



RICH TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 227

20550 South Cicero Avenue
Matteson, Illinois 60443

708-679-5800 * www.rich227.org

May 8, 2021

Dear Rich Township Families,

Dr. Johnnie Thomas
Superintendent
jthomas@rich227.org

We are quickly approaching the end of the school year. Soon, the 2020-21 school year will be in full swing, and we anticipate that all students will be returning to in-person instruction for five days a week. We are truly excited for this return to normalcy, and we will keep you informed with new information in future updates.

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

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

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

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

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**.

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

Mr. Larry Varn
Principal
lvarn@rich227.org

	Tuesday, May 11th VIRTUAL		Wednesday, May 12th IN-PERSON FAC Campus
		9:00 am	Staff
		10:30 am	Students
5:00 pm	Community Leaders/Members	1:00 pm	Campus Administration
6:30 pm	Parents	2:30 pm	District Administration

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](#). A Zoom link will be sent parents and community members who signed up.

Freshmen Summer Programs

This year was very challenging for our freshmen who have transitioned from middle school to high school. As we continue the transition to full in-person instruction, we want to ensure that rising sophomores start next school year strong. That is why we are offering summer programming to meet these needs.

The Freshmen on Track Summer Program will run **June 14 to July 1, Mondays through Thursdays**. The course will focus only on skills and content that are essential. Therefore, your student will attend classes for shorter but more intensive amounts of time. Students who are successful will receive a credit for semester one. Parents of freshmen identified for this program will be notified by the Freshman Academy Leader. Their participation is mandatory.

The Freshmen Enrichment Summer Program will run **June 14 to July 1, Mondays through Thursdays**. It will target rising sophomores who could benefit from additional support in skills development. Freshmen Enrichment is not mandatory, so space is limited. Parents of freshmen identified for this program will be invited by the Freshman Academy Leader.

AP Boot Camp

Due to the positive response from the first AP Boot Camp, we are excited to offer AP Boot Camp 2.0 on **July 26 through July 29 from 10 am to 12 pm**. The bootcamp will be held virtually and you **MUST** register for this event by **Friday, June 4**. We will cover topics that are designed to help students increase success in AP courses from “AP Noobs” to “AP Savvy”

[Click here to register](#)

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**

Transportation

Beginning **Monday, May 10**, there will be a change in AM pick up times for FAC routes 13 & 14. 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.

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.

Fee Waivers

The deadline to submit a registration fee waiver for the 2020-21 school year is **Monday, May 17**.

Please note, according to Board Policy 4:140, the fee waiver applies to textbooks, other instructional materials, and driver's education. Students receiving a fee waiver are not exempt from charges from lost and damaged books, locks, IDs, lanyards, other materials, supplies, equipment, and Chromebooks.

The fee waiver status is only applicable to the current school year. You must apply for a fee waiver each year. Fee waivers do not rollover from year to year. The waiver forms can be found [HERE](#). Please email your form to aevans@rich227.org or your campus cashier. The forms must be legible and cell phone pictures will not be accepted.

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 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 10.**

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

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