

Important Dates

April 19 th	Good Friday
April 22 nd	Spring Break Begins
April 29 th	Classes Begin
May 2 nd	Institutue Day (No Students)
May 19 th	Graduation Ceremony
May 22 nd thru 24 th	Final Exams
June 3 rd	Mail Report Cards



Rich Township High School District 227 Newsletter

THE MESSAGE

Spring
2019

Rich Central High School | Rich East High School | Rich South High School

2019 South Suburban Choir Gala

February 7, 2019—A unique musical first for the south suburbs ----the combined voices of six Rich Township elementary and high school choirs celebrated Black History month tonight at Governors State University in a gala musical performance, “Together... We’re Better.”

Six Rich Township choirs performed individually and then some 355 voices blended into a rousing massed finale of “Better,” an inspirational song made famous by Hezekiah Walker and based on the biblical promise that no matter the challenges, God will see everyone through.

South suburban choirs performing at the event were: O.W. Huth Middle School directed by Cynthia Bridges; Southwood Middle School, directed by Sharon Turner-Wingba; Park Forest-Chicago Heights District 163, directed by Kamile Brinker and Denine Webb with choreography by Keri Jensen; Colin Powell Middle School, directed by Sylvia Hasking; Rich Township High School District 227, directed by DeMario Tribett, Ronald McDowell and Lance L. Jefferson; and Southland College Prep Charter High School, directed by Dr. Stirling Culp and associate director, Elizabeth Norman-Soujourner.

Music identified with such iconic performers as Janet Jackson, Ben E. King, Earth, Wind and Fire, James Brown, Whitney Houston, Aretha Franklin, Prince and Michael Jackson was performed during the evening.

In addition to Dr. Thomas, other south suburban school superintendents who sponsored the musical gala were: Dr. Mable Alfred, District 159; Dr. Shannon Goodsell, District 160; Dr. Blondean Y. Davis, District 162 and Southland College Prep Charter High School; and Dr. Joyce Carmine, of District 163.



Superintendent's Message


Spring is here, and our staff is in full gear supporting our scholars. The District continues to work with a "Focus on Students and Student Success" as stated in our Mission Statement.

Together, in partnership with our staff, we have worked to create programs that will actively engage our students. The district has established a new District 227 Choir that combines our talents from each of our campuses. We were able to provide a enriching experience for our students by combining our resources. We also created a Glass Blowing Class and Music Production Studios to engage our students in activities that will lead to them wanting to be in the educational environment.

I also want to thank you for all for participating in our facility thought exchange. We received many of ideas from community stakeholders and will report them out to the Board of Education in an upcoming meeting. Additionally, the district has applied for a property tax relief grant that will give some relief to our homeowners.

Finally, our staff is committed to educating each child. The weather has caused us to find ways to engage students while keeping them safe. District 227, for the first time in its history, worked with districts 159, 162, 163 and Southland Charter School that allowed for us to provide electronic leaving days (E-Learning) in order to keep our students engaged during snow days. We are very proud of the work our students, staff and administrators who help make those days a success.

Dr. Johnnie Thomas

 @DrJohnnieThomas

 jthomas@rich227.org



The Mobile Glass Blowing Studio Open To All District 227 Students

District 227 is one of only a few of high schools in the nation to offer its students the unique opportunity to learn glass blowing.

District 227 partnered with Loyola University, Governors State University, and New Trier High School to design a program that will take the ancient art form of glass blowing to the next level by sharing it with our students through rigorous world-class instruction in a state-of-the-art mobile teaching studio.

The goal of the District's glassblowing program is to teach students to apply principles they learned in math, science, design, and manufacturing to artistic creations as well as to serve the community through service-learning projects led by D227 students.



Central Cares



Rich Central Student Council, under the supervision of Kim Jones and Arielle Fleming donated \$250 to The Cancer Support Center of Homewood. The Center is a place of help, hope, and healing for the spirit and mind.



Rich Central's Business Professionals of America (BPA) Chapter volunteered at the 36th Annual Area 20 South Cook Special Olympics Motor Activity Program. Students participated by assisting athletes during the events, and presenting awards to each athlete. All of our students were model ambassadors for Rich Central High School and Business Professionals of America. This was truly a memorable experience for everyone!

Rich Central High School Key Club, under the direction of Asia Norwood, collected over 500 cans to send to the Richton Park food pantry for the holiday season. Mr. Bill Schmidt's class, room 303, collected the most cans during 7th period. Mr. Schmidt's Class won a party courtesy of Principal Whitaker. #RCGIVESBACK



Central Band Scholars

Rich Central News



Senior band members, Christian Gonzales, Angela Cheers, Ramon Cross-Herd, Cameron Maclin and Kevin West auditioned for University of Arkansas in Pine Bluff and received full ride Scholarships. They also auditioned for Hampton University and may earn potential scholarships pending acceptance to the university.

Central Band Donations

Rich Central News



Congratulations to the Rich Central High School Band, under the direction of Phillip Crews on receiving the donations during the first semester. A \$5,000 donation from was received Benefit Cosmetics.

A Star Signs With Marquette



Rich South hosted its first college signing event of the year on November 14th, 2018. Lady Stars basketball phenomenon, Taylor Valladay, committed to Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI. In front of the entire student body, Valladay signed with one of the top universities in the nation. “Today Taylor inspired all of us that anything is possible,” said Principal Varn.

Marquette first offered a scholarship to Taylor Valladay when she participated in the Golden Eagle competition in mid June. She had a career year for Rich South High School averaging 13.3 points, 5.8 rebounds, 1.8 assists, and 3.1 steals. The points, rebounds, and steals are all career bests for Valladay, who has been at least a contributor to Rich South’s varsity squad since her freshman year. The points and steals are team bests for the year. The 5’10” Valladay also shot 42% from behind the three-point arc last season, but it was on just two attempts per game. She made threes accounted for just 60 of her 320 points on the year. She is more accomplished at scoring in other ways.

Perfect Grade Point Average

Rich South News



Pictured Left to Right: Trinity Sharp, Andriae LaCour, Aaliyah Johnson, Tiffany Walker, Principal Varn, Devon Grant, Arieona Brooks, Nehemiah Arriaga, and Harry Le.

Nine Seniors at Rich South High School received straight A’s for four years straight. These students have maintained a grade point average of 4.0 or better. It has been the tradition at Rich South that students who earn this academic distinction be recognized with a letterman’s jacket. The donning of the jacket represents the perfect record these students have achieved.

Speech Team Member Places at State



Hundreds of teams started the State series with the regional tournaments, but only 75 schools had students represent them at the State Tournament. For the first time in 20 years, Rich South was represented. Congratulations to our Speaking Star, Andriae LaCour, 9th in the State in Oratorical Declamation.

Key Club Spring Blood Drive



Key Club’s spring blood drive with Vitalant, formerly Life Source, took place Tuesday March 19th. Students signed up with Key Club members during

lunch. At the Fall Blood Drive in October 2018, 34 units were collected and 102 lives were saved with our donations. This year 34 units, and then topped it with 39 units which equates to 117 lives!

East Manufacturing

Rich East News

60466A team was a semifinalist and qualified for the World Tournament in April.

60466M team finished 6th in the state in Robot skills, this ranking should earn them an invite to Worlds Competition. To give some perspective, there are approximately 7000 teams in the nation competition and 8600 in the world competition. Only 260 teams in the nation go to national competition and 560 teams go to world competition. Please congratulate these students when you see them and please let them know you are supporting them as they prepare for competitions.

60466A Team:

Connor Harrell, Talisha Hopson, Gabby Reese, Cameron Richardson, Zack Zamot, Janiyah Irvin, Juwan Weathersby and David Vega

60466M Team:

Jae'Mikel Clark, Amari Fincher, Shamar Henry, Kierra Turner

Upcoming Events for the Club

CREATE Nationals Tournament - 4/4/19-4/6/19

Southworks Engineering and Robotics Olympics 4/13/19

VEX Worlds Tournament 4/24/19 - 4/27/19

Technology Manufacturing Association Precision Machining Competition 5/9/19



Connor Harrell, Talisha Hopson, Gabby Reese, Cameron Richardson, Zack Zamot, Janiyah Irvin, Juwan Weathersby and David Vega

Pom Squad

Rich East News



The Rich East Pom Squad took second at the Stagg Invite. The Poms have placed in every competition they have entered this school year and qualified for the Class 1A IHSA State Finals.

Illinois State Scholar

Rich East News



Amiya Bowden, Jalen Brown, Alyssa Ferguson, Tehearah Ferguson, Serena Hughes, Jose Lopez, Alicia Love, Mikayla Robinson, Makiah Sherman, David Vega, Lauren Wells, and Sierra Whiteside.

Rich East High School recognizes the accomplishments of their 12 Illinois State Scholars.

RICH EAST NEWS

Advanced Placement Showcase



The Rich East Advanced Placement Showcase took place on December 11th. Current and future Advanced Placement students and their parents were invited to listen to the benefits of taking an Advanced Placement course. In addition, Michelle and Barack Obama Middle School students and their parents were invited to attend to learn about the fifteen Advanced Placement Courses that Rich East High School offers their students. Rich East invited several local college representatives to come out and discuss the benefits of taking Advanced Placement courses and how their respective universities accepted and recognized those courses. Also on the panel were parents and current Advanced Placement students who discussed their personal experiences with taking and supporting their students' who enrolled in Advanced Placement Courses.

Flexible Classrooms



Rich South High School has begun the work of transforming traditional classrooms into flexible learning spaces. The initiative took hold during the 2017-2018 school year, with a variety of teachers informally incorporating flexible seating options in their classrooms. After data showed the positive impact this approach had on learning, the District committed to fully converting five classrooms. These classrooms include a mathematics classroom, a social science classroom, a reading/AP English classroom, a Pre-AP English classroom, and an AP Social Sciences classroom.

Amy McDonagh was instrumental in bringing the transformation to Rich South High School, and noted to the following studies to support the change.



A 2008 study revealed that, giving people some control over their surroundings adds to their sense of well-being. Teachers have already reported that children take more ownership of the classroom (their classroom) when they can choose their seats, and are given freedom to move around when needed – for example, to see the board, and perhaps sit near the window where there’s natural light.

In 2016, Steelcase Education funded a study, which showed that classrooms designed to support participative learning increased student engagement compared to traditional row-by-column seating. “Of course, it makes sense that if a classroom is intentionally designed to support different modes of learning children are more apt to stay engaged. For example, individual study, group work, presentations, peer-to-peer discussion, and one-on-one instruction”.

New Online Registration Process

For the 2019-2020 school year, Rich Township High School District 227 will use an online process for enrollment, meal application, and fee payment. We piloted web-based enrollment with freshmen last year, and we are excited to implement it fully with all grade levels this year. With the exception of residency verification (which still has to be done in person at the campus), the enrollment process can be completed from the convenience of your home using any device such as your phone, laptop or tablet. More information regarding when the online enrollment window will open will be released early spring.

Mock Trial Teams Take 2nd Place in Municipal Tournament

Please congratulate the Mock Trial team as they took second place in the Sixth Municipal District Mock Trial Tournament. The Team did an exceptional job displaying professionalism as they were lawyers, witnesses and timekeepers. They represented Rich South to the fullest and are the top performers out of all three 227 District schools. Dominique Franklin won BEST ATTORNEY for the entire tournament. Mock Trial Team: Dominique Franklin, Amani Porter, Ariana Gray, Imani Wheeler-Smith, Daja Echols, Camilla Boyd, Kevelin Muhammed-Conner, Malaya Porter, Kiera Bradshaw, Nataysia Swope, and Eric Hawkins Jr.

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 2nd - Institute Day
(No Class)

May 3rd - School Fees are due

All senior fees are due by May 3rd. Students who fail to pay fees will not be issued a cap and gown or graduation tickets. No personal checks will be accepted after April 12th. Cash, money orders, credit and debit cards will be accepted in the cashier's office.

May 6th thru 10th Seniors Final Exams
May 10th Last Day of School For Seniors

May 16th - Ticket Distribution

All graduating and participating seniors will receive seven (7) tickets for the ceremony. Two additional tickets will be issued to senior who's parents attend two senior parent night meeting. Tickets will be distributed on Thursday, May 16th immediately following graduation rehearsal.

May 19th - Graduation Ceremony

Sunday, Tinley Park Convention Center
18451 Convention Center Drive, Tinley Park IL
-Admittance by ticket only, including infants and small children for entry

May 22nd thru 24th - Final Exams
For 9th, 10th and 11th Grades (No Seniors)

June 10th - Summer School Begins

Session 1 - June 10th to June 27th
Session 2 - July 1st to July 22nd

CONGRATULATIONS

Rich Township High School District 227 would like to congratulate the following retirees for placing a Focus on Students and Student Success! Enjoy your retirement and thank you for dedicating your life to our children.. You will be missed!

Years of Service

Ernestyne Brown (Rich Central 11), Karen Brooks (Rich East 12), Rose Caridine (Rich South 14), Marcy Jo Chachakis (Rich South 15), Alice Doughney (Rich East 25), Barbara Edwards (Rich South 18), William Everett, Jr. (Rich East 28), Mary Gray (Rich South 16), Selena Marshall (Rich Central 17), Irene Petratos (Rich South 19), Judy Regan (Rich South 21), Helga Spoolstra (Rich East 19), Traci Toth (Rich Central 25), Pamela Williams (Rich Central 17).

District 227 Board of Education Board Meeting Dates

Tuesday, April 16, 2019

Committee of the Whole, 4:30 p.m.
Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Location: Administration Center

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Committee of the Whole, 4:30 p.m.
Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Location: Administration Center

Tuesday, June 18, 2019

Committee of the Whole, 4:30 p.m.
Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Location: Administration Center

District 227 Board Members



Randy Alexander
Board President



Mia Carter
Vice President



Sharon Newman
Secretary



Edwin A. Burnette
Board Member



Cheryl Coleman
Board Member



Dr. Delores Woods
Board Member



Janice Preston
Board Member

POSTAL CUSTOMER



District 227 Administrative Team

Dr. Johnnie Thomas, Superintendent
Dr. Stephen Bournés, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services
Dr. Alicia Evans, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations
Dr. Kim Echols, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
Mr. Kevin Baffoe, Director of Building and Grounds
Mrs. Jackie Bailey-Moss, Director of Student Support Services
Mr. Jeff Bonomo, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Data
Dr. Stacey Hunt, Director of Culture and Climate
Mr. Ted Koutavas, Director of Technology
Mrs. Samantha Peterson, Coordinator of Prof. Dev. and Grants
Ms. Hope Stovall, Coordinator for Career and Technical Education

Rich Township High School District 227 Receives Property Tax Relief Grant

Rich Township High School District 227 will receive \$2,736,497 in grant proceeds that will be issued through the Illinois State Board. The grant is a part of the \$50 million in property tax relief grants to eligible school districts. Eligible districts are those that exceed a threshold tax rate and that agree to abate a portion of taxes, up to a statutory limit, in the coming tax cycle. In return, qualifying districts receive a state grant in an amount that is a proportion of the tax relief provided.