



## **RICH TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 227**

20550 South Cicero Avenue  
Matteson, Illinois 60443

708-679-5800 \* [www.rich227.org](http://www.rich227.org)

February 7, 2021

Dear Rich Township Families,

**Dr. Johnnie Thomas**  
Superintendent  
[jthomas@rich227.org](mailto:jthomas@rich227.org)

I would like to begin this message by thanking our students, parents and staff as we continue to navigate this school year together in good spirits. We have come a long way, and your hard work, engagement and support during these times make me so excited for what the future holds. With that being said, I would like to share a few important updates with you.

**Dr. Alicia Evans**  
Assistant Superintendent  
Of Business and  
Operations  
[aevans@rich227.org](mailto:aevans@rich227.org)

Read more to learn important information regarding campus assignments, athletics and more. Please read the following communication in its entirety for additional updates.

**Dr. Stephen Bournés**  
Assistant Superintendent  
Of Educational Services  
[sbournes@rich227.org](mailto:sbournes@rich227.org)

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

### **5Essentials**

**Dr. Kim Echols**  
Assistant Superintendent  
Of Human Resources  
[kechols@rich227.org](mailto:kechols@rich227.org)

The link to participate in the 9<sup>th</sup> annual statewide Illinois 5Essentials Survey is now active. This survey is designed to generate a detailed picture of the inner workings of your child's school. As a parent, this opportunity will allow you to share your thoughts on the important elements of school effectiveness in a survey about your child's school. We encourage all of our students, staff and parents to take advantage of this opportunity to provide feedback on the following five indicators that affect and predict school success:

- Effective Leaders
- Collaborative Teachers
- Involved Families
- Supportive Environments
- Ambitious Instruction

**Students** will take the 5Essentials survey the week of February 8<sup>th</sup> in their English classes.

**Staff** will take the 5Essentials survey on February 10<sup>th</sup> during Late Start Wednesday.

**Parents** can access the survey beginning now through **April 2**. The survey will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

To take the 5 Essentials survey please visit <https://survey.5-essentials.org/Illinois/> and select the appropriate survey to begin.

### **Campus Assignments**

Our freshmen, sophomores and juniors have finished the course selection process for the 2021-2022 school year. Some students' home campuses may have been reassigned based on the career pathway that a student has declared. If your student's campus has changed, you will be notified by email.

### **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 are reminded to log in to their scheduled advisory to take advantage of this resource.

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 below sections on Fridays:

#### **STEM**

*10:50 am - 11:30 am*

*11:10 am - 11:50 am*

*11:30 am - 12:10 pm*

#### **Fine Arts and Communications**

*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**.

We will also be offering an in-person Saturday practice test for all interested juniors. Further information will be provided at a later date.

### **International Baccalaureate**

As an International Baccalaureate Candidate School, Rich Township High School is expanding our IB Middle Years Program. Next school year, we will have 100 freshmen and 100 sophomores in the IB Middle Years Program. These students will be engaged in curriculum aligned to the IB

Middle Years Program framework where they will make real world connections in every subject and develop an understanding of how they learn best.

There are still a few seats available for freshmen and sophomores. We will be hosting a Virtual Parent Information Meeting on **February 18 at 6:00 pm**.

[Click here to join Zoom meeting](#)

### **Freshmen Advisory**

Freshmen Advisory supports our freshmen students in having a successful first year of high school. Advisory meets two days per week for two mods (40 minutes). Advisory is a full year academic experience where students can earn an additional .5 credit. All freshmen should attend their advisory to make sure they are aware of and complete graduation requirements, such as the student portfolio and service learning.

### **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.

Beginning **February 8**, 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](mailto:ccrossley@rich227.org)  
STEM campus

#### **Competitive Cheerleading**

Coach Garrett  
[agarrett@rich227.org](mailto:agarrett@rich227.org)  
STEM campus

#### **Girls Bowling**

Coach Wolf  
[swolf@rich227.org](mailto:swolf@rich227.org)  
STEM campus

#### **Girls Basketball**

Coach Mays

[bmays@dist159.com](mailto:bmays@dist159.com)

Fine Arts and Communications campus

### **Competitive Dance**

Coach Lusby

[rlusby@rich227.org](mailto:rlusby@rich227.org)

Fine Arts and Communications campus

### **Boys Bowling**

Coach Larsen

[clarsen@rich227.org](mailto: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](mailto:ogarrett@rich227.org), (708) 679-3159

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

### **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.

### **Student Identification (ID)**

Students should bring their ScholarChip ID to school each day. The ScholarChip ID is required for students to scan into their classes for attendance and for getting food in the cafeteria. Any student without an ID is required to purchase a temporary ID for \$1.00. Students will be able to purchase a maximum of three (3) temporary IDs before they will be required to purchase a replacement ID. The cost of the replacement ID is \$10.00. All fees must be paid at the time of issue.

### **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**.

## **Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC) Vacancies**

We are seeking dedicated individuals from the community to serve on our Facilities Advisory Committee for a one-year term! There are currently two vacancies.

Specifically, we're looking for those with backgrounds in construction, architecture, HVAC, engineering, building acquisition and related fields. The Facilities Advisory Committee will provide the Board of Education with expertise, oversight and guidance on the district's facilities and infrastructure, master facilities plan, strategic plan and proposed capital improvement projects.

For more information about the committee and to apply as a potential member, please [click here](#) to visit our website.

## **Food Service**

As we transition into our hybrid learning model, and many of our students return to in-person attendance at school, the Food Service Department wants to remind parents and students that under the Community Eligibility Provision, **ALL students now receive FREE breakfast and lunch daily** at school. We are focused on providing our students with nutritional choices that meet meal standards and are prepared and served in the very safest of conditions. Our staff is following all COVID-19 guidelines along with our usual protocols for food safety and sanitation. Meals are carefully prepared and served to provide contactless service with many "grab and go" choices. We hope all our students attending in-person classes will take advantage of the free meals provided daily since fueling bodies and minds is important to support overall learning and good health.

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.

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.

***Distribution Days and Hours in February:***

***Monday, February 8 from 10 am – 1 pm and 5 pm - 7 pm***

***Wednesday, February 10 from 10 am – 1 pm***

***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 **Monday, February 8.**

***Locations:***

*Fine Arts and Communications – 5000 Sauk Trail – Richton Park, IL*

*STEM Campus – 3600 W. 203<sup>rd</sup> - Olympia Fields, IL*

For more information, visit [www.rich227.org](http://www.rich227.org), call 708-679-5728, or email [bwilliams@rich227.org](mailto: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