



# RICH TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 227

20550 South Cicero Avenue  
Matteson, Illinois 60643  
708.679.5716 • [www.rich227.org](http://www.rich227.org)

January 30, 2021

Dear Rich Township Families,

As we enter the first week of February, I would like to thank you for your dedication to ensuring that our students are safe, productive and healthy. With that being said, I would like to share important information with you regarding the COVID-19 vaccine and the infection's origin. I recently met on Zoom with the school leaders of Southland College Prep, Matteson School District 162 and Prairie Hills Elementary School District 144. During that meeting, emergency medicine physician Dr. Richard Watson presented helpful information regarding COVID-19's origin, testing, treatments and vaccination information. The meeting was recorded, and you may [click here](#) to stream it.

Read more to learn important information regarding the 5Essentials Survey, summer programs and more. Please read the following communication in its entirety for additional updates.

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

## **5Essentials**

Beginning **Wednesday, February 3**, students, parents and teachers across Illinois will have an opportunity to participate in the 9<sup>th</sup> annual statewide Illinois 5Essentials Survey. 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.

On behalf of the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois 5Essentials Survey will be administered online by UChicago Impact at the University of Chicago. The survey gathers data related to five indicators that can predict important student outcomes, including improved attendance and larger test score gains. These five indicators that affect and predict school success are:

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

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Prior research in more than 400 schools has shown that schools that were strong on at least three of these “5Essential” indicators were 10 times more likely to improve student learning gains in math and reading than those that were weak on three or more Essentials.

All teachers and 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students will be responding to this survey. 5Essentials Reports will be generated for schools if their teachers and/or students meet the response rate threshold of 50 percent. These reports will be sent to schools and districts and will also be included in the State School Report Card.

Additionally, our district has chosen to provide the optional Parent Supplement survey. If at least 20 percent of Rich Township High School’s parents complete this survey, a parent supplement report will also be generated. The parent data will not be reported on the State Report Card.

Your participation in the parent portion of the survey will help us understand the conditions at your child’s school and guide improvement. Your identity and survey responses will be kept completely confidential and will never be connected to you or your child.

The Illinois 5Essentials Survey for students, teachers and parents will be conducted **February 3 through April 2**. The survey will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

### **Summer Programs**

Summer school programs will take place **June 7 through July 15**. Summer school registration forms will be available on **Friday, February 19**.

Summer school for credit recovery and/or enrichment will be held virtually. Summer school for incoming freshmen (RAMP), Driver's Ed, and Extended School Year (ESY) will be hybrid with in-person instruction. Please see below for the summer programs schedule:

Credit Recovery	Session 1: June 7- 25, 2021
Enrichment	Session 2: June 28- July 15, 2021
ESY	June 7- 25, 2021
Driver’s Ed	Session 1: June 7- 25, 2021 Session 2: June 28- July 15, 2021
RAMP	Session 1: June 7- 25, 2021 Session 2: June 28- July 15, 2021

Summer school graduation will take place on **Monday, July 26**.

Students who are credit deficient should meet with counselors to determine the summer school courses required for registration.

### **Graduation**

On or before **March 1**, the district will decide and communicate to families whether the Class of 2021 graduation ceremony will be held in person or virtually. We thank parents in advance for their patience, flexibility and support as we plan for the best and safest way to celebrate our senior students.

Seniors will be still be responsible for paying fees. To see the amount of fees owed, families can check MySchoolBucks. Parents are encouraged to pay fees online. The district cashier will also send out a hard copy fee notice in February.

### **Paying for College Workshops**

Thank you to our parents and students who have attended our first two workshops: Financing College Workshop and College Readiness Workshop: Cracking the Code. The last workshop in our Paying for College Workshop Series, Internships and Apprenticeships, will be held virtually on **Saturday, January 30**.

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

### **Emergency School Closing**

This is a reminder that anytime school is closed due to inclement weather, the district will use the e-learning day protocol.

[Click here to view the e-learning plan.](#)

### **Athletics**

The IHSA released a sports schedule on **Wednesday, January 27**. [Click here](#) to view the updated guidance. Please monitor the [Athletics section](#) of our website for updates on practice start dates, season schedules, and any off season contact days.

### **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**

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 1 from 10 am – 1 pm and 5 pm - 7 pm***

***Wednesday, February 3 from 10 am – 1 pm***

***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 1.**

***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