



RICH TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 227

20550 South Cicero Avenue
Matteson, Illinois 60443

708-679-5800 * www.rich227.org

August 13, 2021

Dear Rich Township Families,

Dr. Johnnie Thomas
Superintendent
jthomas@rich227.org

Dr. Alicia Evans
Assistant Superintendent
Of Business and
Operations
aevans@rich227.org

Dr. Stephen Bournés
Assistant Superintendent
Of Educational Services
sbournes@rich227.org

Dr. Kim Echols
Assistant Superintendent
Of Human Resources
kechols@rich227.org

Mr. Larry Varn
Principal
lvarn@rich227.org

We've officially finished the first week of the school year and I am incredibly happy about how far we've come from this time last year. Earlier this week, our staff attended Institute Day to collaborate and ultimately improve our students' successes, but also found some time to have some fun. We had a great time with our staff, especially with the *Raptor Race Scavenger Hunt*. Also, with safety as our top priority, we wrapped up orientation this week for all of our students. It was great to see our students back in school, returning to a sense of normalcy. In the following weeks, we will begin transitioning our students to full in-person instruction.

Read more to learn important information regarding our return to school, food service and more. Please read the following communication in its entirety for additional updates.

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

Return to School

Next week, all juniors and seniors will report to school for in-person instruction. Freshmen and sophomores will stay at home and engage in remote instruction. The week of August 23 to 27, all freshmen and sophomores will report to school for in-person instruction. Juniors and seniors will remain at home for remote instruction during this week. Students in the Transition, ALPHA and BELIEVE programs will report for in-person instruction every day from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the weeks of August 16 and August 23.

Beginning August 30, ALL students report to school for full days of instruction.

FRESHMEN/SOPHOMORE

9 th /10 th	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 2 8/16-20/21	ALL FRESHMEN/SOPHOMORES REMOTE				
Week 3 8/23-27/21	ALL FRESHMEN/SOPHOMORES IN-PERSON				

JUNIOR/SENIOR

11th/12th	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 2 8/16-20/21	ALL JUNIORS/SENIORS IN-PERSON				
Week 3 8/23-27/21	ALL JUNIORS/SENIORS REMOTE				

Face Masks

Based on guidance from Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to support safe in-person learning, face masks are **required** to be worn indoors by all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. Face masks must cover the nose and mouth and may only be removed when eating or drinking. We will continue to monitor public health indicators and updates from the CDC and the Illinois Department of Public Health, and we will communicate with you immediately if or when any changes occur.

Vaccinations

In alignment with guidance from ISBE, we continue to provide vaccinations to our school communities and encourage families and staff to get vaccinated. We are pleased to report that 86 people were vaccinated at our last clinic. The district, in partnership with the Cook County Department of Health, will sponsor another vaccination event on **Thursday, August 19 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the District Office** located at 20550 S. Cicero Avenue in Matteson, Illinois. If you participated in the event on July 29, you will be able to get the second dose of the Pfizer vaccine. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine will also be available. Thanks to our educational partners, we will be able to offer incentives for students and staff to get vaccinated.

Vote for the New *Raptors* Costume!

We are working on securing a mascot costume for our home events and we need your input! [CLICK HERE](#) to vote for the look of our new mascot!

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 families, both old and new, an opportunity to purchase a Legacy brick to lay in the entry way of the stadium.

[Click here to purchase a Legacy brick](#)

You will need to register for an account through the online platform. Once you have purchased a brick you will need to access the Google form link to submit your text that will go on your brick. You will receive a confirmation email with a sample brick image.

Please use the “Contact Us” link on the website if you have any questions.

Athletics

Registration is now open for fall sports and activities! Please click on the following link to get signed up for any athletic and/or activities you are interested in joining for the upcoming school year.

[Click here to register](#)

Transportation

The 2021 - 2022 bus routing information is posted on the transportation section of the website. Some changes have been made and we are continually working through changes. Please look for updates throughout the week.

[Click here to view transportation information](#)

Food Service

The Food Service Department is excited to welcome all our students back to the 2021-22 school year! We want to remind you that our school district is now a *Community Eligibility Provision* District, which means **ALL** our students receive a **FREE** breakfast and **FREE** lunch daily when at school. Now that our students are eating their meals free, we wanted to do something new and different in the cafeterias. As you return to the school cafeteria, you will be able to experience our new *Cafe 227 Food Court*.

Every day can be a new culinary adventure or a chance to dine on your favorite meals consistently. Start your day out right with breakfast from the Waffle Bar, the Yogurt Bar, or the Rise and Dine Cafe in the morning. At lunchtime, visit the *Taste of Italy, South of the Border, Hot Off the Grill, Wings and Things, Souper Fresh and Green, or the Marketplace* and enjoy an abundance of choices that are sure to feature all your favorites culinary delights. So let us be your favorite school subject! Come dine with us daily! All you need to bring with you is your appetite!

Food Service is no longer accepting meal applications. Parents requesting a fee waiver for school fees must fill out a Waiver Application available on the district’s website at www.rich227.org. Return as directed on the form for approval by the Business Office.

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