

Rich East to use part of grant to offer Saturday Community Classes

Park Forest, Ill. – Looking for something to do on Saturday's as the chill of winter continues? Then perhaps fun and informative classes at Rich East High School may be just the remedy for your winter chills and gear up for spring!

As part of its receiving a \$232,000 School Improvement Grant from the Illinois State Board of Education, Rich East High School is sponsoring a special 10-week series of classes that will be open to all Park Forest residents, including Rich East students. Classes continue on selected Saturday's through May 15. They are scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. and end between noon and 12:30 p.m.

“Our goal is to help our community become more involved in Rich East and raise student achievement as well as provide better career opportunities for our community,” said school principal, Mark Kramer.

“This is another great opportunity to showcase our school and give something special to the entire Park Forest community.”

As part of its initiation on Saturday, Dec. 12, attendees received a sampling of classes to be offered. The synopsis of classes on that day will include: Computer Skills; Excel; Word and Power Point; Wellness-Yoga; Weight Training and Line Dancing; Fitness-Boot Camp; Legacy Initiative-Cradle to careers; 2+2=Success-Algebra strategies for the visual learner; “Right to Read” and Fine Arts, which will highlight Chorus and community choir.

After the initial Dec. 12 session, nine more will be offered, on Jan. 9, Jan. 30, Feb. 6, March 6, March 20, April 10, April 24, May 1 and May 15. Classes will always be from 8 a.m. to noon. A person will be able to sign up for up to three different courses in one Saturday session. The classes to be offered also in part to suggestions made at a special community forum at Rich East in November. At that special forum, attended by community leaders, School

District 227 officials and parents, most of the more than four dozen in attendance, suggested and wrote on cards and poster boards that they would like to see the school open to the community for classes when it could.

“We also want input from participants to shape the sessions over the next two years,” Kramer said. “This is something we want to keep going for the Rocket community.”

The classes are free of charge but registration is required. The classes are open to residents of Park Forest only. Students of Rich East may also attend the special Saturday classes. This has also been a way for parents and their children to have a bit of a bond on the weekend.

“We’ve had many parents take some of the classes with their Rich East children,” Kramer said. “That’s kind of neat to see. They have all seemed to enjoy the classes and free time.”

Rich East High School is located at 300 Sauk Trail, Park Forest, Ill. For more information, please call 708-679-6100, weekdays between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.