



RICH TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 227

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

January 23, 2021

Dear Rich Township Families,

Dr. Johnnie Thomas
Superintendent
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Dr. Alicia Evans
Assistant Superintendent
Of Business and Operations
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Dr. Stephen Bournés
Assistant Superintendent
Of Educational Services
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Dr. Kim Echols
Assistant Superintendent
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Mr. Larry Varn
Principal
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We witnessed history this week as the world watched our country swear in President Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, the first female, first African American / South Asian American to ever be elected to the Office of the Vice President. We are encouraged by the call for unity that was made and we trust their leadership will guide us through this pandemic swiftly. The diversity within the United States Cabinet should be a reminder to us all that we are stronger together.

Additionally, our first week of hybrid instruction concluded yesterday. Next week, we will welcome Hybrid Learning Group B to our campuses, and Group A will engage in instruction remotely. Remember, Group C reports to campus every week. [Click here](#) to view the hybrid learning calendar on our website.

Read more to learn important information regarding hybrid learning reminders, our most recent student survey and more. Please read the following communication in its entirety for additional updates.

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

Entry Reminders

Upon entry, students will be required to scan in with their ScholarChip ID and have their temperature checked. In order to move students through this process more efficiently, students should do the following three things:

- Have their ScholarChip ID out and ready to scan before entering building
- Have their Chromebook out and removed from their backpack
- Look at the camera and stand still while getting temperature checked

Ronald McDonald Care Mobile

The Ronald McDonald Care mobile will be on campus on **Tuesday, January 26**, to provide physicals for our students. Any student that is currently not in compliance for physicals or immunization should complete the required forms on the website.

[Click here to complete the forms](#), search Ronald McDonald Mobile Truck on our website or get forms from the school nurses.

This is a great opportunity for our current junior students to receive their required vaccinations for 12th grade.

Paying for College Workshops

REMINDER: The College Readiness Conference: *Cracking the Code* will be held virtually **Saturday, January 23 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.** It will address award package negotiation, how to be successful as a first-generation college student, and post-secondary success in technology and certification programs.

On **Saturday, January 30**, the district will offer a workshop for families on Internships and Apprenticeships from **10:00 to 11:30 a.m.**

[Please click here to register for the event](#)

Academic Labs

Do you need help in an English, math, science or social studies course? Drop in to an academic lab during your **Raptor Time**.

[Click here to view a complete list of the academic labs by campus](#)

Incoming Freshmen Electives

The district is looking forward to making your child's educational experience the best it can be by offering a range of course offerings and electives that all students can choose from to meet graduation requirements. The information below is an important form that we hope parents and 8th grade students discuss to choose what electives they would like to participate in during their freshmen year in District 227.

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

Class of 2025 Elective Choice for SY 20-21
<https://forms.gle/yKQEK2BLKmpSEh6S9>



If you are the parent/guardian of an incoming freshmen, it is vitally important that you respond to the survey link below so that your child has a choice in their electives and special programming. We are in the process of scheduling classes and if we do not hear from you, they

may be placed into an elective they would not prefer. Please complete the form even if your student does not plan to attend Rich Township or if you are undecided.

*Please fill out the survey by **January 25, 2021**. Your partnership in this effort is greatly appreciated. If you received this form from your school and/or in an email, you **ONLY** need to complete it once.*

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact an Associate Principal at either campus:

Carl Scott: STEM-708-679-5633

Linnea Garrett: FAC- 708-679-3070

If you cannot complete the form via email, feel free to call an Associate Principal at the above number and provide the information that is on the back side of this page to provide that information via phone call. It is important that you remember to share your child's first and last name and middle school when calling.

Student Feedback Needed

As part of the school redesign, the district implemented flexible modular scheduling, and we launched it while engaged in remote instruction. Since we have completed the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year, the district is interested in gathering feedback on flex scheduling and remote instruction from students. Students are encouraged to complete the survey using the link below.

[Click here to complete the survey](#)

There will also be an opportunity to participate in a focus group. If a student is interested, they should indicate on the survey.

COVID-19 Testing

The district intends to administer the BinaxNOW test to students who present with symptoms of COVID-19 and whose parents or guardians have provided consent for testing. This test is conducted through a nasal swab and with results available in about 15 minutes. This opportunity for testing will be extended to any student or staff that will be participating in our return-to-learn hybrid instruction. Parent consent is required to test a student. Consent forms have been sent out via email, can be found on our website, and will be provided to all students on their first day of instruction. Consent forms should be returned to the drop box at the student entrance.

It is important for any individual that have any COVID-19 symptoms to stay home.

If you have any questions regarding this testing, please feel free to reach out to one of our school nurses: Nurse Chapman (708) 679-3026 or Nurse Stokes or Nurse Niendorf (708) 679-5820.

Athletics

The IHSA has met with the Governor's Office regarding 2020-2021 Sports and Activities. There is a board meeting scheduled for **Wednesday, January 27**, regarding all Winter, Spring, and Summer sports. Please monitor the [Athletics section](#) of our website for updates on practice start dates, season schedules, and any off season contact days.

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

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.

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.

Distribution Days and Hours in January:

Monday, January 25 from 10 am – 12 pm and 5 pm - 7 pm
Wednesday, January 27 from 10 am – 1 pm

The next scheduled date for meal distribution is **Monday, January 25.**

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