



RICH TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 227

20550 South Cicero Avenue
Matteson, Illinois 60643
708.679.5716 • www.rich227.org

December 11, 2020

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
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Dr. Kim Echols
Assistant Superintendent
Of Human Resources
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Mr. Larry Varn
Principal
lvarn@rich227.org

Last week, a tragic fire took place at an apartment complex in Richton Park and over 20 families were displaced. It is our goal to help the families in our community in times of need and we will use our school as a resource and pillar of the community. That's why we will be starting a GoFundMe page at www.gofundme.com/227families for these families where we have a goal of raising \$50,000 in order to restore a sense of normalcy and recovery for their losses. We encourage our families to donate because we are stronger, together.

Read more to learn important information regarding incomplete assignments, the financial aid process, and more. Please read the following communication in its entirety for additional updates.

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

An Update on Incomplete Work

As part of the district's efforts to focus on our students and student success, Rich Township will support students who had incompletes from Spring 2020 in the following ways:

1. Seniors who are in the process of completing incompletes from Spring will have until **January 5, 2021** to submit required assignments.
2. Seniors will also be scheduled to retake classes second semester if they are graduation requirements and their schedule permits.
3. If a senior has not been scheduled 2nd semester to retake the class, they will be considered for one of the mandatory options below:
 - a. Assigned to an academic Lab for credit recovery
 - b. Scheduled for Afterschool Credit Recovery
4. Sophomores and juniors who have incompletes from the spring will have the same options:
 - a. Academic Lab Assignment for credit recovery
 - b. Afterschool Credit Recovery
 - c. If schedule permits, the student can retake the class second semester

Financial Aid and Paying for College Workshops

Rich Township will offer two college readiness presentations for our families next month. The first will assist students with the FAFSA application and understanding award packages. The Financing College Workshop will be held virtually **Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm.**

The second workshop, The College Readiness Conference: *Cracking the Code*, will be held virtually **Saturday, January 23, 2021 at 10:00 am – 11:30 am.** It will address award package negotiation, how to be successful as a first-generation college student, and post-secondary success in technology and certification programs. There will be attendance incentives for teachers and students. These workshops will include breakout sessions.

[Please click here to register for the event](#)

Placement Testing Reminder

The last day for our incoming freshmen to register for the PSAT 8/9 if they did not participate in placement testing in October is **Friday, January 8, 2021.**

[Please click here to register](#)

Activities

Spotlight: Raptor Speech Team

Our Speech Team has been working hard during the pandemic to make sure they will excel during competition. Coach Seyfried and Coach Grigsby have provided the Raptor Speech team with as many opportunities as possible during the pandemic and the Speech team is roaring!

Please join me in congratulating the following students on their outstanding performances:

November 21st Reavis Tournament:

- Dayja Johnson and Julienne Sanchez: 3rd Place Humorous Duet Acting
- Mira Riley: 4th Place Poetry
- Lamine Sidime: 4th Place Radio Speaking

November 21st Thornton Tournament:

- Mira Riley: 6th Place Poetry

December 5th DeKalb Tournament:

- Dayja Johnson and Julienne Sanchez: 6th Place Humorous Duet Acting
- Julienne Sanchez: 4th Place Special Occasion Speaking

Athletics

In earlier communication it was stated that we would resume winter sports on November 30. Upon receiving guidance from Governor Pritzker, the Illinois High School Association, and the Illinois Board of Education, Rich Township High School will be pausing all winter sports practices and competitions effective immediately. We will continue to update you as more information becomes available. Stay up to date with new information by visiting the [Athletics](#) page on our website.

Our school district is determined to continue to offer as many athletic opportunities as possible for students, while adhering to safety guidelines given to us from the IDPH, ISBE, and IHSA. We are disappointed that we have to pause our programs at this time, but coaches will remain in communication with our athletes virtually and will be ready when we are given clearance to return to in-person practices.

Information can be found by contacting the program coaches.

Boys Basketball

Coach Crossley
ccrossley@rich227.org
STEM campus

Competitive Cheerleading

Coach Garrett
agarrett@rich227.org
STEM campus

Girls Bowling

Coach Wolf
swolf@rich227.org
STEM campus

Girls Basketball

Coach Mays
bmays@dist159.com
Fine Arts and Communications campus

Competitive Dance

Coach Lusby
rlusby@rich227.org
Fine Arts and Communications campus

Boys Bowling

Coach Larsen

clarsen@rich227.org

Fine Arts and Communications campus

Please contact your campus Athletic Director with any questions or concerns:

Fine Arts Campus: Omari Garrett; ogarrett@rich227.org, (708) 679-3159

STEM Campus: Keith White; kwhite@rich227.org, (708) 679-5794

Transportation

November 30th Recovery Camp Bus routes are now posted on our website:

[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.

Food Service

The Food Service Department is currently providing **five 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.

During the month of December, the distribution days and times are as follows:

Monday, December 14 - 10:00 am - 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 16 - 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Wednesday, December 30 – 9:00 am-12:00 pm

The next scheduled date for meal distribution is **Monday, December 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

WHY PICK UP FREE MEALS FOR YOUR CHILDREN?

- **Healthy meals help fuel student learning.**
- **It is safe and convenient - curbside grab and go!**
- **Meals are varied and provide healthy daily nutrition.**
- **Save time and money on grocery shopping and preparing meals.**
- **Any child up to 18 years of age are eligible for free meals all school year.**
- **Your participation helps support and strengthen the school nutrition program for all children.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

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