



RICH TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 227

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

December 19, 2020

Dear Rich Township Families,

Happy holidays!

We've made it to the end of the year and semester! This has truly been a noteworthy year, filled with tons of uncertainty and adversity, and you remained resilient through it all, which is a huge accomplishment in itself. I hope you take the next few weeks to rest and reflect on your journey up to this point and appreciate the progress you have made. The new year will bring new experiences and learning opportunities, and this year has prepared you to grow and develop with a new outlook on all that life has to offer.

Read more to learn important information regarding course scheduling, information for incoming freshmen and more. Please read the following communication in its entirety for additional updates.

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

End of First Semester

As a reminder, the first semester ended on **Friday, December 18**. Winter break for our students begins on **Monday, December 21** and ends **Monday, January 4, 2021**. Report cards will be mailed on **Monday, December 28**. The second semester will begin on **Tuesday, January 5, 2021**.

Course Scheduling

We have begun the process for scheduling students for 2021-2022 school year courses. Students are meeting with their counselors in small groups and completing the course selection forms. It is very important that students check their email daily, attend their counselor sessions, and follow all the instructions for the course selection process. If a student does not complete the courses selection process, they will be given a default schedule for the 2021- 2022 school year.

Dr. Johnnie Thomas
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Mr. Larry Varn
Principal
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Strategic Planning Parent Interest Survey

The district is planning to engage our stakeholders in a review of the Strategic Plan beginning in January. If you would like to be considered to participate in District 227's Strategic Plan for the next few years, please [click here](#).

Incoming Freshmen

We are in the process of planning for your student's freshmen high school experience and scheduling classes for them. If you are the parent of an incoming freshmen, it is vitally important that you respond to the survey link below as well as complete the student profile form.

All parents of incoming freshmen are required to complete the following forms:

- **Freshmen Intention Form Due: January 15, 2021**

[Click here to complete the form.](#)

- **Student Profile Form Due: January 15, 2021**

Please complete the form even if you do not plan to attend Rich Township or if you are undecided. We want to make sure they are accounted for and do not miss any important information that they will need for the upcoming school year.

Your partnership in this effort is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Office of Educational Services at 708-679-5872.

Virtual Raptor Relaxation Room

This time of the year can be a difficult time not for our families and staff alike. This holiday season is exacerbated by the stress and frustrations of COVID-19. Our social workers in partnership with our tech coaches have created the Virtual Raptor Relaxation Room for our students to access relaxation and de-stressing techniques when they need support during remote learning, the pandemic, and the holiday season. This link is posted on our website, other district social media and below.

[Click here to enter the room.](#)

Financial Aid and Paying for College Workshops

We are in the midst of the college application season, and part of that process is completing the FAFSA, which is a graduation requirement for all seniors. Parents who would like more information on paying for college are encouraged to attend the upcoming workshops in January.

- The Financing College Workshop will be held virtually Thursday, January 14, 2021 from 6:00- 7:30 p.m.
- The College Readiness Conference: *Cracking the Code* will be held virtually Saturday, January 23, 2021 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

[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](#)

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.

Please see the information below regarding the food during our Winter Break.

There will be NO food distribution the week of December 21.

On Wednesday, December 30, food distribution will take place from 9 am - 12 pm at both campuses.

Distribution Days and Hours in January:

Wednesday, January 6 from 10 am – 1 pm and 5 pm - 7 pm

Monday, January 11 from 10 am – 1 pm and 5 pm - 7 pm

Wednesday, January 13 from 10 am – 1 pm

Tuesday, January 19 from 10 am – 1 pm and 5 pm - 7 pm

Thursday, January 21 from 10 am – 1 pm

Monday, January 25 from 10 am – 1 pm and 5 pm - 7 pm

Wednesday, January 27 from 10 am – 1 pm

The next scheduled date for meal distribution is **Wednesday, December 30.**

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