



RICH TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 227

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

January 8, 2021

Dear Rich Township Families,

Happy New Year!

I hope that you have enjoyed your Winter Break and took some time to rest and recharge as we move into the second half of the school year. As a reminder, we are planning for some of our students to return for in-person instruction on **January 19**. Any changes to our processes will be communicated directly to our stakeholders.

Read more to learn important information regarding student ID pictures, information for incoming freshmen and more. Please read the following communication in its entirety for additional updates.

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

Student ID Pictures

All students participating in hybrid learning must have a Rich Township High School District 227 issued ID card when they return to school for in-person instruction on **January 19**. Therefore, any hybrid student that has not taken an ID picture must report to their home campus on **Monday, January 11** or **Tuesday, January 12 from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.** to take their picture. No appointment is needed, and it should take less than 10 minutes for students to take their picture. Students will receive their student ID on their first day of in-person instruction.

Incoming Freshmen

We are in the process of planning for your student's freshmen high school experience and scheduling classes for them. If you are the parent of an incoming freshmen, it is vitally important that you respond to the survey link below as well as complete the student profile form.

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

- **Freshmen Intention Form Due: January 15, 2021**

[Click here to complete the form.](#)

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

· **Student Profile Form Due: January 15, 2021**

Please complete the form even if you do not plan to attend Rich Township or if you are undecided. We want to make sure they are accounted for and do not miss any important information that they will need for the upcoming school year.

Your partnership in this effort is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Office of Educational Services at 708-679-5872.

Constitution

In order to accommodate students who were unable to take the Constitution test in Spring 2020 due to the pandemic, the district will be offering three different test prep and test sessions so that students can complete this graduation requirement. The test prep and test session are free of charge for any student that was unable to take the test in Spring 2020. Test prep consists of a three-week session that will include two weeks of review and the last week for a practice test and the official Constitution test taught by a District 227 Social Science teacher. Sessions will run Monday through Thursday from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Please see below for the test prep sessions schedule.

Session 1 - January 11 - January 29

Session 2 - February 1 - February 19

Session 3 - February 22 - March 12

[Click here to sign up for the session that works for your schedule.](#)

Girls STEAM Ahead

We are recruiting students for [Girls STEAM Success Club](#) and want to make sure that district students are aware of the opportunity. The Club meetings will offer weekly support including connecting students to mentors. **The deadline for [registration](#) is January 12.**

[Click here to watch an overview of this program.](#)

[Click here to see student testimonials.](#)

[Click here to meet the mentors.](#)

Registration is open until January 12 and students may apply at www.homewoodsciencecenter.org/girlsclub.

8th Grade Placement Testing Information

Today is the last day for our incoming freshmen to [register](#) for placement testing (PSAT 8/9) if they did not participate in testing in October. The testing date is scheduled for **Saturday, January 23 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

ALL incoming freshmen students who will be testing on **January 23** are required to self-certify that they are free from symptoms of COVID-19 infection to prevent further spread of the virus. We are asking that students who require transportation use the link below to self-certify prior to boarding the bus. Students who do not require transportation should use the link to self-certify prior to building entry at the STEM campus.

[Click here to self-certify.](#)

If you have any questions, please contact the building administrators.

Fine Arts & Communications - Linnea Garrett: lgarrett@rich227.org
STEM - Carl Scott: cscott@rich227.org

[Click here to read the full testing information letter.](#)

Financial Aid and Paying for College Workshops

REMINDER: The district will offer two college readiness presentations for our families. The first will assist students with the FAFSA application and understanding award packages. The Financing College Workshop will be held virtually **Thursday, January 14 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.**

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. There will be attendance incentives for teachers and students. These 90-minute sessions will include breakout sessions.

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

Early College Program

Prairie State College is hosting a virtual Early College Program Informational Workshop on **January 21 at 6:30 p.m.** The workshop will provide information on the following 2021-2022 programs available to our students: Early College, Dental Assisting, Emergency Medical Technician, Certified Nursing Assistant, Fire Science, Surgical Technician, and Physical Therapist Assistant. A link to the event will be shared closer to the event.

Food Service

The Food Service Department is currently providing **five 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.

Distribution Days and Hours in January:

Monday, January 11 from 10 am – 1 pm and 5 pm - 7 pm

Wednesday, January 13 from 10 am – 1 pm

Tuesday, January 19 from 10 am – 1 pm and 5 pm - 7 pm

Thursday, January 21 from 10 am – 1 pm

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

Wednesday, January 27 from 10 am – 1 pm

The next scheduled date for meal distribution is **Monday, January 11.**

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!

Transportation

Bus routes for hybrid learning beginning **January 19** are now posted on our website. Please refer to the link below for regular updates.

[Click here to view transportation information](#)

Athletics

The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) was hoping to meet with the Governor's Office before the winter break regarding the status of Winter athletics. Unfortunately, that meeting was not scheduled, so as we are still under Tier 3 mitigations. Thus, Winter athletics are paused. The IHSA board of directors is meeting January 13th to discuss options for Winter sports, as well as Spring and Summer sports. Please monitor the district website for updated information.

[Click here to view Athletic & Activity information](#)

Our school district is determined to continue to offer as many athletic opportunities as possible for students, while adhering to safety guidelines given to us from the IDPH, ISBE, and IHSA. We are disappointed that we must pause our programs at this time, but coaches will remain in communication with our athletes virtually and will be ready when we are given clearance to return to in-person practices.

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 Campus: Omari Garrett; ogarrett@rich227.org, (708) 679-3159

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

Activities

Please join me in congratulating the top winners of the Raptors Got Talent competition on their outstanding performances.

1st Place: Symone Jackson

2nd Place: Olivia Perry

3rd Place: Emmett Smith

We would also like to congratulate the rest of top six contestants, as they put together great performances!

- Jackson Storm
- Marion Lindsey
- Maia Jones

Information regarding our spring production is coming soon!

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