



RICH TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 227

20550 South Cicero Avenue
Matteson, Illinois 60443

708-679-5800 * www.rich227.org

March 12, 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 finds you safe and healthy. I wanted to take an opportunity to update you on new initiatives at our schools and district. Also, I want to update our families regarding prom and graduation. We thank you in advance for your support as we try to plan for both of these hallmark high school experiences for our juniors and seniors while maintaining health and safety guidelines. We will make an announcement next week after the **March 16** board meeting regarding what these activities will look like for our students this year.

Read more to learn important information regarding upcoming events, All School Testing and more. Please read the following communication in its entirety for additional updates.

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

Parent Tech Café

The District 227 Tech Team will host another virtual Parent Tech Café session on **Thursday, March 25** from **5:30 to 6:30 pm**. Parents will learn about the plethora of accessibility features found on the Chromebook to features that are embedded within Microsoft, Google and Kami platforms that can be utilized by our entire student population, regardless of their level of need.

Registration is ***required*** using the link below and **must** be completed by **March 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.

Testing

District-wide All School Testing will occur in the month of April. The state of Illinois has collaborated with the College Board to administer PSAT Suite of Assessments for all high school grade levels. The table below contains the assessment, grade level, alpha-slice (when applicable), and date of assessment. Students will be required to be on campus to take the assessments. The SAT is an

Illinois high school graduation requirement. Any seniors that did not test in October are required take the SAT in April.

Please refer to the table below to see the testing schedule:

Test	Dates	Time	Grade Level
PSAT 8/9	4/19	8:00 am - 11:30 am	All Freshmen (A-Z)
PSAT 10	4/21	8:00 am - 12:00 pm	All Sophomores (A-Z)
SAT (Day 1)	4/13	8:00 am - 1:30 pm	Juniors (A-J) All seniors that didn't test in fall
SAT (Day 2)	4/27	8:00 am - 1:30 pm	Juniors (K-Z) any seniors that didn't test in fall

Students that are testing will not have any other academic responsibilities on the day(s) of testing. All other students will be asynchronous. For example, freshmen will have no academic responsibilities other than testing on **April 19**. Sophomores, Juniors, and seniors will have asynchronous learning on **April 19**.

Transportation will be provided and all IDPH and CDC guidelines will be followed for testing, just like regular school days. The testing room ratio is 14 students to 1 staff member. Everyone will be required to wear a mask and practice social distancing. All participating students will be able to have a "grab-and-go" breakfast and lunch on their testing day.



Scan the QR Code or [CLICK HERE](#) to complete the form to reserve your student's spot for Spring Testing.

Education Pathway

Students interested in pursuing a career in education have the ability to enter a sequence of courses that will lead to earning college credit while in high school (dual credit) as well as

acquiring clinical experiences. Rich Township has partnered with Loyola University, Northern Illinois University, and Scaling Education Pathways in Illinois (SEPI) to bring this experience to our young adults.

[Click here to sign up for the Education Pathway](#)

Hybrid Calendar

A Group: *Hybrid learning (one week on campus/one week remote)*

B Group: *Hybrid learning (one week on campus/one week remote)*

C Group: *On campus learning*

R Group: *Off campus, online learning*

Monday-Thursday Schedule

Week	On Campus	Remote
March 22-26	BC	A/R
March 29-April 2	A/C	B/R
April 5-9	Spring Break	Spring Break
April 12-16	B/C	A/R
April 19-23	A/C	B/R
April 26-30	B/C	A/R
May 3-7	A/C	B/R
May 10-14	B/C	A/R
May 17-21	A/C	B/R
May 24-28	B/C	A/R
May 31-June 4*	Review/Enrichment Week*	

*We will not have semester exam days. The last week of the semester will be used for students to make up missed assignments.

Fridays are Remote Learning days for all students

Athletics

We are gearing up to start the Spring season, with Football, Boys Soccer, and Girls Volleyball. Buses are available to pick up remote students to bring them to practices. All practice information can be found by contacting the program coaches:

Football

Coach Middlebrook

cmiddlebrook@rich227.org

STEM campus

Boys Soccer

Coach Grigsby
rgrigsby@rich227.org
STEM campus

Girls Volleyball

Coach Polensky
apolensky@rich227.org
STEM 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

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](#)

Beginning **March 8**, there will be a change in AM pick up and PM drop off times for the following routes:

Consolidated routes:
FAC8, FAC9, & FAC10

Consolidated routes:
STEM3 & STEM4
STEM9 & STEM18

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.

Due to our status as a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) district, **ALL STUDENTS now qualify for FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH DAILY** at school. If your student has selected the Hybrid Learning Model and is attending school in-person, please encourage them to take

advantage of the free meals offered to them on these days. We also want to remind parents that meals for alternate days of remote learning can be picked up at the Curbside Meals Distribution Program on a weekly basis. Please see the information below for the scheduled distribution days and times.

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 March:

Monday, March 15 - 10 am – 1 pm and 5 pm - 7 pm

Wednesday, March 17 - 10 am – 1 pm

Monday, March 22 - 10 am – 1 pm and 5 pm - 7 pm

Wednesday, March 24 - 10 am – 1 pm

Monday, March 29 - 10 am – 1 pm and 5 pm - 7 pm

Wednesday, March 31 - 10 am – 1 pm

The next scheduled date for meal distribution is **Monday, March 15**.

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