



Rush City High School Update

Strategic Plan in Action

October 2026

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From the Principal's Desk

As we move into October, the rhythm of the school year is well established at Rush City High School. Building upon our core theme of **"The Power of Consistency,"** our focus this month has been on sustaining strong academic routines, supporting our instructional staff through observation and coaching cycles, and celebrating the strong culture and pride of our school community.

A major highlight of the past month was our Homecoming Week, which brought incredible energy, participation, and spirit across all grade levels. From dress-up days and Coronation to athletic events and community gatherings, our students showed what it means to be a Rush City Tiger. Alongside these celebrations, our administrative team completed our final grade-level class meeting with the Senior class, reinforcing our shared expectations around leadership, academic focus, and positive culture.

We remain deeply grateful for the dedication of our staff, the support of our families, and the vibrant school community that makes RCHS a great place to learn and grow.

ACHIEVE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Progress: Supporting instructional growth, clarifying building goals, and fostering collaborative professional learning.

- Instructional Coaching & Observation Cycles: Administered fall classroom observations and post-observation coaching sessions, focusing on high-leverage instructional practices and teacher growth.
- 2026–27 HS Building Goals: Hosted a collaborative staff session to review, refine, and align our high school building goals for the academic year.
- Professional Learning Teams (PLT): Conducted school-wide PLT sessions focused on department alignment, effective student learning goals, and student support strategies.
- Instructional Leadership Collaboration: Maintained regular connections with our High School Instructional Coach to ensure consistent instructional support across content areas.

FOSTER A POSITIVE AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Progress: Building school pride, supporting student leadership, and ensuring strong systems for student success.

- Senior Class Meeting: Completed our series of fall class meetings with the Senior class, emphasizing their role as student leaders, upholding ROAR expectations, and setting academic and post-secondary goals.
- Homecoming Week Celebrations: Successfully hosted Coronation, spirit dress-up days, and student activities that fostered a strong sense of belonging and building-wide pride.
- Student Reentry & Support Planning: Collaborated with SCRED and district support staff on individual student plans, special education coordination, and seamless transitions for students.
- Updates from behavior and culture

STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

Progress: Partnering with community foundations and engaging families through school events.

- Rush City Education Foundation Partnership: Hosted the Education Foundation's "Money Grab" event in the RCHS Auditorium, celebrating community support for innovative classroom opportunities.
- Community Athletic & Spirit Events: Welcomed community members, alumni, and families to fall athletic events, including Friday night home football games and co-curricular activities.
- 2027 Rush Rally Planning: Attended the initial '2027 Rush Rally' organizing meeting with RCEF, where a theme and entertainment were identified to build on last year's success.
- Met with PTCC President Joe Mulford in my role as President of the PTCC Foundation Board of Directors as it pertains to the Annual Donor Event on October 23, 2026.
- ROAR & Student of Character (SOC) Recognition: Exploring community and business sponsorships to support ongoing student recognition programs. Preliminary discussions have taken place with the Rush City Education Foundation, Pine Tech, Rock Creek Cafe, and East Central Energy.

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Progress: Maintaining strong facility management, substitute coverage, and operational alignment.

- Substitute Teacher Recruitment: Conducted substitute teacher interviews to ensure reliable coverage across secondary classrooms, successfully adding two new substitute teachers.

- Facility & Auditorium Walkthroughs: Completed facility check-ins and auditorium walkthroughs to support ongoing building maintenance and event readiness.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we move through October and into November, our administrative team and staff are focusing on several key operational and academic milestones:

- Bus Safety & Evacuation Drills: Conducting required bus evacuation drills for grades 7–10 on October 14.
- Fall Breaks & Staff Development: MEA Break (October 15–16) followed by a dedicated Staff Development Day on Monday, October 19. This day will include a debrief on current behavioral data and the power of consistency, as well as a session on Trauma Informed Practices.
- Counseling & Career Pathways Alignment: Partnering with the counseling department to solidify roles, workflow, and college/career planning structures.
- Continued Teacher Evaluation & Coaching Cycles: Ongoing fall classroom observations and post-observation coaching sessions across secondary departments.
- Continuous Improvement Alignment: Continuing work with our High School Continuous Improvement Team (CIT) on our Comprehensive Needs Assessment.

Go Tigers!