Rush City High School Update

High School Update

November 2026

Strategic Plan in Action

From the Principal's Desk

As we move into November and approach the conclusion of the first quarter, Rush City High School continues to operate with purpose, focus, and momentum. Building on our overarching strategic theme, "The Power of Consistency", our recent administrative and instructional efforts have focused on refining classroom practices, strengthening mental health and student support frameworks, and planning for upcoming academic pathways.

Following a productive Staff Development Day late last month, our staff has actively engaged in collaborative goal-setting, data debriefs, and instructional observations. At the same time, our leadership team has been working closely with regional partners, county agencies, and district administration to ensure our systems support the whole child, academically, behaviorally, and emotionally.

We are proud of the hard work happening in our classrooms every day and look forward to celebrating student growth as we wrap up quarter 1.

ACHIEVE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Progress: Strengthening instructional coaching, expanding academic pathways, and aligning curriculum goals.

- Instructional Coaching & Observations: Conducted pre- and post-observation cycles across secondary departments (including English/Language Arts, Music, and CTE) in ongoing partnership with Instructional Coach Mary Kurvers.
- Concurrent Enrollment Planning: High school administration, counseling, and instructional coaching met to review and expand concurrent enrollment and college credit opportunities for RCHS students as well as creating specific guidelines aimed to support students and families to make the best decisions for their students.
- E-Learning Protocol Refinement: Drafted and refined updated secondary E-Learning

plans to ensure academic continuity and consistent instructional expectations during winter weather events.
- Teachers facilitated professional development around ‘Preventative Reminders’ to support students in behavior management.
- Department & Goal Setting: Facilitated focused department goal-setting sessions to align classroom/job metrics with building-wide continuous improvement targets.

FOSTER A POSITIVE AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Progress: Prioritizing student mental health, safety protocols, and behavioral consistency.

- Lockdown Drill #2 Execution: Successfully conducted our second formal lockdown drill of the school year. Staff and students demonstrated excellent adherence to safety protocols and procedures.
- Trauma-Informed Practice (TIP) & Mental Health Review: Held dedicated reviews on Trauma-Informed Practices with SCRED leads, alongside internal discussions focused on expanding school-based mental health supports for high school students.
- Staff Culture & Morale: Hosted a fall staff potluck to build community and celebrate team momentum following the MEA milestone. Tiger Pride week where staff were encouraged to wear their Tiger gear each day to celebrate the trip to state!

STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

Progress: Partnering with regional health agencies, county leaders, and district communication teams.

- Children’s Mental Health Collaborative: Participated in the regional Children’s Mental Health Collaborative meeting alongside Chisago County, SCRED, and local agency leadership to align youth mental health resources.
- Communications Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA): Joined the Full Cabinet and CESO team for a Communications CNA session to evaluate district-wide communication effectiveness and outreach strategies.
- Regional & County Educational Programming: Collaborated with Chisago County and SCRED teams on specialized programming and support structures for secondary students.

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Progress: Operations alignment, labor-management collaboration, and benefit planning.

- Labor Management Team Collaboration: Met with the Labor Management Team to maintain transparent communication and address ongoing building and operational items.

- District Leadership Alignment: Engaged in regular Principal Collaboration sessions with Superintendent Horton to maintain alignment on district goals, administrative structures, and facility needs.
- Operational Planning: Participated in preliminary district planning discussions regarding 2027 benefit updates and staff insurance comparisons.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we prepare for the transition into the second trimester, our immediate focus includes:

- End of Trimester 1: Finalizing grades, assessments, and academic progress reports.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences: Partnering with families to review student growth and trimester achievements.
- Winter Activities & Athletics: Transitioning into winter sports, co-curricular activities, and seasonal performance schedules.
- Continuous Improvement Team (CIT): Ongoing work with the High School CIT on building goals and student outcome data.
- December 1, 2026 RCHS will hold its second Youth Frontiers Retreat; 10th and 11th graders will engage in a full day ‘Respect Retreat’

Go Tigers!