

THORNTON FRACTIONAL TOWNSHIP
HIGH SCHOOLS

District 215

A PARTNERSHIP OF EXPECTATIONS

Burnham
Calumet City
Lansing
Lynwood

Creg E. Williams, Ed.D.
Superintendent
April 7, 2008

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Earlier this year, I shared with you some of the most important components in our plan for instructional improvement in Thornton Fractional Township High School District 215. I am pleased to report that the Board of Education recently approved adding an eighth period to the daily schedule effective for the 2008-2009 school year. The schedule that your son/daughter receives for next fall will reflect this change.

There are a number of specific improvements to our educational programs that will result from this change, but in general, students will gain more instructional time and better structured classes and teachers will receive more instructional planning and professional development time. The new schedule reduces each class period by five minutes and that difference provides the time needed for the additional period. The school day will start and end at approximately the same times, and all students will enjoy a full, 50 minute lunch period. We are in the process of finalizing our school calendar and bell schedule for the 2008-2009 school year. When they are completed, we will mail you copies and post the information on our new website (www.tfd215.org) for your viewing.

The change in schedule will impact some students more than others. Freshmen and sophomores who need increased instructional time to improve their skills and/or to complete credits will be able to receive double classes in English (reading) and mathematics. Those who do not require this additional instruction may choose to enroll in an elective class like a foreign language. Juniors and seniors may continue on a seven period schedule. Those seniors with all graduation requirements satisfied may attend a dual credit college class off-campus, participate in a service learning project or engage in a work experience.

The Board of Education, school and district administration and school staff strongly support this change as a win-win for students and teachers. We believe this change offers a wealth of new opportunities and improved educational structure that is student-centered.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Creg E. Williams, Ed.D.

CEW:cs

"To Help Every Student Become an Independent, Confident and Continuous Learner"