



RICH TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 227

20550 South Cicero Avenue
Matteson, Illinois 60443

708-679-5800 * www.rich227.org

May 1, 2021

Dear Rich Township Families,

Dr. Johnnie Thomas
Superintendent
jthomas@rich227.org

With the school year winding down, there are many changes that we will be implementing that will affect our families and staff. Several construction projects are planned this summer including HVAC work, roof work, the construction of large group spaces, teacher spaces, classrooms, and new manufacturing, engineering, and robotics wing. In order to prepare for summer construction to begin, both the Fine Arts and Communications and STEM campuses will transition from hybrid instruction to full remote learning for all students except for students in the transition program effective **Monday, May 24**, until the end of the school year.

Dr. Alicia Evans
Assistant Superintendent
Of Business and
Operations
aevans@rich227.org

Teachers will report to the building on **May 24**. If teachers have packed up their classrooms by May 24, they may deliver instruction remotely starting **May 25** until the end of the semester.

Dr. Stephen Bournés
Assistant Superintendent
Of Educational Services
sbournes@rich227.org

The week of **May 24** will be synchronous instruction. The week of **June 1** will be an enrichment week. No semester exams will be given, and enrichment week will be asynchronous instruction.

Dr. Kim Echols
Assistant Superintendent
Of Human Resources
kechols@rich227.org

Read more to learn important information regarding summer programs, our district target review and more. Please read the following communication in its entirety for additional updates.

Mr. Larry Varn
Principal
lvarn@rich227.org

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

Summer Programs

Summer School for credit recovery will be virtual and will run from **June 7 to July 15**. All in-person summer programs will be held at the Rich East Campus with the exception of Extended School Year, which will be held at the transition center. AP Boot Camp will be virtual.

The following in-person programs will run from **June 7 to July 15 (6 weeks)**: Senior Intensive, Star Academy, Driver's Ed, and Extended School Year (ESY).

The following programs will run from **June 14 to July 15 (5 weeks)**: RAMP, Freshmen on Track, ELL, and Special Education Enrichment. This is a change from what was previously communicated.

The International Baccalaureate (IB) summer program will be in-person and run from **June 28 to July 15 (3 weeks)**.

District Target Review and Refreshing

The district will be engaging all of our stakeholders including students, staff, parents and community members as we review our district targets and refresh them in order to achieve the goals outlined in our strategic plan. Community and parent stakeholder groups will be held virtually on **Tuesday, May 11**. Staff, administrator and student groups will be held in person on **Wednesday, May 12**.

	Tuesday, May 11th VIRTUAL
3:30 pm	Community Leaders
5:00 pm	Community Members
6:30 pm	Parents

The feedback from all of our stakeholder groups is critical as we improve our focus on students and student success:

Campus Leaders- includes the principal, associate principals, division and academy leads and climate and culture coordinators

Community Leaders- includes local law enforcement, community agencies, and elected officials

Community Members- includes business owners, parents of students in private and charter schools, feeder districts and other educational institutions

District Administrators- includes all district level administrators

Parents- includes parents and legal guardians of students within district attendance boundary

Staff- includes all certified and classified staff

Students- includes all 9th- 12th grade students

If you are interested in participating in one of these stakeholder sessions, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Athletics

Summer season is here; Baseball, Softball, Boys Volleyball, Boys Tennis, Boys/Girls Track, and Girls Soccer Buses are available to pick up remote students to bring them to practices starting at 4:00 pm. There are also 5:45 pm and 6:45 pm activity buses to take students home from practice. All bus route information and the athletic home page can be found on the [Athletic section](#) of the website.

All practice information can be found by contacting the program coaches or visiting il.8to18.com/RichTownship

Baseball

Coach Stallings
cstallings@rich227.org
STEM campus

Softball

Coach Data
mdata@rich227.org
STEM campus

Girls Soccer

Coach Clark
aclark@rich227.org
STEM campus

Boys Volleyball

Coach Polensky
apolensky@rich227.org
STEM campus

Boys Tennis

Coach Stein
dstein@rich227.org
STEM campus

Boys Track

Coach Stanko
dstanko@rich227.org
STEM campus

Girls Track

Coach Green
sgreen@rich227.org
STEM campus

Please contact your campus Athletic Director with any questions or concerns:
STEM campus: Keith White; kwhite@rich227.org, (708) 679-5794

Student Book Return

All students must return all textbooks, or you must pay for them. This year, textbooks will be returned curbside only at the STEM campus at Door 5. The books will be returned in the following order:

Senior only return: **May 10 – May 13**

All other grades return: **June 1 – June 3**

Upcoming Auction

We will be hosting an auction for all Rich Central, Rich East, and Rich South uniforms along with various other items, including weight room and classroom equipment. We will provide more details and a link to purchase these items online at a later date.

Upcoming Brick Fundraiser

Construction is underway on our new football stadium and track at the Fine Arts and Communications campus. To finalize the project, we are offering a chance for our alumni and current families to purchase a Legacy brick to lay in the entry way of the stadium. We will provide more details and information on how to place your mark at Rich Township High School at a later date.

Transportation

Information regarding the new combined 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.

Meal Account Refunds

As we approach the end of the current school year, we want to notify you of the procedures regarding student meal account refunds. All graduating seniors will automatically receive a refund of the balance on their food service meal accounts at the end of the school year. For all other students, money in their meal accounts will carry over into the next school year and can be used for future purchases, as needed. Parents preferring a refund of any balance over \$1.00 can make a request by sending an email to bwilliams@rich227.org. Please include the student's name, parent name and current mailing address in the request.

Food Service

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 chosen a Hybrid Learning Model and is attending alternating in-person days in class, please encourage them to take advantage of the free meals offered to them on in-person 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.

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 May:

Monday, May 3 - 10 am – 1 pm and 5 pm - 7 pm

Wednesday, May 5 - 10 am – 1 pm

Monday, May 10 - 10 am – 1 pm and 5 pm - 7 pm

Wednesday, May 12 - 10 am – 1 pm

Monday, May 17 - 10 am – 1 pm and 5 pm - 7 pm

Wednesday, May 19 - 10 am – 1 pm

Monday, May 24 - 10 am – 1 pm and 5 pm - 7 pm

Wednesday, May 26 - 10 am – 1 pm

The next scheduled date for meal distribution is **Monday, May 3.**

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

Construction Update (STEM Campus)

The construction team will continue to work during the summer to prepare for the beginning of school. The projects that will be completed at the STEM campus during this project phase are listed here:

- Classroom HVAC upgrade
- RTU'S replacements/relocation along with Building Automation Upgrade
- 100 wing and English wing – Replacement flooring, ceiling, lighting and some bathroom upgrades

- New Teacher workspace renovation in existing English wing
- 200 wing renovation into new Manufacture space
- Asbestos abatement – 100 wing flooring
- New Early Childhood space – In old wrestling space
- Roof replacement - 200 wing

Electrical Upgrade Information at the FAC Campus

In the early phase, the electrical upgrade project is underway. The timetable is below:

May 4, 2021	ComEd set-up date; includes pole install on south end of Sauk Trail.
May 14, 2021	Airport receives new switch gear on site for electrical room
May 21, 2021 or May 28, 2021	ComEd shutdown to tie in new transformer and disconnect the old.

Please note that these updates will not impact the community. There will not be any expected power outages because of the project.

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