

A Message from the Superintendent



Rich Township Community,

In terms of the “St. John Incident”- as of this week, we have heard back from the St. John Police Department, the Merrillville FBI, the Cook County State’s Attorney and the Chicago FBI. There is no pending criminal investigation from any of those agencies at this time. However, we recognize the fact that an incident did occur, based on the statements in the St. John police investigative report, that is in direct conflict with our values and beliefs in terms of respect, tolerance and conflict resolution. Although the incident occurred at a private home on personal time, it has resulted in a public response that has affected our students’ learning environment with distractions. With this in mind, we are working to insure that there is a recalibration of the culture that will re-center us on our values and beliefs in tolerance, respect and positive conflict resolution. These efforts will include staff, students, parents and community working together to promote tolerance and good will as we work to support our students. While the incident over the summer may have involved only a few staff members, the entire Rich Central staff will be participating in cultural sensitivity training to launch our efforts, because we succeed, and fall short of our goals, together.

Finally, we are working with our legal counsel to finalize our internal investigation from the standpoint of the school district. Rich Township, we are a community of excellence and our collective response for our students will continue to showcase this fact.

Donna Simpson Leak, Ph.D

Superintendent