



**THE PROMISE OF RUSH CITY SCHOOLS IS TO CREATE  
GLOBAL CITIZENS WHO ARE LIFELONG LEARNERS**

November 25, 2020

Rush City Community,

I hope this holiday weekend proves to be relaxing and enjoyable for all of our families. I encourage you to spend quality time with your immediate family, focus on the positives, and take a well-deserved break.

I want to publicly recognize the hard work of the Rush City Schools Staff. Just as distance learning is not easy for most families it's not easy for most staff either. The majority of our employees have gone into their fields to help children grow and develop. Most have mastered their skills and are doing a great job to maintain the same outcomes by doing everything differently. They have high expectations and put in long hours to find ways to deliver a comparable service. While our teachers are doing everything they can, it's also all of our support staff who are making a difference. Our paraprofessionals are supporting our learners and providing childcare for our front line workers, our food service staff are providing free meals to those who are 18 and under, drivers are transporting students to childcare and special programs, and custodians are doing their typical duties in addition to extensive sanitizing. The list goes on. We all have our challenges and I am proud of how our staff have risen to the occasion! We're lucky to have such great people serve our children and community, thank you Rush City Schools employees!

While we do not have a date to return to in person learning, I find it likely that we will be in this scenario for several weeks. The local COVID-19 data must improve before we can consider shifting scenarios. While we've never been in this exact situation, I anticipate that we will see the trend in our COVID-19 data improving, or vaccinations becoming available, and there will be time to communicate and plan prior to making a change. Please know we want our students to be back in our buildings as soon as possible and we know many would like to have a date. However, we believe it is more important to maintain our flexibility and be able to transition back as soon as we believe it is safe, and our county and state experts agree.

As we prepared for this school year, we created our *Rush City Schools K-12 Reopening Schools Plan*. Since the year began, we have held community meetings, surveyed students, families, and staff, monitored student achievement, received new guidance from the state, and learned from county, state, and other district professionals. In light of all of this we have revised our plan. The revised document is our [Rush City Schools K-12 Safe Learning Plan](#). This document provides more information about how decisions are made regarding shifting scenarios, participating in extracurricular activities, and it outlines resources that are available for all students to achieve success.

I greatly appreciate the input we've received from our families, students, and staff while navigating these challenging and ever-changing times. Please reach out to us if you have questions, concerns, an idea, or a viewpoint you would like to share. We are a community and your voice is important! While I cannot guarantee that we can provide everything everyone wants, I can guarantee that we will listen to you and work to understand your situation or perspective.

The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs has announced a program to provide one-time \$3000 grants for veterans to mitigate the financial burden some families may face with distance learning. To learn more about this program click [here](#). School meals also continue to be provided free of charge for all children under the age of 18 in our district, regardless of attendance in our schools. Contact a school office for more information and/or to be added to the list for meal pickup.

Again, thank you for your cooperation, understanding, and support as we continue to do everything we can to create global citizens who are lifelong learners. Stay positive and keep doing your best, everyone.

Thank you,

Brent Stavig  
Interim Superintendent

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