



Community Connections

Rush City School District

From Superintendent Teresa Dupre | July 31, 2015

Dear Rush City Community,

It has been almost a month since I joined the wonderful community of Rush City. To those of you I have had the opportunity to meet, thank you for the very warm welcome. One of my highest priorities as superintendent will be to get to know all of you!

For the past month I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know our dedicated District Office staff, our ever hard-working Custodians, our amazing Bus Drivers, many of our devoted Teachers and several members of the community. Our first School Board meeting was held on July 16 and we are already working as an enthusiastic and focused team. It is truly an honor to be working with and for our School Board.



An area of focus at our July meeting was the review of school district policies and renewing our commitment to the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan will serve as our compass that will guide our focus on learning, provide positive and safe learning environments, financial stability, and community relationships. Many hours of thoughtful reflection and work were spent developing the plan and it is our goal to continue that important work. Significant progress has been made in Priority Area 2 of the Plan with the addition of crisis intervention teams that have been put in place, 'Go Kits' have been assembled and distributed with training provided, and perhaps most importantly, security cameras were purchased and installed in both buildings. Please watch for ongoing updates regarding the action steps we will add to the plan and how you can be involved in the process.

In order to align and link the Strategic Plan to effective action we will need everyone to be informed and aware of the focus areas. We will be asking for your ongoing input and support. An updated DRAFT of the plan, actions steps and suggested priority areas for the 2015-2016 school year will be posted on our website and included in a future edition of **Community Connections** after I have the chance to meet with our staff, students, parents and members of the community. If you would like to be a part of the review process, please contact me at our District Office (320-358- 4855) or email me at tdupre@rushcity.k12.mn.us

One of our first action steps will be to update the Rush City Schools Webpage. Currently it is "under construction" behind the scenes where we are creating a new school calendar format, and reorganizing some of the tabs to make it easier to find the information you are looking for. For the school year calendar, please click [here](#). *Please remember in order to preserve resources and to ensure accuracy, a hard copy of the school calendar will not be printed for the 2015/2016 school year. We will however print a limited number of calendars that will include fixed dates for reference. Please contact the District Office to have one sent home with a student or stop by and we are happy to provide you with one.*

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

The **Back to School Edition** of the **District Newsletter** will be posted on our website http://www.rushcity.k12.mn.us/UserFiles/Servers/Server_922064/File/District/Calendar/2015-16%20Final.pdf August 18, 2015 and a hard copy mailed to all members of the community.

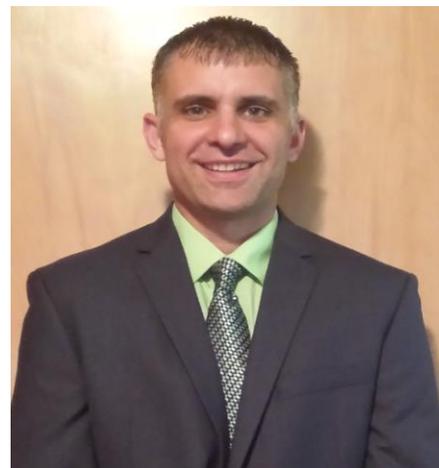
Included in the **Back to School Edition** will be school start dates and times, open house dates and times, lunch prices, supply lists, required community safety notices and an important note about **Educational Benefits Information**. This year we will be encouraging all parents of students in our school to complete the form, as it may generate revenue for our school from the state. More details will be sent with the form.

For all questions or concerns, please do not ever hesitate to call me @ 358-4855 or email me at tdupre@rushcity.k12.mn.us.

I am looking forward to a fantastic start to the school year and getting to know you! You can look forward to keeping in touch with school updates in **Community Connections** monthly.

Kindest Regards, Teresa

Please Welcome CE Jacobson Elementary and Early Childhood Principal: Jason Mielke



As a college student Jason completed his undergraduate course work in K-8 Elementary/Middle level education with a coaching minor at St. Cloud State University. He went on to complete his Masters degree in Educational Leadership with a specialist degree in school administration from Minnesota State University-Moorhead. During his time at Minnesota State-Moorhead he also completed extensive coursework in School Counseling.

During the past thirteen years, Jason has been a teacher and counselor in multiple school districts. He shares "each one of these experiences has been very beneficial to my growth as a relationship builder and leader in the educational setting". His public education career began in the Long Prairie – Grey Eagle school district. Following this experience for two years he worked in Saint Michael – Albertville at the Middle School.

To fulfill a desire to once again teach in a small town, he made the move further north to teach sixth grade students in the Park Rapids school district then followed by a position in the West Fargo schools as a special education teacher. With the desire to work more closely with students, he took on the responsibility as a middle school guidance counselor. Responsibilities included working with many high-risk students to encourage academic success along with social and emotional well-being. His desire to live closer to extended family with his wife and three boys, brought them to Wadena Public Schools for the last four years as an elementary teacher and head basketball coach. During his time in Wadena he also spent time working as an administrative intern giving him experience with teacher evaluations, school wide discipline models, scheduling, and curriculum development and selection. He is married to Tania and they have three boys Luke (12), Lincoln (5), Carson (2). They enjoy many outdoor activities including camping, fishing, being with their two dogs, and spending time with family. They are extremely excited to be a part of the Rush City community and look forward to meeting many people in the community as the school year gets started.

Please join me in welcoming Jason Mielke and his family to Rush City!

Jason's contact information at CE Jacobson Elementary is:
320-358-4724 or via email at jmielke@rushcity.k12.mn.us.

Familiar Face in a New Place: Welcoming Kristin Papke to the District Office

Kristin Papke started in the District Office in late July and comes to us with office, accounting, and human resources experience. She brings the unique perspective of being originally from Rush City and choosing to return to the community where their children attend school. She is excited to be working for the school district. Kristin and her husband, Mike, have two sons, Matt in 8th grade and Joey in 6th grade, attending Rush City Schools. Kristin enjoys volunteering with school and community activities including PTO, the Thriving Communities Initiative, and Scouts. Please be sure to stop by and say hello next time you are at school.



Children, Youth and Future Workforce Committee Survey

The Children, Youth & Future Workforce sub-committee of the Thriving Communities Initiative sponsored by the City of Rush City has been working for almost 2 years on city improvement projects. This youth focused group has chosen to work on improving Community Education and local activities as some of their primary goals. In order to help plan additional Community Education classes or events that the area would like to see or attend, they have drafted a short survey to poll what types of classes, age groups, dates/times for scheduling, etc. that the community might have interest in attending. Please follow the link below to enter your feedback on this brief survey so the group can concentrate on planning events Rush City community members would like to attend. Thank you.

Please support the work of the Rush City Children, Youth & Future Workforce sub-committee of the Thriving Communities Initiative by clicking on the survey link below.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RC_Comm_Ed

Community Connections and the District Newsletter will be sent electronically via School Messenger to all families with children enrolled in Rush City Schools. All other community members will be able to receive an electronic copy of **Community Connections** and/or the District Newsletter by completing a simple form listing your name and email address. To receive future issues electronically each month watch for more details in the next issue of **Community Connections**.

Next Issue | August 18, 2015