



RICH TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 227

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

October 16, 2020

Dear Rich Township Families,

We are certainly proud of the progress our students and staff have made throughout the first quarter. Thanks and much appreciation for all of your patience and collaboration as we continue to make the Rich Township High School remote learning experience the best and safest it can be for our students.

This correspondence is to communicate important information regarding medical compliance, academic labs and more. Please read the following communication in its entirety for additional updates.

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

Medical Compliance

Per guidance from the state, at this time, all child-health related requirements for school attendance remain in effect for children in public, private, or parochial schools, as per [105 ILCS 5/27-8.1](#). Documentation of required health-related examinations and immunization requirements for students, including applicable exemptions or appointments allowed by law, is required to be filed with school districts by **October 15**. If your family has not ensured your student's timely compliance with health examination or immunization requirements, the student may be provided e-learning or remote instruction, provided instruction is solely by remote means and he/she does not have a physical presence on school grounds (either before, during or after school). Importantly, any student who is permitted to attend school through an e-learning program or remote learning plan due to failure to present proof of required immunizations, *and* who qualifies for free and reduced meals, may continue to receive those meals in the manner that other e-learning or remote students receive meals.

If your student is not compliant with required physicals and immunizations by **November 16**, they will have to remain in remote learning until the required documents are produced. The nurse will be notifying the parents of students who are out of compliance next week.

Academic Labs

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

Over the next few weeks, parents may see something new added to their students' schedules called **Academic Labs**. Students will be scheduled in academic labs which are one to two mods (20 - 40 minutes). The purpose of academic labs is to reinforce content and skills in a format suitable to work with individual or small groups of students such as differentiated support, 1:1 conferencing, and tutorial assistance. Typically, students may access academic labs during their Raptor Time or be assigned to academic labs by their teacher or an administrator such as in this case. When students are assigned to academic labs, attendance is taken so it is important for students to follow their schedule and attend academic labs when assigned.

Fall Testing

Testing continues next week for our freshmen students and our incoming freshmen (current 8th graders). Please see the schedule below for specific testing assignments.

Test Date	Grade Level	Make-Ups/Accommodations
October 20 PSAT 8/9	Freshmen Last Name: A-J -	PSAT 8/9 All Accommodations -
October 22 PSAT 8/9	Freshmen Last Name K-Z -	Make Up PSAT 8/9 Make Up Accommodations
October 24 PSAT 8/9	8th Grade	

Please note: Teachers will not be available for live instruction on the following testing days: **October 20, October 22, October 27** and **October 29**. Instead, asynchronous instruction will take place.

8th Grade Placement Testing

All 8th grade placement testing will take place on **Saturday, October 17** and **Saturday, October 24** from **8:30 am to 12:00 pm** at the **STEM Campus - 3600 West 203rd Street, Olympia Fields, IL**. Students who

have registered will receive their testing date confirmations this week, along with bus route information if transportation was requested. Additional testing protocols can be found below, on the website and they have also been emailed to families.

[Click here to view testing protocols.](#)

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.

The next scheduled date for meal distribution is **Monday, October 19.**

Please see the important information when picking up meals:

Serving Schedule for the Rest of September:

Every Monday and Wednesday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Monday Evenings 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

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