



RICH TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 227

20550 South Cicero Avenue
Matteson, Illinois 60443

708-679-5800 * www.rich227.org

April 18, 2021

Dear Rich Township Families,

Dr. Johnnie Thomas
Superintendent
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Dr. Alicia Evans
Assistant Superintendent
Of Business and
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Dr. Stephen Bournés
Assistant Superintendent
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Dr. Kim Echols
Assistant Superintendent
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Mr. Larry Varn
Principal
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As we approach the end of the school year, I would like to remind our students and parents about many end-of-the-year exams and project deadlines that are quickly approaching. All students enrolled in courses with capstone projects and experiences are required to complete those activities. This includes all Dual Credit, Dual Enrollment and Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Students are also required to take all certification exams in Dual Credit courses, complete all practicums such as clinical experiences for the CNA program and ride-alongs for the EMT program, and take all AP exams. Families will be contacted by teachers, counselors and campus administrators over the next two weeks to be reminded of this expectation.

Read more to learn important information regarding our summer programs, meal account refunds and more. Please read the following communication in its entirety for additional updates.

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

Senior Cap and Gown Pictures

If you are a senior who has not yet taken your cap and gown picture, there will be one more opportunity to take them on **Friday, April 16** from **8:00 am - 12:00 pm** at the Fine Arts and Communications campus Auditorium and **Friday, April 23** from **8:00 am - 12:00 pm** at the STEM campus Little Theater. Male students should wear a shirt and tie. The appointment should only take five minutes. If you do not have a cap and gown picture, your picture will not be displayed, and you will not have a yard sign made.

[Click here to schedule your appointment.](#)

Summer Programs

In addition to our virtual summer school program, the district will offer several in-person programs to our students this summer.

RAMP	Our incoming freshmen will participate in a six-week program to get them ready for high school and strengthen their skills in reading, math and science.
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	Families should sign up using this link: https://forms.gle/gQF4or7KRdk5Gfjm7
STAR Academy	Summer School is mandatory for all STAR Academy students. It will be in-person.
Freshmen-On-Track	In order to make sure our current freshmen are on track for graduation, those that are not will be required to attend summer school in-person. Campuses will notify families.
Senior Intensive	Senior students who have been identified for intensive credit recovery will attend summer school in-person. Campuses will notify families.
IB MYP	Freshmen and sophomore students who are enrolled in the IB Program are invited to attend the MYP summer program. This three-week program is in-person.
AP Boot Camp	Any students enrolled in AP Programs are invited to participate in the AP Boot Camp to get ready for their experience for the 2021-2022 school year.

Extended School Year (ESY) and Driver's Education will also be in-person. Students are always welcome to participate in any of the in-person programs offered for enrichment.

There will be a series of parent meetings in May for parents to learn more about our summer programs.

Testing

Last week, our juniors took the SAT. If they did not take the exam, which is an Illinois high school graduation requirement, make-up exams will be held on **April 27**. Next week, our freshmen will take the **PSAT 8/9** and our sophomores will take the **PSAT 10**. Students will be required to be on campus to take the assessments.

Please refer to the table below for the testing schedule:

Test	Dates	Time	Grade Level
PSAT 8/9	4/19	8:00 am - 11:30 am	All Freshmen (A-Z)
PSAT 10	4/21	8:00 am - 12:00 pm	All Sophomores (A-Z)
SAT	4/27	8:00 am - 1:30 pm	Any Junior that didn't test on 4/13

Students that are testing will not have any other academic responsibilities on the day of testing. All other students will be asynchronous. For example, freshmen will have no academic responsibilities other than testing on **April 19**. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors will participate in asynchronous learning on that day.

Transportation will be provided, and all health and safety guidelines will be followed for testing, just like regular school days. Everyone will be required to wear a mask and practice social distancing. All participating students will be able to have a "grab-and-go" breakfast and lunch on their testing day.

Parent University

REMINDER: Rich Township High District 227 presents **Parent University 2021: Empowering Parent During a Pandemic**. The virtual event will be held **Saturday, April 24** from **9:00 am - 12:00 pm**. Workshops include: Bridging Academic Loss, Completing the FAFSA, the International Baccalaureate Program, Mental Health, Credit Repair, and Parent Empowerment. There will also be a student recognition ceremony and student performances.

[Click here to RSVP](#)

There will be door prizes, raffles and incentives for the first 25 parents who register, so please RSVP as soon as possible!

Future Ready

The district will host its second Future Ready celebration virtually this year on **April 28** from **6:00 pm - 7:00 pm**. Future Ready recognizes our seniors who have earned a college credit through Advanced Placement, Dual Credit or Dual Enrollment. We invite you to attend this celebration for senior students and their parents via Zoom. Invitations will also be sent by mail and email.

[Click here to RSVP](#)

Meal Account Refunds

As we approach the end of the current school year, we want to notify you of the procedures regarding student meal account refunds. All graduating seniors will automatically receive a refund of the balance on their food service meal accounts at the end of the school year. For all other students, money in their meal accounts will carry over into the next school year and can be used for future purchases, as needed. Parents preferring a refund of any balance over \$1.00 can make a request by sending an email to bwilliams@rich227.org. Please include the student's name, parent name and current mailing address in the request.

Food Service

Due to our status as a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) district, **ALL STUDENTS now qualify for FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH DAILY** at school. **If your student has chosen a Hybrid Learning Model and is attending alternating in-person days in class, please encourage them to take advantage of the free meals offered to them on in-person days.** We

also want to remind parents that meals for alternate days of remote learning can be picked up at the Curbside Meals Distribution Program on a weekly basis. Please see the information below for the scheduled distribution days and times.

The Food Service Department is currently providing **seven 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.

Please note that the location of drive through pick-up station at the STEM campus has been moved to the back of the school building. Vehicles should still line up in the front circle drive on distribution days, and security will direct the traffic, allowing only a few cars at a time to proceed to the back of the school.

Distribution Days and Hours in April:

Monday, April 19 - 10 am – 1 pm and 5 pm - 7 pm

Wednesday, April 21 - 10 am – 1 pm

Monday, April 26 - 10 am – 1 pm and 5 pm - 7 pm

Wednesday, April 28 - 10 am – 1 pm

The next scheduled date for meal distribution is **Monday, April 19.**

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