



RICH TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 227

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

December 4, 2020

Dear Rich Township Families,

Thank you to our students, families, faculty, and staff for your understanding, patience, and resilience as we continue to keep Rich Township High School and our community safe and healthy.

Today I am sharing important updates for our community as we approach the end of the semester. At this time, there are several new resources available to our students to help them improve their grades by completing make-up assignments and receive extra-credit that I will explain in greater detail in this message. Now more than ever it is crucial that we are partnering with our parents and students to focus on our students and their success.

Read more to learn important information regarding remote learning resources, the 2021-2022 school year course selection process, and more. Please read the following communication in its entirety for additional updates.

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

Remote Learning Resources

There are only two weeks left in the semester and in order to make sure our students finish strong, we want to make you aware of some important interventions and resources and clarify previous communications with more specific details. Nationally and locally, school districts are seeing a very large number of students failing classes during remote instruction. District 227, like other districts, is problem solving to reverse the low performance and low student attendance so that our students are not adversely affected during this pandemic.

Below are several remote learning resources that are available to our students:

- The last two weeks of the semester will be used for enrichment and make-up only. During this time students will be able to redo, revise, and resubmit assignments to improve their grade. Students with B's or higher can continue to grow their mastery by taking advantage of the differentiated instruction that teachers will be providing, and are encouraged to attend class for extra-credit, work on Khan Academy and more. All other students are required to attend class in order to enhance their mastery.

- Recovery Camps and Remote Assistance Programs (RAP) will continue through **December 18** for all grade levels to provide support to students on campus.
- All teachers have office hours and students are encouraged to get additional help from their teachers during their Raptor Time.
- Academic labs are scheduled throughout the day and staffed with content area teachers.

We encourage our parents to check PowerSchool and reach out to their student's teachers, counselors and Academy Leaders to make sure our students are taking advantage of these resources.

Parent Tech Café

The District 227 Tech Team will host a virtual Parent TechCafé session on **Tuesday, December 8 at 5:30 pm** that will cover "Parent PowerSchool Accounts." Topics covered during this session will include an overview of PowerSchool, account creation, notifications, and password reset (if needed). Registration is required using the link below and **must** be completed by **December 7, no later than 5:30 p.m.** Registrations will **not** be allowed less than 24 hours prior to the event.

[Click here to register for Parent TechCafé](#)

The link to the event will be sent to participants after the registration has been completed. It will take place on Google Meet.

Program Fair

The *2020 Virtual Program Fair* began today. Our Signature Pathways will be featured in an all-inclusive video on the district website and our social media pages. Visit our website to learn more about our New and Returning Pathways on both campuses.

Coming back bigger and better is our state-of-the-art Culinary and Hospitality Pathway, Performing Arts Pathway and Business and Finance Pathway. New programs coming to Rich Township High School next year are Agricultural Science for freshmen, International Baccalaureate (IB) for freshmen and sophomores, and Broadcast Technology programs for sophomore and beyond.

Be sure to visit the *2020 Virtual Program Fair* and share the link with your friends and family.

Course Scheduling

Students will begin the course request process for the 2021 - 2022 school year beginning in December. Freshmen and sophomores may have pre-work that should be completed prior to choosing classes or declaring a pathway.

Counselors will post a video on Schoology giving the general information for course selection.

Counselors will also post a link for students to sign-up to meet with each other during their Raptor Time similar to link used for parent-teacher conferences. Counselors may also meet during advisory.

Students should use their district-issued email for communicating with their counselor and completing 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.

The link for the course selection forms will be sent to the student's district email. It is important to know that this form will not process from any other email. If you do not know your email or how to access it, please email technology@rich227.org and request a password reset and instructions on how to reset your password once they receive confirmation that the password has been reset.

Resources such as the course scheduling process, course selection timeline and the curriculum handbook will be posted on our website. If a student needs any additional assistance during this process, they should contact their counselor.

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.

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

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 7 - 10:00 am - 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 9 - 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

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

The next scheduled date for meal distribution is **Monday, December 7**.

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!

Catch Cans for Christmas

The Rich Township Key Club is excited to announce its annual holiday food drive called “*Catch Cans for Christmas!*” This year, the theme is “*Battle of the Raptors*” where our teams, clubs, and administrators will compete to collect and donate the most non-perishable food items. The group that donates the most items will receive a lunch party when we return to school!

The district has a goal of collecting 1,000 non-perishable food items to donate to our local food pantry, so please help us reach this goal and help our families in need this holiday season.

Due to CDC guidelines, there will be **ONE DAY DROP OFF** at the STEM Campus. Additional information will be forthcoming.

[Click here to view the flyer](#)

Virtual Contractor Outreach Session

The district invites you to join us for a virtual contractor outreach session on **Wednesday, December 9 from 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm.**

The event will take place on Zoom. See below for call-in number and meeting ID:

Call-in: (312) - 626-6799

Meeting ID: 843 2593 7549

The district is looking for interested bidders to participate on the upcoming projects at Rich Township High Schools. These projects will involve a new Stadium and Field House and various renovations and repairs to both Rich Township High School campuses.

Please feel free to reach out for additional information or to RSVP to the session:

Steve Moore

smoore@pepperconstruction.com

847-620-4006

Jimmy Akintonde

jakintonde@ujamaaconstruction.com

773-602-1100

[Click here to view the flyer](#)

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