



High School Update

August 2026

Strategic Plan in Action

From the Principal's Desk

August brings a noticeable change of pace at Rush City High School as we move closer to welcoming staff and students back into the building. Much of the planning and preparation that has taken place throughout the summer is beginning to come together.

We are excited to enter the 2026-27 school year fully staffed, welcome several new members to the RCHS team, and continue building stronger connections across the district. Our work this month has focused on onboarding new staff, strengthening our PreK-12 approach to continuous improvement, preparing for opening week, and ensuring our facilities and systems are ready for the year ahead.

There is a great deal of positive energy as we prepare to bring everyone back together and begin the school year.

ACHIEVE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Progress: Strengthening our instructional team and building systems that support continuous improvement and student learning.

- The District Continuous Improvement Team spent two days at Resource Training & Solutions in St. Cloud learning, collaborating, and beginning the work of developing our new Continuous Improvement Team structure.
- The work brought elementary and secondary staff together around a shared PreK-12 commitment to improving teaching, learning, and student success.
- Continuing to develop opening week professional learning and activities that will provide staff with clear direction and build on the instructional work already underway.
- The upcoming Unique Learners Conference, hosted by SCRED, will provide additional professional learning and support as special education educators prepare to meet the needs of all learners.

FOSTER A POSITIVE AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Progress: Building relationships and strengthening connections among students and staff across Rush City Schools.

- A significant focus of our Continuous Improvement Team work is strengthening the connection between our elementary and secondary schools.
 - We are intentionally exploring ways to create stronger relationships among PreK-12 students and staff and build a greater sense of belonging, unity, and pride throughout Rush City Schools.
 - Onboarding continues for new High School and District Office staff, with an emphasis on relationships, expectations, and helping new employees become connected to our school community.
 - Fall activities are preparing to begin, bringing students, coaches, advisors, families, and community members back to campus.
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STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

Progress: Building a stronger PreK-12 identity and creating connections that extend throughout our school community.

- Continuous Improvement Team discussions have emphasized breaking down barriers between buildings and strengthening our identity as one school district serving students from PreK through graduation.
 - Staff from both buildings are collaborating and developing relationships that will support future opportunities for students and staff to connect across grade levels.
 - As fall activities begin, we look forward to welcoming families and community members back to RCHS and celebrating the students who represent Rush City Schools.
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FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Progress: Completing staffing and facility improvements in preparation for the 2026-27 school year.

- **Rush City High School is fully staffed for the 2026-27 school year.**
 - **Dave Kaiser** has accepted our Career and Technical Education (CTE) teaching position. Dave brings approximately 20 years of industry experience to RCHS and is excited to bring that experience into the classroom and join the Tiger team.
 - **Katie Piehl** will join our High School Administrative Assistant team. Katie brings strong professional experience to the position and is excited to become part of RCHS.
 - Construction in the High School and District Offices is nearing completion, with both spaces taking shape as we prepare for staff and students to return.
 - The newly refinished gym floor is complete and looks fantastic, providing a refreshed space for our students, activities, and community.
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LOOKING AHEAD

Things begin to move quickly from here!

- Unique Learners Conference hosted by SCRED.
- Fall activities and athletics getting underway.
- Continued onboarding of new staff.
- Final preparation and professional learning for opening week.
- Welcoming staff back to RCHS.
- Open House and 7th Grade/New Student Orientation.
- Welcoming students back for the 2026-27 school year.

We are excited about the people joining our team, the work taking shape across the district, and the direction we are heading as we prepare to welcome our students back to Rush City High School.

Go Tigers!