



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

20550 South Cicero Avenue  
Matteson, Illinois 60443

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

September 3, 2021

Dear Rich Township Families,

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

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

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

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

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

We have just completed the first full week of instruction with all our students back on campus, and it was a week full of activities. We hope our families attended Open House, and we hope that our freshmen families attended our first ever Freshmen Induction Ceremony. Let's continue to make this a great school year and keep this momentum going. As a reminder, all students should bring their fully charged Chromebook to school daily. Students are allowed one loaner a week, but there are a limited number of loaners available, so don't forget your device at home. Students must also remember to bring their IDs daily.

Read more to learn important information regarding transportation, focus groups and more. Please read the following communication in its entirety for additional updates.

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

### **Bus Drop-off Times**

**REMINDER:** Freshmen should take the bus for the 8:25 am drop-off time and sophomores, juniors and seniors should take the bus for the 7:15 am drop off time. Due to the nationwide bus driver shortage, we are asking our families to check the bus times on the website daily to see if any changes have been made. Please click the bus time links on the website for individual stops and times.

We also have a Transportation Remind you can join to get regular updates. Here's how to join:

1. Visit [www.remind.com/join](http://www.remind.com/join)
2. Type in rtbusinfo and click "join."
3. Enter your name and cell phone number or email address

### **Registration Focus Group**

The district will be hosting a focus group on **Wednesday, September 8 at 6 pm** on Zoom to receive feedback from parents as we seek to improve the enrollment and registration process for our families.

If you are interested in participating in a focus group to share your thoughts, [CLICK HERE](#) to register for the event.

## Tech Support

Students who experiencing any of the following technology issues, should email Tech Support at [technology@rich227.org](mailto:technology@rich227.org):

- Student email password issues
- Logging in Issues with Chromebook or Schoology
- Resetting/Retrieving Power School Password

Please be as detailed as possible and include screenshots in your email.

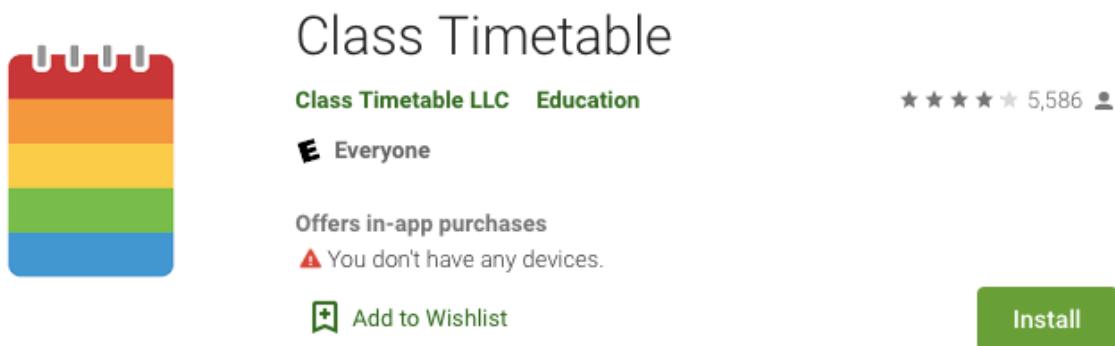
## Raptor Time

Raptor Time is unscheduled or flex times that students have during their day. Students can use Raptor Time to go to a flex space to study or complete assignments, go see a teacher during their office hours, or see their counselor. Office hours are scheduled times that teachers share with students to communicate their availability for help outside of class time.

This is a reminder that Rich Township High School is not an open campus. Students are not allowed to leave the building for lunch. Students should go to the cafeteria for lunch or check in to a flex space when they have Raptor Time.

## Flex Schedule

If you have not already done so, students should download the **Class Timetable** app to their phone or device so they can keep track of their flex mod schedule and receive notifications when it is time for class. The app allows you to color code your courses as well.



The screenshot shows the App Store listing for the 'Class Timetable' app. On the left is the app icon, which is a calendar with a red top, orange middle, yellow bottom, and blue bottom. To the right of the icon, the app title 'Class Timetable' is displayed in a large font. Below the title, the developer 'Class Timetable LLC' is listed, followed by the category 'Education'. A rating of four stars and 5,586 reviews is shown. The age rating is 'E Everyone'. A note indicates 'Offers in-app purchases' and a warning 'You don't have any devices.' At the bottom, there is a green 'Add to Wishlist' button and a green 'Install' button.

## Face Masks

Following guidance from ISBE and the recommendations of the CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics, masks are required for everyone in all schools. Wearing a mask is a

simple, easy, and effective way to protect not only our own lives but lives of the parents, children, brothers, sisters, grandparents, and loves ones all around us. Face masks for everyone regardless of vaccination status is one of the ways we mitigate the spread of the virus and ensure we can continue in-person instruction. Extra masks are available for students at each campus. However, students are encouraged to bring their own mask. To learn about the other layers of prevention the district is currently using to keep students and staff safe, [CLICK HERE](#) to view our COVID Plan.

Also, the district can administer the BinaxNOW test to students who present with symptoms of COVID-19 and whose parents/guardians (and the students themselves, if age 18 or older and not under guardianship) have provided consent for testing.

[Click here to download the COVID-19 testing consent form](#)

**Please return this form to the nurse's office.**

### **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 families, both old and new, an opportunity to purchase a Legacy Brick to lay in the entry way of the stadium.

[Click here to purchase a Legacy brick](#)

You will need to register for an account through the online platform. Once you have purchased a brick you will need to access the Google form link to submit your text that will go on your brick. You will receive a confirmation email with a sample brick image.

Please use the "Contact Us" link on the website if you have any questions.

### **Athletics**

Registration is now open for fall sports and activities! Please click on the following link to get signed up for any athletic and/or activities you are interested in joining for the upcoming school year.

[Click here to register](#)

### **Transportation**

Due to the nationwide bus driver shortage, some routes may experience transportation disruptions. The district is working daily the transportation company to address our student's transportation needs. We are asking for your patience as we navigate these issues. Additionally, when possible, we are recommending that parents transport their students to and from school until the shortage is resolved.

The 2021 - 2022 bus routing information is posted on the transportation section of the website. Some changes have been made and we are continually working through changes. Please look for updates throughout the week.

[Click here to view transportation information](#)

### **IDs and Chromebook Devices**

All students must bring their student ID and Chromebooks to school each day. IDs will be used to scan into the building and to take attendance for each class. Students who do not have an ID will be required to get a temporary ID. The cost of temporary IDs is \$1 which is due at the time the ID is issued. Permanent replacement IDs are \$10, which is payable immediately. Please refer to the student handbook for specific information regarding Scholarchip ID cards.

### **Dress Code**

The dress code will be strictly enforced. Students may not wear clothing or accessories that disrupt the educational atmosphere. Students are not allowed to wear the following items:

- Crop tops
- Hoods, Hats, Ski mask
- Doo-rags/bonnets

Please refer to the student handbook for specific information regarding student dress.

### **Food Service**

The Food Service Department is excited to welcome all our students back to the 2021-22 school year! We want to remind you that our school district is now a *Community Eligibility Provision* District, which means **ALL** our students receive a **FREE** breakfast and **FREE** lunch daily when at school. And now that our students are eating their meals free, we wanted to do something new and different in the cafeterias. As you return to the school cafeteria, you will be able to experience our new *Cafe 227 Food Court*.

Every day can be a new culinary adventure or a chance to dine on your favorite meals consistently. Start your day out right with breakfast from the Waffle Bar, the Yogurt Bar, or the Rise and Dine Cafe in the morning. At lunchtime, visit the *Taste of Italy, South of the Border, Hot Off the Grill, Wings and Things, Souper Fresh and Green, or the Marketplace* and enjoy an abundance of choices that are sure to feature all your favorites culinary delights. So let us be your favorite school subject! Come dine with us daily! All you need to bring with you is your appetite!

Food Service is no longer accepting meal applications. Parents requesting a fee waiver for school fees must fill out a Waiver Application available on the district's website at [www.rich227.org](http://www.rich227.org). Return as directed on the form for approval by the Business Office.

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