



## **RICH TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 227**

20550 South Cicero Avenue  
Matteson, Illinois 60443

708-679-5800 \* [www.rich227.org](http://www.rich227.org)

April 23, 2021

Dear Rich Township Families,

I hope this message finds you safe and well. We want to provide our families with an update about many end-of-the-year events surrounding our academic and athletic programs. Read more to learn important information regarding FAFSA, freshmen enrollment 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**

**LAST CHANCE:** If you are a senior who has not yet taken your cap and gown picture, there will be one final opportunity to take them on **Wednesday, April 28** from **7:30 am - 9:00 am** and **3:30 pm - 5:30 pm** at both campuses. 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.](#)

### **FAFSA**

State law now requires all Illinois public high school seniors to complete either the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid (Alternative Application) as a requirement to receiving a high school diploma.

As a reminder to our families, the deadline to complete the FAFSA is **Friday, April 30**. If you have any questions or need any support, please do not hesitate to contact one of our post-secondary success team members which includes your child's counselor, College Career, Military liaison, or transition coordinator.

Ms. Briana Mathews <a href="mailto:Bmathews@rich227.org">Bmathews@rich227.org</a>	Mr. Duane Willingham <a href="mailto:Dwillingham@rich227.org">Dwillingham@rich227.org</a>
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### **Ronald McDonald Care Mobile**

The next date that the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile will offer physicals and vaccines is **Tuesday, May 4**.

In partnership with the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile (RMCM), the district will offer families another opportunity to receive medical compliance support by offering required physicals and immunizations to students for free. Remember to fill out your application two weeks prior to attending. Parents may also register for the RMCM via phone at (708) 679-5647.

[Click here to complete consent forms](#)

### **Summer Programs**

The summer school registration link is now available [HERE](#) and on the district website. Summer school fees have been waived for in district students for the 2021 Summer Credit Recovery program only. Students will still have to pay for Driver’s Education courses. Students must meet with their counselors to determine what courses they should sign up for, and the counselors must approve summer school course requests. Summer school begins **Monday, June 7**.

We know in-person instruction is best for students, families, and academic achievement and social-emotional well-being. That is why in order to address the learning loss experienced by some of our students during this pandemic, we are also offering a number of in-person summer programs:

<b>RAMP</b>	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.  Families should sign up using this link: <a href="https://forms.gle/gQF4or7KRdK5Gfjm7">https://forms.gle/gQF4or7KRdK5Gfjm7</a>
<b>STAR Academy</b>	Summer School is mandatory for all STAR Academy students. It will be in-person.
<b>Freshmen-On-Track</b>	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.
<b>Freshmen Enrichment</b>	Open to any 9 <sup>th</sup> grade student who want to improve reading and math skills.
<b>Senior Intensive</b>	Senior students who have been identified for intensive credit recovery will attend summer school in-person. Campuses will notify families.
<b>IB MYP</b>	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.
<b>AP Boot Camp</b>	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.

For more information, please check [our website](#).

## Freshman Enrollment

We want to share information about the enrollment process which opens on **Monday, May 10**, for incoming freshmen, as well as the necessary documents that you will need to submit. Please note that this is a two-step process, and we have made every effort to keep the new process simple, convenient, and safe!

Parents are required to complete the online enrollment information prior to scheduling your in-person appointment.

**Step 1: Online Enrollment** - The new online student enrollment system is a secure and paperless process. Parents/guardians will receive a letter/email with instructions on how to access the system as well as their secure, unique registration code that enables them to complete the enrollment process once they have proven residency and provided the required enrollment forms and documents.

**Step 2: In-person Registration** - In-person registration is required for all incoming freshmen. Parents must bring all required student documents in order to complete registration. You must schedule a time for your appointment.

You will need the following documents:

<b>(1) of the following:</b>	<b>(1) of the following:</b>	<b><u>PARENT</u> (if not the homeowner)</b>
Driver's License State or Other Photo ID	Current Lease ( <i>with parent/guardian name and address</i> ) Current Mortgage Statement	Driver's License ( <i>with current address</i> ) Proof (2) ( <i>with current address</i> ) Affidavit of Residency ( <i>notarized</i> )
<b>(2) of the following: (dated within the last 60 days)</b>		
Electric Bill Water Bill Phone Bill Gas Bill Car Insurance	Cable Bill Car Registration Village Car Sticker Tax Bill Public Aid/Medicaid Card	Pay Stub W2 Form Credit Card Statement Home/Renters Insurance Bank Statement

Key dates:

May 10	Online enrollment opens Online meal benefits opens
June 4	Online enrollment portal closes

June 10 and 16	Daytime dates for new student residency verification and Physical/Dental form submission
June 17 and 24	Evening dates for new student residency verification and Physical/Dental form submission 4 pm to 7 pm
July 1	Deadline for physical and immunization records to the nurse's office. Dental forms are also accepted

This information will also be mailed and emailed.

### **AP Exam Fees**

Last year, the College Board changed the way students register for AP exams. All students register for AP exams in the fall and the district pays the exam fee when the student registers. If a student does not sit for an AP exam, the family will be responsible for the missed exam fee of \$95 per exam.

It is an expectation that all students enrolled in courses with capstone projects and experiences are required to participate in those activities. This includes all Dual Credit, Dual Enrollment and Advanced Placement courses.

### **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**. There is still time for RSVP!

[Click here to RSVP](#)

### **Future Ready**

**REMINDER:** We are looking forward to celebrating our students at our 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](#)

### **Athletics**

Summer season is here; Baseball, Softball, Boys Volleyball, Boys Tennis, Boys/Girls Track, and Girls Soccer Buses are available to pick up remote students to bring them to practices starting at 4:00 pm. There are also 5:45 pm and 6:45 pm activity buses to take students home from practice.

All bus route information and the athletic home page can be found on the [Athletic section](#) of the website.

All practice information can be found by contacting the program coaches or visiting [il.8to18.com/RichTownship](http://il.8to18.com/RichTownship)

### **Baseball**

Coach Stallings  
[cstallings@rich227.org](mailto:cstallings@rich227.org)  
STEM campus

### **Softball**

Coach Data  
[mdata@rich227.org](mailto:mdata@rich227.org)  
STEM campus

### **Girls Soccer**

Coach Clark  
[aclark@rich227.org](mailto:aclark@rich227.org)  
STEM campus

### **Boys Volleyball**

Coach Polensky  
[apolensky@rich227.org](mailto:apolensky@rich227.org)  
STEM campus

### **Boys Tennis**

Coach Stein  
[dstein@rich227.org](mailto:dstein@rich227.org)  
STEM campus

### **Boys Track**

Coach Stanko  
[dstanko@rich227.org](mailto:dstanko@rich227.org)  
STEM campus

### **Girls Track**

Coach Green  
[sgreen@rich227.org](mailto:sgreen@rich227.org)  
STEM campus

Please contact your campus Athletic Director with any questions or concerns:  
STEM campus: Keith White; [kwhite@rich227.org](mailto:kwhite@rich227.org), (708) 679-5794

### **Upcoming Auction**

We will be hosting an auction for all Rich Central, Rich East, and Rich South uniforms along with various other items, including weight room and classroom equipment. We will provide more details and a link to purchase these items online at a later date.

### **Upcoming Brick Fundraiser**

Construction is underway on our new football stadium and track at the Fine Arts and Communications campus. To finalize the project, we are offering a chance for our alumni and current families to purchase a Legacy brick to lay in the entry way of the stadium. We will provide more details and information on how to place your mark at Rich Township High School at a later date.

### **Transportation**

Information regarding the new combined bus routes is posted on our website. Please refer to the link below for regular updates.

[Click here to view transportation information](#)

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Koperski at the Fine Arts and Communications campus at (708) 679-3195 or Ms. Lindholm at the STEM campus at (708) 679-5815.

### **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](mailto: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 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 26.**

***Locations:***

*Fine Arts and Communications – 5000 Sauk Trail – Richton Park, IL*

*STEM Campus – 3600 W. 203<sup>rd</sup> - Olympia Fields, IL*

For more information, visit [www.rich227.org](http://www.rich227.org), call 708-679-5728, or email [bwilliams@rich227.org](mailto:bwilliams@rich227.org)

**Construction Update (FAC Campus)**

Demolition and staging have already begun at the Fine Arts and Communications campus. The stadium, bleachers and press box have been demolished and the track is closed to the public. The construction team will continue to work during the summer and into next fall. The projects that will be completed at the Fine Arts campus during this project phase are listed below:

- New football stadium (October 2021 targeted completion)
- New field house in progress (2022 targeted completion)
- Main entrance renovations
- North gym renovation into new music space
- New Teachers workspace
- HVAC upgrades – RTU'S replacing older units along with Building Automation upgrades
- New large group instructional space and bathroom renovations
- Roof replacement – B wing
- Electrical upgrades – New transformer and switch gear

The electrical upgrade project will begin shortly. The timetable is below:

<b>Important Dates</b>	<b>Activity</b>
<b>April 19, 2021</b>	New Transformer is set
<b>April 23, 2021</b>	Airport back feed existing transformer shutdown
<b>May 4, 2021</b>	ComEd set-up date; includes pole install on south end of Sauk Trail.
<b>May 14, 2021</b>	Airport receives new switch gear on site for electrical room
<b>May 21, 2021 or May 28, 2021</b>	ComEd shutdown to tie in new transformer and disconnect the old.

Please note that these updates will not impact the community. There will not be any expected power outages because of the project.

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