



RICH TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 227

20550 South Cicero Avenue
Matteson, Illinois 60443

708-679-5800 * www.rich227.org

April 4, 2021

Dear Rich Township Families,

A few weeks ago, we communicated that the district will be having an in-person ceremony for the graduating Class of 2021 on **Sunday, May 23**. A letter will be sent home to the families of graduating seniors with additional information about registration, tickets and other expectations.

In order to get ready for graduation day, here are some important items that each graduating senior needs to complete:

- If you have not done so already, please send your height and weight to the senior class sponsor by **April 15** so your cap and gown can be ordered.
- All seniors need to take a cap and gown picture. Students will need to schedule an appointment for the **April 6** make-up day at TKschoolphoto@gmail.com.
- If students are not able to make the **April 6** date, cap and gown make-up pictures will also be scheduled for the week of **April 12**. 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.
- FAFSA forms must be submitted by **April 30** in order to be eligible to participate in the Class of 2021 graduation ceremony.

This is a very exciting and rewarding time for our seniors, so please make sure you complete these steps and are able to take part in this experience!

Read more to learn important information regarding Parent University, FAFSA and more. Please read the following communication in its entirety for additional updates.

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

Parent University

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!

FAFSA

Beginning with the 2020-21 academic year, state law 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. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the Alternative Application helps students secure funds to support their post-secondary endeavors and counts as an automatic application for a variety of financial aid resources including scholarships offered at many institutions. Financial aid obtained through the FAFSA can also pay for technical or vocational school.

Below you will find links for the FAFSA and the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid:

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa	Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid https://studentportal.isac.org/en/alternativeapp
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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, transition coordinator, or College Career, Military liaison:

Ms. Briana Mathews Bmathews@rich227.org	Mr. Duane Willingham Dwillingham@rich227.org
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AP Practice Testing

In order to support our students as they get ready to take Advanced Placement exams in May, campuses will be offering AP Practice Test Sessions on the following Fridays: **April 16, April 23** and **April 30** from **8 am - 12 pm**. Practice test sessions will be held at both the Fine Arts and Communications and STEM campuses. Students should sign up with their AP teacher in order to take advantage of this opportunity.

Dental Exams

Parents Smile Illinois Mobile Dentist will be at District Office (20550 South Cicero, Matteson, IL 60443) on **Monday, April 5**, to provide dental exams for students that are currently in 9th grade who need their dental exams as required by the Illinois Department of Public Health. The mobile dentist will serve all students regardless of insurance (or no insurance). Please visit [our website](#) under parent resources for the links to register. You may also pick up enrollment forms at the campus with your school nurse. Appointments are going fast! Please register today.

- FAC Campus: https://www.myschooldentist.com/FCRTIL_sch
- STAR Academy: https://www.myschooldentist.com/SARTIL_sch
- STEM Campus: https://www.myschooldentist.com/SCRTIL_sch

Dental Assisting Program

Prairie State still has seats open for the Dental Assisting program for the 2021-2022 school year. Rising juniors that are interested in this two-year program are invited to attend a virtual informational session on **Monday, April 12 at 7:30 pm** with Professor Dawn Piper. Students will earn 42 hours of college credit and earn their Dental Assisting Certification with the opportunity to enroll in the Dental Hygiene Program.

[Click here to view flyer](#)

Meeting link: <https://zoom.us/j/92910392135>

Important Pandemic Electronics Benefits (P-EBT) Information

The State of Illinois is approved to provide new Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer Program (P-EBT) benefits to all eligible Illinois students. Families in our district may qualify for P-EBT because we are a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program's Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). You do not need to complete an application to receive these benefits. Please note that citizenship status does not affect eligibility.

[Click here to learn about Pandemic EBT \(P-EBT\) SNAP Benefits Program](#)

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.

DUE TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT SPRING BREAK, THERE WILL NOT BE FOOD DISTRIBUTION THE WEEK OF APRIL 5 – 9.

Distribution Days and Hours in April:

Wednesday, April 14 - 10 am – 1 pm and 5 pm - 7 pm

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 **Wednesday, April 14.**

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