



RICH TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 227

20550 South Cicero Avenue
Matteson, Illinois 60443
708.679.5800 • www.rich227.org

October 3, 2020

Dear Rich Township Families,

We are excited to welcome our students back to in-person instruction, with our first group on campus for 50 percent hybrid instruction on **November 16**. I would like to provide you with important updates as we approach this date.

This correspondence is to communicate important information regarding the hybrid learning plan, fall testing and more. Please read the following communication in its entirety for additional updates.

[Click here to watch the weekly video message.](#)

Hybrid Learning Plan

The district will progress from remote instruction to hybrid instruction beginning **November 16**. In the hybrid model, students will engage in synchronous instruction both in-person and remotely. This model will serve 100 percent of the student body with approximately 50 percent of students attending school while 50 percent of the students will engage in instruction remotely. Students will participate in in-person instruction according to an alternating *A Week/B Week schedule*. Some groups of students will be identified for priority in-person instruction and will attend school every week. **All students will engage in remote asynchronous instruction on Fridays to allow for the deep cleaning of the buildings.**

It is strongly encouraged that students who have been identified for priority in-person instruction attend school every week in order to maximize their learning. Families will still have the option to opt out of in-person instruction, if their student or the student's family member has compromised health. In this case, students will engage in instruction remotely only.

Students will follow their flex schedule both in-person and remotely. If they are not able to follow their class schedule, the student will still be responsible for completing the work missed during class.

Additionally, the district will follow the Center for Disease Control's guidelines for in-person instruction: **15 students per classroom** and **50 students per large group space**. If the student is not able to participate in class while they are on campus due to a class cap, he or she will go to another designated space on campus to join the class remotely.

Students dually enrolled in Prairie State College will follow the *A Week/B Week schedule* and complete their coursework at their assigned campus. Prairie State College will provide further guidance when it becomes available. Star Academy students will also follow the *A Week/B Week schedule*.

Priority Instruction Groups - Students in the following programs are encouraged to attend in-person instruction everyday: ALPHA, Believe, Transition, self-contained English Language Learner program, and self-contained special education course.

Fall Testing

All school standardized testing for the Fall semester will occur during the month of October. Freshmen will take the PSAT 8/9, sophomores and juniors will take the PSAT/NMSQT, and current seniors must take the SAT as a graduation requirement. Students will be expected to be on campus to take the assessment, and transportation will be provided, if necessary. The table below shows the testing schedule for each exam by grade level and last name:

Test Date	Grade Level	Make-Ups/Accommodations
October 14 SAT	Seniors Last Name A-L	Seniors Accommodations Last Name A-Z.
October 14 PSAT NMSQT	Juniors Last Name A-M	Sophomores Accommodations Last Name A-Z Juniors Accommodations Last Name A-Z
October 27 SAT	Seniors Last Name M-Z	Make Up Seniors Make Up Accommodations
October 29 PSAT NMSQT	Juniors Last Name N-Z All Sophomores	Make Up Juniors Make Up Accommodations Make Up Accommodations
October 20 PSAT 8/9	Freshmen Last Name: A-J	PSAT 8/9 All Accommodations
October 22 PSAT 8/9	Freshmen Last Name K-Z	Make Up PSAT 8/9 Make Up Accommodations

Key:

Freshmen

Sophomores

Juniors

Seniors

[Click here to view a detailed testing schedule by grade level](#)

8th Grade Placement Testing

Transitioning from 8th grade to high school requires specific information to ensure your child is placed in the appropriate courses. In order to support this, Rich Township High School District 227 is offering placement testing on **October 17** and **October 24** from **8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** The College Board PSAT 8/9 will be the assessment administered. More information regarding the assessment can be found on The College Board's website at collegeboard.org. Students will be assessed on reading, writing, and math. The assessment will take approximately 2.5 hours, with additional time provided for scheduled breaks.

The deadline to register for the 8th grade placement testing is **Wednesday, October 7.**

[Click here to register](#)

SAT Boot Camps

As our seniors are getting ready to take the SAT in October, the district will offer two *virtual* SAT Prep sessions for all seniors on **Saturday, October 3**, and **Saturday, October 10**. Students are encouraged to attend both sessions. These prep sessions will cover citing textual evidence that best supports a given claim, revising text, creative approaches to solving math problems, and solving nonlinear equations. We want all of our students to take advantage of these sessions to bolster their skills before they take the SAT.

- **Saturday, October 3** - SAT Verbal Bootcamp: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

[Click here to join the October 3 session](#)

- **Saturday, October 10** - SAT Math Bootcamp: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

[Click here to join the October 10 session](#)

Parent-Teacher Conferences

The district will host *virtual* parent-teacher conferences on **Thursday, October 15**, and **Friday, October 16**. The link to sign up for your appointment time will be available next week.

Food Service

The Food Service Department is currently providing **five days of FREE breakfast and lunch for any child up to the age of 18 years. Families do not have to live in the community or attend the district schools.** There are no forms to fill out and no income requirements. This program is provided to **ALL** families regardless of their financial situation.

Parents may pick up meals without children being present. Meals are distributed through contactless drive through curbside distribution at both the **STEM** and **Fine Arts and Communications** campuses.

The next scheduled date for meal distribution is **Monday, October 5**.

Please see the important information when picking up meals:

Serving Schedule for the Rest of September:

Every Monday and Wednesday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Monday Evenings 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Locations:

Fine Arts and Communications— 5000 Sauk Trail— Richton Park, IL

STEM Campus— 3600 W. 203rd—Olympia Fields, IL

For more information, visit www.rich227.org, call 708-679-5728, or email bwilliams@rich227.org

Thank you for taking the time to read this important information. Feel free to reach out to the appropriate person if you have additional questions.

You may also follow us on social media:

- Facebook: @District227 @richtownships

- Twitter: @District227 @DrJohnnieThomas @richtownships
 - Instagram: @district227_ @richtownships
 - Superintendent's Message on our district
- website: <http://www.rich227.org/SuperintendentsMessage.aspx>

Your continued support of Rich Township High School District 227 is appreciated and vital to ensure student success.

Respectfully,

Dr. Johnnie Thomas
Superintendent