

# THORNTON FRACTIONAL TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOLS

District 215

A PARTNERSHIP OF EXPECTATIONS

Burnham  
Calumet City  
Lansing  
Lynwood

**Creg E. Williams, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent

April 21, 2008

Dear Parents/Guardians of Prospective Seniors:

Last month, I sent a letter to the parents/guardians of all students in Thornton Fractional Township High School District 215 that described our plans for adding an eighth period to the school day beginning next fall. You may recall from the letter that I explained a special opportunity for juniors and seniors who had earned the credits necessary to be promoted to the next grade level. Those students would be able to participate in a seven period day AND one of three educational options: Service Learning, Dual Credit or Work Experience.

This letter is sent to parents/guardians of students who will be seniors at the start of the 2008-2009 school year to describe these options in more detail. I also want to encourage you to discuss these possibilities with your son/daughter before the close of this academic year so that you can make plans and/or take appropriate actions. Details of the three options follow:

### **Service Learning**

The Service Learning option is a new opportunity for our students and communities that will be more fully described in the fall, but it offers young people semester or year-long community service positions of their choice and design. Our school district will provide a list of local agencies and organizations with some suggested service needs. Students will complete an application for and regular reports on a service project that is approved by the agency and school. Each student's part-time service learning experience will be entered on school records and can become an important, positive factor in subsequent college and/or employment applications.

### **Dual Credit**

Our school district maintains relationships with a number of community and four-year colleges, and we are currently at work to expand the number and the education areas of these agreements. The Dual Credit option offers simultaneous college and high school credit to students who successfully qualify for and complete a semester-long course on the campus of a nearby institution of higher education. Again, more details including a list of colleges, classes and pre-requisites will be made available in time for fall registrations.

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

### **Work Experience**

Many students learn valuable skills related to particular career areas during high school. The Work Experience option guides qualified seniors to a part-time, paying job in an area of interest such as automotive repair, business, child care, graphic design, hospitality, law, medicine, retail sales and others. Successful participants also earn a full credit each semester. Many employers are located in our local communities and northwest Indiana. Students receive pre-employment, job readiness training to help ensure their success on-the-job. The process starts when students complete a *Career Internship Program Application Form*. The form is available from school counselors and can be printed from our school district website ([www.tfd215.org](http://www.tfd215.org)). Program participants are limited to 50 per home school so interested students should apply for the work program as soon as possible (no later than Friday, May 2). For more information, students may also contact Mrs. Donovan at Thornton Fractional North HS (708-585-6011 or [jdovnan@tfd215.org](mailto:jdovnan@tfd215.org)) or Mrs. Barnhart at Thornton Fractional South HS (708-585-6009 or [sbarnhart@tfd215.org](mailto:sbarnhart@tfd215.org)) directly.

Our high schools and district are proud to offer these high quality educational options to qualifying seniors. Consider these valuable opportunities with your son/daughter and expect to receive more information about them early this fall. We will make excellent and diverse choices available to our seniors. Please consider the possibilities together and take the appropriate action.

I extend my best wishes to you and your family for a productive end to the 2007-08 school year and a safe, enjoyable summer.

Sincerely,



Creg E. Williams, Ed.D.

CEW:jmv