



RICH TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 227

20550 South Cicero Avenue
Matteson, Illinois 60443

708-679-5800 * www.rich227.org

February 15, 2021

Dear Rich Township Families,

Dr. Johnnie Thomas
Superintendent
jthomas@rich227.org

We have completed five weeks of the second semester and mid-quarter grades will be mailed on **Tuesday, February 16**, that reflects work up to Friday, February 12. Parents have PowerSchool access as well and can always monitor their student's course performance using PowerSchool. We acknowledge all of our students' perseverance in completing assignments during remote and hybrid learning, and we recognize that remote learning has posed challenges for all of our students. We want to remind our families during this time of the resources and supports available to help our students be successful.

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

Additionally, I am very proud to announce that efforts are well underway to get our teachers and staff the COVID-19 vaccine. We want to reduce the risk of transmission on campus while providing the highest quality of education and instruction, and the vaccine is the first step in that process.

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

Read more to learn important information regarding upcoming events, after school programs and more. Please read the following communication in its entirety for additional updates.

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

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

Mr. Larry Varn
Principal
lvarn@rich227.org

Parent Tech Café

The District 227 Tech Team will host another virtual Parent Tech Café session on **Thursday, February 25 at 5:30 pm** that will cover "Classroom Tools." An overview of 4 commonly used technology tools (Nearpod, Flipgrid, EdPuzzle, Kami) used by students in their classes will be presented. Parents will learn about each tool from a student's perspective and how they may assist their student at home with these tools. Registration is **required** using the link below and **must** be completed by **February 24, 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.

Navy National Defense Cadet Corps

Students who are interested in participating in our new Navy National Defense Cadet Corps (NNDCC) program this school year should contact their counselor to have the class added to their schedule. The NNDCC is open to all grade levels.

College, Career and Military Readiness Liaison

We want to take this opportunity to remind our parents of an important district resource. The district has a College, Career and Military Readiness Liaison at each campus. The College, Career and Military Readiness Liaisons support students with all aspects of post-secondary planning including, completing financial aid applications, finding scholarships and applying for apprenticeships.

Students should reach out to their College, Career and Military Readiness Liaisons for help:

Fine Art and Communications Campus - Duane Willingham dwillingham@rich227.org
STEM Campus – Brianna Mathews bmathews@rich227.org

After School Opportunities

Mobile App Development (MAD-Learn)

The district is offering **MAD-Learn**, a new afterschool program for students to create their own mobile apps using the newest modern technologies. Coding skills are not required.

[Click here to sign up](#)

FIRST Robotics Team

Through our partnership with Governor's State University and Motorola, the district is able to offer another after school opportunity for students to engage in fun and competitive project-based robotics. Boosted by a global support system of mentors, educators, sponsors, alumni and volunteers, the program is designed to inspire innovation within our students who are interested in STEM futures.

[Click here to sign up](#)

Harvey's Car Wash

In partnership with Harvey's Corner Softouch Car Wash, we are able to offer our students after school employment opportunities. The job pays minimum age plus tips. On the job training is provided. Interested students should apply at the car wash located at 18308 Cicero Avenue in Country Club Hills.

[Click here to learn more](#)

Athletics

Upon receiving guidance from Governor Pritzker, the Illinois High School Association, and the Illinois Board of Education, we will be resuming all winter sports practices effective immediately. We will continue to update you as more information becomes available regarding Phase 4 competitions and all other seasonal athletics. Please monitor the [Athletics section](#) of our website for updates on guidelines, athletic bus routes and athletic registration.

Buses will begin picking up remote students to bring them to practices.

All tryout and practice 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 and Communications campus: Omari Garrett; ogarrett@rich227.org, (708) 679-3159

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

Athletics YouTube Channel

During the 2020-2021 season, the Southland Athletic Conference has decided to not allow spectators into the games. In order to still give families the opportunity to watch their athletes play, we have created a YouTube Channel.

[Click here to view and subscribe](#)

This link can also be found on the District website under the Athletics Section.

Transportation

Information regarding the bus routes is posted on our website. Please refer to the link below for regular updates.

[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.

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.

What action needs to be taken now? Currently, it is very important for all families to ensure that the mailing address on file at your enrolling school is current. A complete mailing address will be needed to receive the P-EBT issuance soon. **Any changes or updates need to be made prior to February 25th.**

What is P-EBT? The purpose of P-EBT is to provide food assistance to families with students who would have received free or reduced lunch while attending school but are not receiving these meals in school due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Who is eligible for P-EBT benefits? The following students are eligible for P-EBT benefits for School Year 2020-21.

- Students must be enrolled in an eligible NSLP participating Illinois school and;
- Students must be determined eligible to receive free/reduced lunch for the 2020-21 school year or enrolled in a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school and;
- Students are P-EBT eligible on school days in which a reimbursable meal was not provided to the student to consume at school. If "grab and go meals" are provided to

students, this does not exclude these students from participating or being eligible for the P-EBT program.

When will I receive the benefits? The Department of Human Services should begin issuing **new** P-EBT cards to all known eligible students in March 2021. Please note that all eligible students will receive benefits for all eligible school days, back to the beginning of this school year.

If you have any questions, including your current mailing address on file, please reach out to Betsy Williams at bwilliams@rich227.org or call 708-679-5728.

Food Service

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.

We also want to remind parents that meals for alternate days of remote learning can be picked up at the Curbside Meal Distribution Program on a weekly basis. Multiple days of meals are provided for all the children in your family. Please see the information below for details and scheduled distribution days and times.

Distribution Days and Hours in February:

Tuesday, February 16 from 10 am – 1 pm and 5 pm - 7 pm

Thursday, February 18 from 10 am – 1 pm

Monday, February 22 from 10 am – 1 pm and 5 pm - 7 pm

Wednesday, February 24 from 10 am – 1 pm

The next scheduled date for meal distribution is **Tuesday, February 16.**

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!

Construction – Fine Arts and Communications Campus

Please be advised that the first phase of construction will begin in mid- February, weather permitting. This phase will include demolition which will begin on **February 15**. As a result, the track will not be available to the public beginning **February 15 through approximately November 26**. Additional parking restrictions will begin on **March 1**.

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