensure that our students continue to have increased opportunities for career readiness.”

About Thornton Fractional High School District 215: District 215 serves the students of Burnham, Calumet City, Lansing, and Lynwood at Thornton Fractional North High School, Thornton Fractional South High School, Thornton Fractional Center for Academics and Technology, and Thornton Fractional Center for Alternative Learning. The mission of District 215 is to provide diverse learning opportunities that inspire all students to become life-long learners who contribute to their community.

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