



RICH TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 227

20550 South Cicero Avenue

Matteson, Illinois 60443

708-679-5800 * www.rich227.org

February 20, 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

I hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits. I would like to begin by thanking those who have already completed the annual 5Essentials Survey. Students, parents and staff are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to provide input on how effective you believe our school is in efforts to improve student outcomes. If you haven't already, please [click here](#) and select the appropriate survey to participate in the 5Essentials Survey. The survey, which takes approximately 20 minutes, will remain open through **Friday, April 2.**

Read more to learn important information regarding SAT prep, food service programs and more. Please read the following communication in its entirety for additional updates.

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

Parent Tech Café

REMINDER: The District 227 Tech Team will host another virtual Parent Tech Café session on **Thursday, February 25 at 5:30 pm.** Registration is **required** using the link below and **must** be completed by **February 24, no later than 5:30 p.m.**

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

The Google Meet link will be sent to participants **after** the registration has been completed.

SAT Instruction

In order to prepare students for the SAT, the district is providing virtual SAT classroom instruction for all juniors in math and evidence-based reading and writing during junior advisory.

All juniors will meet during their scheduled Friday advisory times for SAT Prep sessions until the end of March. All Google Meet information can be found on the student Schoology page.

Students are placed into one of the following sections:

STEM Campus

10:50 am - 11:30 am

11:10 am - 11:50 am

11:30 am - 12:10 pm

Fine Arts and Communications Campus

11:30 am - 12:10 pm

1:10 pm - 1:50 pm

Both campuses will also offer a supplemental 1-hour session for any junior interested in additional prep. This session will occur once a week from **3:30 pm - 4:30 pm** on **Tuesdays** from **February 9 through March 30**.

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 are available to pick 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:

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 **Monday, February 22.**

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