



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

20550 South Cicero Avenue  
Matteson, Illinois 60443

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

March 20, 2021

Dear Rich Township Families,

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

It is hard to believe that it has been one year since the pandemic began and consequently affected schools across the US. Over the past year, our parents, staff and community have done an amazing job rallying around our students and safety to ensure that they continue to receive the highest quality of instruction at times when in-person learning was not possible. We thank you for your commitment, dedication and perseverance throughout this difficult time.

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

As you may know, there are only two weeks left for our students, parents and staff to complete the [5Essentials Survey](#). As a parent, this opportunity will allow you to share your thoughts on the important elements of school effectiveness. Schools need 20% of their parents to respond in order to receive a report and we are counting on your feedback to improve our district. The survey will take approximately 20 minutes to complete the survey. The survey will close on **April 2**. [Click here](#) to begin the survey.

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

Read more to learn important information regarding upcoming events, AP testing, graduation and more. Please read the following communication in its entirety for additional updates.

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

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

**Mr. Larry Varn**  
Principal  
[lvarn@rich227.org](mailto:lvarn@rich227.org)

### **Parent Tech Café**

**REMINDER:** The District 227 Tech Team will host another virtual [Parent Tech Café](#) session next **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.

## AP Testing

Advanced Placement (AP) exams are rapidly approaching. As students continue to prepare for the exam(s) in their AP course(s), we want to share the District's expectations. All AP students are expected to sit for all of the exams for the AP courses they are enrolled in. The district will cover the entire cost of the AP exams for the 2020-21 school year. All students will be required to take the paper/pencil version of their AP exam(s) on campus. Please see the complete AP exam schedule below:

<b>2020-21 AP Exam Schedule</b>			
<b>Course</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Campus</b>
AP US Government and Politics	May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	8:00am	STEM
AP Calculus	May 4 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am	FAC
AP Human Geography	May 4 <sup>th</sup>	12:00pm	FAC
AP English Literature	May 5 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am	STEM
AP Physics	May 5 <sup>th</sup>	12:00pm	STEM
AP US History	May 6 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am	STEM
AP Chemistry	May 7 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am	STEM
AP World History	May 10 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am	FAC
AP Macroeconomics	May 10 <sup>th</sup>	12:00pm	FAC
AP Seminar	May 11 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am	FAC
AP Psychology	May 11 <sup>th</sup>	12:00pm	STEM
AP Language/Composition	May 12 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am	FAC
AP Microeconomics	May 12 <sup>th</sup>	12:00pm	FAC
AP Biology	May 14 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am	STEM
AP Environmental Science	May 14 <sup>th</sup>	12:00pm	STEM
AP Comparative Government	May 17 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am	FAC
AP Statistics	May 17 <sup>th</sup>	12:00pm	FAC
AP Computer Science Principles	May 17 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am	STEM

If you require transportation on the day of your AP Exam, please [click here](#) to complete the registration form.

On the day of the scheduled AP Exam, students should arrive on campus by 7:20 am. A shuttle will be available at 7:30 am for students needing to attend an AP exam not on their home campus. Once the AP exam is complete, students should resume their regularly scheduled academic day.

We look forward to supporting our students' success in their AP course(s)!

## Graduation

After a considerable amount of planning, the district has decided to host an in-person graduation ceremony for the Class of 2021. Graduation will take place on **Sunday, May 23**, and will be held at the STEM Campus Stadium. In order to follow health and safety guidelines, we will hold three

ceremonies to allow for social distancing. Students will participate in the ceremony and groups will be separated based on the first letter of the last name. Please refer to the table below for the scheduled graduation times:

9:00 a.m.	A-D
1:00 p.m.	E-M
5:00 p.m.	N-Z

More information will be shared with the families of graduating seniors in the coming weeks.

### **Prom**

The Rich Township Prom Committee is finalizing details for this year's dance "A Rich Weekend". The 2-hour Micro-Proms will be held **May 1 through May 3** at the Upper Room in Chicago. Days and time slots will be determined by the number of students who sign-up.

The price of each micro-prom will be \$125 per attendee. Each attendee will be required to submit a negative COVID-19 test two days prior to attending their time slot. Refunds will be given to attendees who test positive.

Attendance requirements, sign-up procedures, and more information will be forthcoming.

### **Education Pathway**

Students interested in pursuing a career in education have an amazing opportunity to earn college credit while in high school and get a jump start on their teacher preparation coursework through a partnership with Loyola University.

Some of the benefits to the student include:

- Clinical Classroom Experience
- Dual Credit
- College and Career Pathway Endorsement on their high school diploma
- Accelerated Coursework at Loyola University
- Guaranteed Interview for the Golden Apple Scholarship
- Post-Secondary Career Placement

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

### **Athletics**

Spring season is here! Buses are available to pick up remote students to bring them to practices starting at 4:00 pm. There are also activity buses at 5:45 pm and 6:45 pm. All information regarding activity buses can be found on the [Athletic section](#) of our website.

All practice information can be found by contacting the program coaches:

**Football**

Coach Middlebrook  
[cmiddlebrook@rich227.org](mailto:cmiddlebrook@rich227.org)  
STEM campus

**Boys Soccer**

Coach Grigsby  
[rgrigsby@rich227.org](mailto:rgrigsby@rich227.org)  
STEM campus

**Girls Volleyball**

Coach Polensky  
[apolensky@rich227.org](mailto:apolensky@rich227.org)  
STEM campus

As a reminder, there are no spectators allowed at any Southland Athletic Conference games. We will be looking to stream our games, so please stay tuned for steaming information.

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](#)

**Important Pandemic Electronics Benefits (P-EBT) Information**

The State of Illinois is approved to provide new Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer Program (P-EBT) benefits to all eligible Illinois students. Families in our district may qualify for P-EBT because we are a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program's Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). You do not need to complete an application to receive these benefits. Please note that citizenship status does not affect eligibility.

[Click here to learn about Pandemic EBT \(P-EBT\) SNAP Benefits Program](#)

**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 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 22.**

***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)

**Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC)**

Rich Township High School District 227 is seeking two dedicated individuals from the community to serve on its Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC) for a one-year term! Specifically, the district is looking for those with backgrounds in construction, architecture, HVAC, engineering, building acquisition and related fields.

The District 227 Board of Education has charged the committee with providing expertise, oversight and guidance on the district's facilities and infrastructure, master facilities plan, strategic plan and proposed capital improvement projects. The Committee will consist of five members.

[Click here to learn more about the committee and to apply as a potential member.](#)

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 @richtownshiphs
- Twitter: @District227 @DrJohnnieThomas @richtownshiphs
- Instagram: @district227\_ @richtownshiphs
- 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