District #139 Back to School Newsletter

www.rushcity.k12.mn.us

Building Strong Foundations for Successful Futures

Our mission is to provide each learner with appropriate educational opportunities to reach his or her potential.



August 2016

Letter From the Superintendent

T. Dupre

Welcome to the new school year!

One of the best parts of working in a school is we have the chance for a fresh and new start every year. We are looking forward to welcoming our new students and excited to catch up with our returning students. I am thrilled to be starting my second year with Rush City Schools and find myself even more excited this year than last because I have truly come to know what an amazing school district and community we have. Please know how much we appreciate your support and encourage you to continue to be our partners in your child's educational journey.

Many thanks to our wonderful custodial staff for shining up our schools, cleaning every corner and aspect of our buildings to welcome everyone back to fresh clean learning environments. We highly value and appreciate all of their important work. Our dedicated bus drivers are working on new routes and will be in contact with all families that use our bus service prior to the start of the school year with bus pick up locations and times. If you have any questions about bus service please call our district office at 320-358-4855 and you will be greeted by a new and friendly voice, Renee Mussetter. Renee joins us with many years of experience in schools and we are excited to have her join us. We will miss Kristin yet wish her all the best as she returns to work in human resources and personnel.

On August 29 our hallways and classrooms will be buzzing with activity when all of our staff returns. They will be busy getting everything ready to welcome students at CE Jacobson for Open House on Wednesday the 31st from 5:30 to 7:00 pm followed by Grade 7 and Secondary new students Orientation at 6:30 pm. The big day we are all looking forward to is **Tuesday September 6** – our first day of school.

As we start the new year our commitment to you, our community, and especially to our students will not waiver. We will continue to focus on our four strategic action priorities of academic excellence, positive and safe environments, fiscal stability and community relationships. Student learning is and always will be our highest priority yet the other priority areas are essential for a successful school and educational experiences. Please know that while much attention and information this fall will be focused on informing our community about the need for an operating referendum, the high quality work of our staff will remain solely focused on your children, their students, our future!

Thank you once again for your ongoing support and I look forward to beginning a new school year with all of you. Kindest Regards,

Teresa Dupre

Superintendent Rush City Schools

From the High School Principal's Desk B. Stavig

Tuesday, September 6th will be the first day of school for our students. In recent years we've made many changes and improvements to systems, processes, and technologies. The impact on our school's student achievement data and building climate has been remarkable. I'm very proud of the hard work our students, staff, parents, and community members have put in assisting with these changes and initiatives. This year I do not intend to implement any major initiatives. My main goal for this year is "consistency" – we have the right tools in place, now we need to ensure everyone is consistently using them to push each learner to their full potential.

A couple of changes that students and parents should be aware of include revised open lunch procedures for senior high students and some larger class sizes in math and English. The open lunch changes for grades 10-12 include requiring parent permission and for students to be in good standing academically and behaviorally to leave campus during lunch. The larger class sizes are the result of budget reductions; however, we will provide additional assistance as necessary to ensure we are meeting the needs of our learners.

The 1:1 Chromebook initiative greatly enhanced the capabilities of our students and teachers. It also allowed us to implement Schoology, an online learning management tool that promotes 21st century skills, enhances communication, and gives parents the ability to proactively monitor their student's progress. If your student is going to use a school device, please ensure the protection plan loan agreement

Rush City School District #139

PO Box 566 Rush City, MN 55069

District Office358-4855SuperintendentTeresa DupreHigh School358-4795High School PrincipalBrent StavigJacobson Elementary358-4724Elementary PrincipalJason Mielke

Rush City Schools website www.rushcity.k12.mn.us School Board

Chairperson Stefanie Folkema
Vice-Chair Teri Umbreit
Clerk Scott Tryon
Treasurer Scott Anderson
Director Matt Meissner
Director Matt Perreault

School Board Meetings

The regular school board meetings are Scheduled for the third Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in High School Room 201.

paperwork is completed and returned to the office with payment. Students who are bringing their own device should bring them as soon as they are assigned a locker.

Orientation for seventh grade students, anyone new to our school, and their parents/guardians will be on **Wednesday**, **August 31st at 6:30 PM** in the High School auditorium. Students will have the opportunity to find their classes, meet many of their teachers, and put their supplies in their lockers.

Again this year, students and parents will access the student/ parent handbook online. During the first few days of school, students will electronically acknowledge that they have read and understood the handbook. Parents will have access to it on the High School website. It is my belief that consistently enforced and clearly communicated rules and procedures are necessary to maintain a safe and effective educational environment. Please review the handbook carefully and be sure to contact us if you have questions or concerns.

We will have a few new staff members when students arrive on September 6th. Whitney Hout is our new Physical Education/ Health teacher. I believe she will be a great fit with our community and students. She's excited to be in an area with such great outdoor resources and intends to utilize our community's resources within her curriculum. Jason McGraw comes to us from Illinois with extensive experience in Science. Jason's passion is helping learners with Emotional and Behavioral Disorders (EBD). He will be joining our Special Education department where his science experience will be a great asset to the team. Finally, Charlie Cook will be returning as our new Business teacher. Charlie finished off the end of last year with us and will now start this year with some new and revised classes that will be great for our students and community.

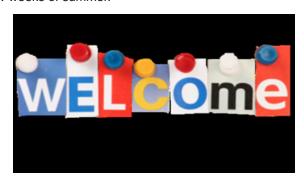
Our athletes have been training hard for several weeks; many have been training all summer. The dedication and efforts of these athletes and their coaches is remarkable. They look ready to make this an exciting and competitive year. I hope to see many of you at their events cheering them on. Go Tigers!!!

Finally, I want to remind everyone I believe effective communication is vital to meeting the needs of our students and families. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (320) 358-4795 or bstavig@rushcity.k12.mn.us if you have questions or concerns. Thank you.

Welcome back, Brent Stavig

Welcome Back

It's that time of year; every store you walk into has some type of sign reading Back to School. An exciting time for many students as they think about transitioning to a new grade, seeing their friends, and picking out those new folders, notebooks, and other supplies for another year. I hope this letter finds everyone enjoying our hot August weather and the last few weeks of summer.



Who is my teacher?

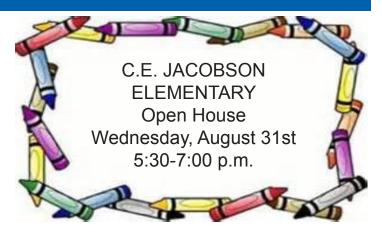
Parents may be wondering who their child is going to have for a teacher this year, and students may be asking who their teacher is going to be. You can find out beginning on Monday August 15th when we post the class lists on the front entrance of the school, and the Jacobson Elementary webpage. You should also be hearing from your homeroom teacher sometime before open house. The school office is also open now if you have any questions.

Open House and Supplies

The staff at C.E. Jacobson would like to take this opportunity to also remind you that Elementary open house is right around the corner. The new school year open house will be held **Wednesday August 31, from 5:30-7:00pm.** This is a great opportunity for your child to meet their teacher, organize their supplies, see friends, and get some of those new school year jitters out of the way before classes start.

If you are still wondering what supplies your child will need for the new year, you can find our school supply list on the school webpage at www.rushcity.k12.mn.us. Once you are on the page if you navigate to the C.E. Jacobson Elementary homepage a link to our supply list is at the top. If you still cannot locate the list please stop by our elementary school office between 8:00am-3:30pm.





Welcome New Students!

If you are new to Rush City, or new to the school district I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to our schools. I am certain you will enjoy our educational opportunities, and we are extremely excited you are a member of our school family. You will find that being a Rush City Tiger will give you many unique experiences. If you have not registered your child for the new school year please stop by our elementary office so we can get your child enrolled and their records transferred over to our district.

Exciting Changes

Along with the new school year, we also usher in some exciting new changes in our building. This year for reading we will start a new balanced literacy program known as Benchmark Literacy. A true readers and writers workshop model, we hope you will enjoy seeing more books in your child's hands. We also will be going into full implementation with our Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) School-wide Expectations. You will see our Slogan ROAR throughout our building and our expectations chart posted as we strive for consistency throughout all areas.

If there are ever any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me by phone 320-358-4724, or by email at jmielke@rushcity.k12.mn.us. My door is always open, and I look forward to seeing all of you as we journey through the 2016-2017 school year.

Jason Mielke Principal

First Day of School

Students will report for their first day of classes on Tuesday, September 6.

Teacher Workshop Days Scheduled

This year Rush City Schools teacher workshop days are
August 29th - September 1st.



New!! Tu/Th PM ECFE/Head Start Preschool Class

Mixed ages, 3-5 year old children 11:45am-2:45pm Lunch provided each class day. Parent attends first & last day of class, as well as 5 parent discussion groups (dates TBD). Child attends alone on all other dates.

> Class runs Oct 4th - Apr 20. Cost per ECFE sliding fee scale.

Open Play - Drop In and Play Tuesday mornings at 10:15am Ages birth to kindergarten entrance First day - Tuesday, September 27

Preschool age ECFE Class. 3-5 year olds

Thursdays 9-11:30am
Child's lunch provided (parent may purchase lunch). Parent & child attend class together.
Parents separate for first hour of class to attend parent discussion group. Gain valuable parenting information & best practice tips!

Cost per ECFE sliding fee scale.

First day, Sept 29.

Preschool (child attends alone) classes for students who have turned 4 by September 1st are **NEARLY** full.

Please call for availability 320-358-3635.



Early Childhood Screening

In Minnesota, all children are required to complete Early Childhood Screening before they enter Kindergarten. Screening should be done once your child is 3 years old. This is an opportunity for you to review your child's growth and development and to follow up on any concerns. It includes a developmental assessment, vision and hearing testing, height and weight measurement, immunization and health history review and a parent interview. Screening IS NOT an examination to determine readiness for school. Rather, its purpose is to identify conditions which might interfere with your child's ability to learn. Appointment letters will be sent to all families with age eligible children who are on the Rush City School District Census. Please call Rush City Early Childhood at 320-358-3635 if you are not sure if your child is on the census.



Fall Early Childhood Carnival

Thursday, Oct 6th
5:30-7:00pm
Jacobson Elementary
Pizza dinner, games, prizes,
popcorn & face painting!
Older siblings welcome, but all games and
prizes geared for children 5 and under
Tickets 5 for \$1 in advance
or .25 cents each at the door

Toddler ECFE Class 18-36 months

Tuesdays, 8:30am-10:00am
Parent & child attend class together.
Parents separate for last 45 minutes of class
to attend parent discussion group.
Gain valuable parenting information &
best practice tips!
Cost per ECFE sliding fee scale
First day - Tuesday, September 27

Notes from the School Nurse

D. Meissner

Back to School Blues: Helping Kids Handle Anxiety

As the long, languid days of summer start to fade and the crisp coziness of fall approaches, teachers, kids, parents, coaches, and the rest of the community settle back into the rhythm of school. Getting new school supplies and imagining life in the next grade is an exciting ritual for most kids, from preschoolers to college students, and usually involves more than a little trepidation. It's perfectly natural to feel both excitement and anxiety when change comes. For many kids, though, the transition back to school is especially difficult, and may be a source of angst and worry to the point where it can affect a child's sleep, attendance, and overall mental health. Here are some things to keep in mind when you notice that your child seems anxious.

Remember that some anxiety is normal and healthy.

We all know the feeling of being nervous before new experiences, so it would be strange if kids didn't feel some anxiety about a new school year. When kids have opportunities to feel unsure or worried and go on to face their fears and find success, it provides a huge boost to their confidence. It can be very tough to watch your child struggle with apprehension before starting kindergarten, or 7th grade, or going off to college, or starting a new job, but your child is actually gaining emotional strength from working through those feelings instead of giving in to them.

Validate your child's feelings.

Keep in mind that children can be very anxious about things that seem unimportant to us, but that their feelings are very real. You may think of kindergarten as a magical, fun place full of a carefree learning and playing, but to your child it may be an unknown world of intimidating new expectations. Acknowledge their fears without adding to them. For example, if your child expresses fear about starting a new grade, offer a reminder that many kids feel the same way. Then remind your child about all the positive things in store for them when they go to school, like playing with friends, field trips, art projects, etc. Never tell kids they "shouldn't" feel worried about something. Let them know it's ok to feel worried, and let them know they have the power to change negative feelings.

Give your child tools to use when feeling stressed.

It's important to let kids with anxiety know you have confidence in their ability to handle it. Perhaps you and your child could come up with a phrase that can be repeated during difficult spots in the day, like "I can do this," or "I'm ok." Teach your child to take slow, deep breaths. Relaxation techniques can be especially helpful when kids have trouble falling asleep, like a guided imagery recording.

Enforce consistent bed times.

The importance of adequate sleep cannot be overstated. Kids (and adults) who are sleep deprived face a huge disadvantage in managing their emotions, paying attention, and solving problems. Yes, anxiety can make sleep very difficult, and that's why a consistent bedtime and bedtime routine (e.g. snack, bath, stories, bed) are so important. Get electronics out of your kids' rooms at night (especially older kids). Make it a rule that all phones are in the parent's room at night so kids aren't tempted by the siren song of texts and alerts. Be firm about sleep! It's one of the most important factors in your child's overall health.

Get your child to school every day.

Make attendance at school a non-negotiable requirement, even when kids are young. Conceding to a heartbreaking plea to stay at home even once will make future attendance exponentially harder to enforce. Kids need to be in school every day unless there is a valid reason to be absent (communicable illness, doctor appointments, funerals, etc.). Even preschoolers. Even seniors. Know the difference between true illness and symptoms caused by anxiety. Anxiety often manifests itself as stomachaches and headaches, and while these are real feelings (as opposed to the plotting, imaginary pains kids may report to get out of school), remind your child that it is ok to be in school even with some discomfort.

Get your child to school on time.

Kids who are prone to anxiety get really stressed if they get to school late. You as a parent may have a more lackadaisical approach to being on time, but please make sure your kids have plenty of time before the school day starts to hang up their backpack, talk with their friends, and get settled before the school day begins. They do not need the added stress of having to rush to catch up to classmates who have already started the school day. Make it as easy as possible for your child to have a good day, and that starts with allowing them enough time to transition from home to school.

Keep school staff in the loop.

If your child is prone to anxiety, be sure to let staff at school know. Teachers, the nurse, the school psychologist, the counselor, and the principals are all willing to help your child have a positive school experience in whatever ways we can, but we have to know about it. Let us know what your child is anxious about, so we can work together to help your child be successful.

Know when professional help is needed.

Sometimes a child's anxiety becomes so severe that professional mental help is needed. If your child is consistently having trouble sleeping, eating, or has physical symptoms that have no other explanation, first seek assistance from a pediatrician or family physician. Your health care provider can assist you in determining an appropriate course of action, and can direct you to mental health services available, if necessary.

Anxiety in children is amazingly common, and we at school want all our students to learn how to manage this normal, but occasionally problematic, feeling. As with any health concern you may have, feel free to contact me if suspect anxiety may be an issue with your child. We want this school year to be a happy and productive one, and we want to work with you to help that happen.

Deborah Meissner, RN, Licensed School Nurse dmeissner@rushcity.k12.mn.us

Elementary phone: 320-358-1364 - HS phone: 320-358-1270

Additional Resources

- •The American Academy of Adolescent and Child Psychiatry: Anxiety Resources http://www.aacap.org/aacap/families_and_youth/resource_centers/Anxiety_Disorder_Resource_Center/Home.aspx.
- •"What to Do (and Not Do) When Children are Anxious" from the Child Mind Institute http://childmind.org/article/what-to-do-and-not-do-when-children-are-anxious/.
- •13 Books for Kids to Help Children with Anxiety http://www.livingthelifefantastic.com/2013/10/31-days-to-peace-day-15-helping-children-with-anxiety-13-recommended-books/.

Starting The 2016-17 School Year!

School Hours

Building hours for students in the Rush City School District are as follows:

High School		Elementary School	
Breakfast	7:45 am	Breakfast	7:50 am
Classes start	8:15 am	Classes start	8:15 am
Dismissal	3:05 pm	Dismissal	2:55 pm

Student Absences

Parents/Guardians are reminded that if your child is absent from school for ANY reason, please call the school to report the absence or send a note with your child the day he/she returns excusing the absence.

Elementary School: 320-358-4724 High School: 320-358-4795

Your cooperation with this will be greatly appreciated!

Save Receipts For Your Child's Education Expenses

Minnesota Revenue offers two valuable tax benefits for parents who purchase school supplies for their K-12 students, the K-12 Education Credit and Subtraction. These benefits can reduce parents' taxes to increase their refund, but is only available for those who keep their receipts. Purchases for most school supplies, field trips, and musical instruments for school band are eligible.

Most Minnesota parents qualify for the K-12 subtraction, which reduces their taxable income. Parents under certain income limits may also qualify for the K-12 credit, which can refund up to 75% of their costs - even for parents who don't owe any taxes. Visit the Minnesota Revenue website for details at www.revenue.state.mn.us and enter K12 in the Search box, or call 651-296-3781 or 1-800-652-9094.











High School individual pictures will be taken on Wednesday, September 21st.

Elementary individual pictures will be taken on Friday, September 23rd.

Picture re-take day will be Friday, October 28th

Order forms for High School and Elementary students will be sent home with your child(ren).

New Student Registration

High School students new to the Rush City School system should register at the High School office prior to school opening in September.

Elementary students new to the Rush City School system should register at the Elementary School office prior to school opening in September.

Students enrolled in school are automatically registered in the spring of the year for the following school year.

Children entering kindergarten must be five years old on or before September 1st, but it is NOT mandatory for a child to begin kindergarten just because he or she IS five years old.

Children entering kindergarten in the fall register in the spring at a special kindergarten registration meeting. Proof of immunization must be supplied for each child who enters a Minnesota school for the first time.

Educational Benefits Letter

Watch for a mailing to come with the 2016-17 Application for Educational Benefits. The information can also be found on the home page of our website.

Transportation

Elementary Parking/Bus Loop

To improve student safety we ask everyone to follow some basic rules for dropping off students, picking up students, or parking at Jacobson Elementary. These procedures will separate school vehicles from other traffic and will direct parents and visitors to use the entrance by the office.

The bus loop is reserved for school buses or school vehicles from 7:30 am-3:30 pm. Parents and visitors should use the parking lot by the main entrance on the west side of the elementary school. Parents/guardians should drop off students along the sidewalk in the parking lot or park in a parking space to walk a student into the building or to pick a student up. Please do not park along the sidewalk in the parking lot!

Safety First!

We ask parents to promote good safety habits as children come and go from Jacobson Elementary school.

For walkers, parents are asked to reinforce what we teach children at school: 1) Use sidewalks wherever possible, 2) Walk facing traffic when not able to use a sidewalk, and 3) Go straight to the proper destination; do not stop to play along the way.

Parents who wish to pick up their children before dismissal should pick up an Early Dismissal Form in the office by 2:45 p.m., give the form to the teacher, and exit the building with your child. **The bus lane is for buses only!** Please use the parking lot by the main entrance. These procedures help to maintain safe conditions at our busy dismissal time!

Permission to Ride a Different Bus

Any student preparing to ride a different school bus MUST bring written permission, signed by parent/guardian, to the principal's office. The student will then receive a bus pass to be given to the bus driver.

We want to remind all parents and organization leaders that students are not allowed to ride the bus to a birthday party, scout meeting, etc. Our buses are scheduled with a full load each day leaving no room for extra students.

Safety Expectations on the Bus

Students will be notified of bus rules and will be expected to conduct themselves in a manner which will ensure safe passage and good care of the buses. Our primary concern is to provide the safest transportation possible. When a child becomes unruly on a bus, the child could be endangering up to 71 people. Students who do not maintain an acceptable level of responsibility on the bus will be dealt with promptly and firmly. Parents will be notified when a child exhibits repeated unacceptable behavior. If necessary, a child may be suspended from the bus on a temporary or permanent basis.

Please support our concern for the safe transportation of our students. Thank you.

It's The LAW!

The civil and criminal penalties for violations of the school bus STOP arm law have been increased.

A person who fails to stop a vehicle or to keep it stopped for a school bus displaying an extended stop arm and flashing red lights is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$300.

It is also a gross misdemeanor to pass or attempt to pass a school bus on the right-hand, passenger door side of the bus or to pass or attempt to pass the school bus when a child is outside the school bus.

Disclaimer-Bus Transportation

Parents are advised that by Minnesota law school buses carry essentially the same insurance coverage as do private automobiles. Therefore, the "no fault" coverage is in effect. Should a passenger in a school bus be injured, that passenger must make a claim to her or his (parent's) automobile insurance carrier for medical coverage.

Riding a Bicycle to School. . .

Children are allowed to ride bicycles to school. Racks are provided for parking them, but the school does not accept responsibility for the bicycles. As a measure of safety, the following rules must be complied with:

- 1. All bicycles must be parked in the racks provided.
- 2. No child may ride a bicycle belonging to another person.
- 3. Children should not "buck" another child on their bicycle.
- 4. Bike riders should ride with traffic and obey all traffic rules.

Bus Pick Up Times

Drivers will be contacting families during the last week of August to introduce themselves and provide pick up times. If you have questions regarding transportation, please call the District Office at 320-358-4855.



Donations

The Rush City School District would like to thank these organizations and individuals for their contributions to the following programs:

Donations from May 7, 2016 through August 5, 2016

Athletic Department

Mens and Womens Softball Association Rush City Youth Sports Club

Music Department - Instruments Dennis Frandsen

Early Childhood - Bookshelves

Jim Ausmus

All Night Graduation Party

First Evangelical Lutheran Church Walmart



Summer Recreation

American Legion Post #93 East Central Energy East Central Sanitation Bob Frandsen Jasper Chapter #28 Minnesota Masonic Charities North Branch Area Hockey Association **Plastech Corporation** Rush City SnoBugs Unity Bank

SCHOLARSHIP DONORS - CLASS 2016

American Legion Post 93 American Red Cross Blood Services -HS Young Mind Change Lives Bob Froelke Award **Burnett Dairy** Chisago County Pheasants Forever CE Jacobson Memorial CE Jacobson PTO Coldwell Banker Pro IV Realty

Diers Memorial-Donnette & Greg Wheelock Eagles Aerie 2663 East Central Energy East Central Sanitation Federated Co-op

Hermann Insurance Jasper Chapter #28 of Eastern Star Knights of Columbus Lake State Federal Credit Union Richard Markham Family Masonic Lodge Floyd & Jan May Family Memorial MSNA/East Central Chapter #25

PEO Wayne Peshia Memorial **RCEA Bill West Memorial** RLIA Grant Allen Rock Creek Lions Myrtle E. Roth Scholarship

Rush City Chamber of Commerce

Rush City Education Association Rush City Education Foundation (RCEF) RCEF - Merlin Beise & Eleanor Froelke Beise Memorial RCEF - Honoring Bev Proulx RCEF - Richard G. Schneider Memorial Rush City Garden Club Rush City High School Class '75 Rush City Lions Rush City Sno Bugs Rush City Student Council Rush City Women's Club Rush City Youth Sports Club Tozer Foundation

Unity Bank

2016 Tiger Golf Classic

Hole Sponsors

Jim DeVore Family Rick & Jody Friday Ed & Nancy Knackstedt Rick & Kristine Moulton Wayne & Alice Peshia Bob & Shari Schlagel Anderson & Koch Ford Carlson Heating & Sheet Metal Charitable Products Chilson's Jewelers Chucker's Bowl & Lounge, Inc. Desiree's Dance Studio East Central Pallet East Central Sanitation & Recycling Federated Co-Op, Rush City Graphic Homes, Inc. GT Storage Hermann Insurance, Rush City Ivy Farms Creamery, Inc.

Jerry's Auto Repair, Inc.

Knutson Real Estate, Inc.

Lee's Prop Shop

Maytag Laundries -Frandsen Concessions McDonald Distributing Co. North Branch Chevrolet Olson Funeral & Cremation Services Page Transfer Inc. Perry's Auto Salon, Inc.

Prefer Paving, Inc. Prefer Ready Mix, Inc. Riverbottom Design -VFW Softball Team

Peterson's NB Mill

Rush City Car Wash Rush City Lions Club Rush City Sno Bugs

Rush City Tire & Auto Care Rush City Youth Sports Club

Rush Lake Resort & Campground Scott Lindstrom Painting T&T Sports & Lawn Understood Wood Unity Bank, Rush City Xplode Sports Training

2016 Tiger Golf Classic

Donations - Prizes Don Brown Greg & Teresa Dupre Jim Erickson Joey & Stef Folkema Barb Guy Jason Knutson Glen Kuhlman Mick Louzek Dean & Heidi Miller Gerald Mollberg Rick & Kristine Moulton **Bob Schlagel** Kevin Schlagel Larry Schlagel Rick Schwab, NB Chevrolet Darrin Stream Eric & Tracy Telander

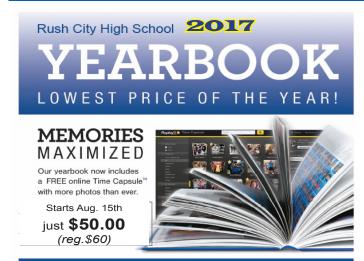
Bernick's Pepsi Bulrush Golf, Mike Olson

Chilson's Jewelers East Central Sanitation & Recycling

Lee's Pro Shop McDonald Distributing Co. Rush City Car Wash Rush City Pool Committee Unity Bank, Rush City

The District would also like to extend appreciation to school district and community members who have contributed to school fundraisers and local organizations. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Community Education







Rush City Community Education is currently seeking instructors to teach classes in various hobbies, skills, technology, or arts and crafts. This could include Infants thru Sr. Citizens. Are you looking for some extra cash? What can you teach? How can you help? We have several requests each year for classes in CPR & First Aid, Tai Chi, Yoga, Arts, Calligraphy, Genealogy, Aerobics/Fitness, and Computer instruction. For more information, or if you have a suggestion, call (320) 358-4795 or email Carrie Kirchberg - ckirchberg@rushcity.k12.mn.us or Lee Rood - Irood@rushcity.k12. mn.us.

Watch our website for more information on upcoming Community Ed Classes!

http://www.rushcity.k12.mn.us/parents students/ community education/

Yoga with Megan Bohmen-Kozisek is continuing! Join us for another session form September 7th -October 12th in the Jacobson Band Room 6:30-7:00 p.m. Minimum of 10 needed for the class. Call Carrie 320-358-4795 to register.



Facility Use

- Rush City Schools has space to fit your needs -

All school facilities are available for your use. Our High School has a 400 seat auditorium complete with a light and sound system. We'll supply a light and sound technician to assist you. The High School also has a large fully equipped industrial kitchen, commons area and a variety of classrooms for meetings. Our Elementary School has a gymnasium, kitchen, cafeteria and a variety of classrooms to fit many needs.

Usage Fees

Depending on your group and it's needs, there may be a usage fee charged for using some facilities. Typically these charges are less than comparable facilities charge. A fee schedule is available upon request. Conact the District for more information. Jeanne Korf, Facility Use Coordinator, 320-358-4855.

To Reserve School Space: Obtain a Facilities Use Request Form from the District Office. Complete it and submit it in advance of requested use. Please specify any other needs, such as TV, DVD, tables, chairs, etc.

We will check date, time and facility availability and add it to our weekly computer schedule. We will call you if there is a conflict to work out a new time or place.

The building and room are ready for your use at the requested time.

55+ Driver Improvement Program

4 hour course offering

Dates: Thursday, October 6, 2016 (4 hr)

Time: 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. Location: **RCHS Media Center** Instructor: Gene Carlson Cost: 4 hr. class is \$22.00

To register - Please call Carrie 320 358-4795, M-F, 8-4. Prepaid registration is due by September 30. Limit 30.

Save 10% on your Auto Insurance. The MN Highway Safety and Research Center at St. Cloud State Univ. developed this program specifically for Senior Drivers. It consists of 4 or 8 hours of lecture, discussion and educational videos. There are no written or behind the wheel tests. Upon completion of the course, drivers over the age of 55 are eligible for a 10% discount on their auto insurance. Topics covered include: Habits and Attitudes, Tires and Traction, Signs, Signals and Markings, Vision and Habits, Fatigue, Drugs and Alcohol, Road Rage, New Laws, ABS and Airbag Safety, Merging, Distracted Driving, Crosswalks and Driver Communication. A state certified instructor performs all training.

Sports

Season Tickets

Welcome to another exciting year of Rush City Tigers activities! The coaches, advisors, and students are excited to have all of you come out and show your support for all the activities. Be sure to wear your blue and gold and show your school spirit!

Please be sure that you are familiar with the Minnesota state law which states: "Threats or assaults on high school referees or other sports officials can result in a one year expulsion from interscholastic sports activities. Alleged offenders would be entitled to a hearing, and authority to suspend would rest with the School Board or the Minnesota State High School League."

We have been very fortunate and appreciative of the fact that in Rush City we have not had any threats or assaults against officials. This law came about as a result of unfortunate acts that have occurred against officials in the past. Thank you for your continued sportsmanship.

A reminder that the Great River Conference Constitution states that "No kicking or stomping of the bleachers will be permitted at any time". Please honor this by refraining from doing these acts at home events. Those individuals who are persistent in their actions will be asked to leave the building. Also be aware that artificial noise-makers are not allowed at any high school event in Rush City. We are trying to promote good sportsmanship in our school and in the conference as a whole.

In consideration to the players, coaches, and other spectators, please remain within the gym area until half-time or between games as much as possible. Also, all spectators should remain seated during the sports contest and stay off the playing surface at all times.

Any student K-12 who is attending home athletic events in the high school gymnasium should be seated and not running around or roaming the halls. Those individuals who are causing problems in hallways/restrooms will be asked to leave. This will be enforced.

We ask that parents please supervise their children (K-6) at "home" football games. Parents are encouraged to supervise them so they don't injure themselves, become annoying to others or cause property damage. Those children who are at games disturbing others or destroying property will be asked to leave.



SEASON TICKETS

The School Board will again offer a ten (10) punch ticket for athletic events for the 2016-17 school year at \$45.00 for adults. This ticket will not admit fans to tournament games, but will cover regular season home games and matches. A season ticket for all students (K-12) is available for \$30.00. These tickets will be available at the principal's office beginning on Monday, August 22nd. Regular game prices this year will be \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students for single admissions. Again this year, individuals will be required to pay admission to watch "C" team volleyball games and "C" team boys and girls basketball games.

Senior Citizen Season Tickets

For those 62 years of age and older tickets will be available again this year at no cost. These tickets must be picked up at the District Office located in the high school. Tickets are available beginning August 22nd





Check out the NEW Scoreboard in the RCHS Main Gym.

This scoreboard was made possible by donations from the RC Club and Rush City Youth Sports Club.

Thanks for your Support!

Homecoming

Fall Sports Schedules

Homecoming Schedule of Events

Monday, October 3

HOMECOMING CORONATION

The 2016 Homecoming Coronation will take place on Monday evening at **7:30 p.m.** in the Rush City High School Theater.

Friday, October 7

PARADE

On Friday afternoon plan to watch the students in the annual Homecoming Parade at 2:00. Grades 7-12 will again prepare a class float and be joined by the marching band and students in grade 4-6 walking along.

PIG ROAST

On Friday afternoon there will be a community Pig Roast with all the fixin's at the High School. Serving will take place from **4:15 to 7:00 p.m.** The cost is \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for students 12 and under. Tickets may be purchased at the Elementary or High School Principal's Office.

FOOTBALL GAME

On Friday night at **7:00 p.m.** the Rush City Tigers will take on Chisholm in what promises to be an exciting football game!

Cross Country Coached by

Coached by Michael Vaughan



Mon. Aug. 29	Milaca	Away	10:00am
Thurs. Sept. 8	Pine City	Away	4:00
Tue. Sept. 13	Mora	Away	4:15
Sat. Sept. 24	Milaca Mega Meet	Away	10:00am
Thurs. Sept. 29	St. John's Prep.	Away	4:00
Sat. Oct. 1	Swain Meet	Duluth	10:00am
Thu. Oct. 6	North Branch	Away	4:00
Tue, Oct. 11	Royalton	Away	4:15
Tue. Oct. 18	GRC Meet	Pine City	3:30

Meet dates and times subject to change.

Varsity Football

Coached by

Joe Lattimore & Mike O'Donnell



Sat. Aug. 27 Thu. Sept. 1 Fri. Sept. 9 Fri. Sept. 16 Fri. Sept. 23 Fri. Sept. 30 Fri. Oct. 7	Scrimmage Pine City* East Central* Braham* Hinckley Finlayson* Deer River* Chisholm*	Home Home Away Home Away Home Home	9:00 am 7:00 7:00 7:00 7:00 7:00 7:00	
	(HOMECOMING)			
Fri. Oct. 14	Mesabi East*	Away	7:00	
Wed. Oct. 19	Barnum*	Home	7:00	
*Denotes District Games				



Varsity Volleyball

Coached by Eric Telander



Tues. Aug. 30	East Central*	Home	7:30
Thu. Sept. 8	Ogilvie*	Away	7:30
Mon. Sept. 12	Barnum*	Home	7:30
Tues. Sept. 13	Hinckley-Fin.*	Home	7:30
Thurs. Sept. 15	Pine City*	Away	7:30
Tue. Sept. 20	Braham*	Home	7:30
Thurs. Sept. 22	Aitkin*	Away	7:30
Sat. Sept. 24	Pierz Tournament	Away	9:00 am
Tue. Sept. 27	East Central*	Away	7:30
Sat. Oct. 1	Mora Tournament	Away	9:00 am
Tue. Oct. 4	Isle*	Home	7:30
Thurs. Oct. 6	Hinckley-Fln.*	Away	7:30
Mon. Oct. 10	Chisago Lakes	Away	7:00
Tue. Oct. 11	Onamia*	Home	7:30
Thurs. Oct. 13	Pine City*	Home	7:30
Tue. Oct. 18	Braham*	Away	7:30

*Denotes Conference Games

JV Games begin ninety minutes prior to varsity contest.

Section contest information is available on our website under Athletic Schedules.

Information for Students and Parents

Student Accident Insurance

The School District does NOT provide any type of health or accident insurance for injuries incurred by your child at school.

We encourage all families to have accident coverage for their children prior to participation in any sports or school sponsored activities. If you do not feel your insurance is adequate or do not have insurance, we encourage you to review the student insurance program.

This year the school is making available accident insurance through Student Assurance Services, Inc. of Stillwater, MN. This plan will provide benefits for medical expenses incurred because of an accident.

Questions on coverage or related items may be addressed to the District Office. Students and parents must be sure to inform the coach or the person in charge of the activity if the students is injured. An accident form must be filled out and verified in each case at the time of the injury.

Environmental Health Issue

The Lead Contamination Control Act of 1988 requires that all water coolers in public and private elementary and secondary school buildings which are not lead free must be repaired, replaced, permanently removed, or rendered inoperable unless the water coolers are tested and found not to contribute lead to drinking water (test results above 20 parts per billion where a significant portion of the lead is contributed by the cooler). Although testing for lead is not required under the Act, it is encouraged.

Rush City schools routinely conducts tests on water coolers within its buildings to determine the lead content. By law, the school shall notify parents, teachers, and employee organizations of the availability of such testing results.

Testing results and a record of remedial action taken may be found at the District Office and may be viewed during normal business hours. Copies of documentation are available at \$0.25 per copy. For additional information, please contact Jeanne Korf, Facilities Manager, 320-358-1393.

Harmful Substances

Parents of students attending Rush City Schools are reminded of the following policy regarding harmful substances:

No person may have harmful, dangerous, and nuisance substances and articles, including controlled substances, on school grounds.

No person may use, possess, distribute, or be under the influence of illegal drugs, alcohol, or narcotics at school, school-sponsored activities, or on school grounds.

No person may have or use any type of tobacco product while on school grounds or at school-sponsored activities.

No person may have or use articles that are a nuisance, illegal, or may cause harm to persons or property at school and school-sponsored activities.

Health Insurance

Does your child have health insurance? If not, help may be available.

Minnesota Health Care Programs have free and low-cost health insurance for children and families who qualify. (Medical Assistance has no monthly premium. MinnesotaCare has a monthly premium based on household income.)

Income is one factor for qualifying. Other rules and limits apply. For more information, call your county office or visit www.dhs.state.mn.us/healthcare.

To get a Minnesota Health Care Programs information and application:

- Print one from the Internetwww.dhs.state.mn.us/healthcare
- · Call (877) KIDS-NOW toll free
- Call Chisago County at 651-213-5600 OR 888-234-1246
- Call Pine County at 320-216-4100 OR 800-450-7263

Emergency Care Sheets

Emergency sheets are sent home with each student on the first day of school and must be returned to the school immediately. Information required includes the name and phone number of a person to call in an emergency when the parent cannot be reached, your child's health concerns, and dates of immunizations received during the past year.

Emergency Situations

In the event that parents cannot be reached, IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, OR ANY ACCIDENT DEEMED SERIOUS IN NATURE, school personnel will make arrangements to transport the child to the nearest emergency care facility.

In the best interests of the child, it is absolutely vital for the parent to furnish the school with a signed Emergency Form available the first days of school, containing all pertinent people's names and telephone numbers. Unlisted phone numbers will be kept strictly confidential, of course.

Notices

Notice Concerning Use of Pest Control Materials:

Our district utilizes a licensed, professional pest control service firm for the prevention and control of rodents, insects and other pests in and around the district's buildings. Their program consists of:

- Inspection and monitoring to determine whether pests are present, and whether any treatment is needed.
- 2. Recommendations for maintenance and sanitation to help eliminate pests without the need for pest control materials.
- 3. Utilization of non-chemical measures such as traps, caulking and screening.
- Application of EPA registered pest control materials when needed.

Pests can sting, bite, cause contamination, damage property, and spread disease; therefore, we must prevent and control them. The long-term health effects on children from the application such pest control materials, or the class of materials to which they belong, may not be fully understood. All pest control materials are chosen and applied according to label directions per Federal law.

An estimated schedule of interior pest control inspections and possible treatments is available for review or copying at each school office. A similar estimated schedule is available for application of herbicides and other materials to school grounds. Parents of students may request to receive, at their expense, prior notification of any application of a pest control materials, should such an application be deemed necessary on a day different from the days specified in the schedule.

If you have any questions regarding our Pest Management Program or would like a copy of inspection/treatment schedule, please contact Jeanne Korf at (320) 358-1393.

Asbestos Notification

To all parents, teachers, and employee organizations of I.S.D. #139:

I.S.D. #139 has on file a complete and updated Management Plan for dealing with former asbestoscontaining building materials within the school district's buildings. The Management Plan is available for viewing by interested parties, Monday through Friday; 8:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. at the District Office. Copies will be made available for reproduction at a nominal cost.

The Rush City High School was designed without specifying or requiring the use of asbestos containing building materials.

During the summer of 2003, C. E. Jacobson Elementary had all known asbestos containing building materials removed. This included floor tile and pipe wrap contained within interior walls.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Jeanne Korf at the District Office, telephone number 320-358-1393.

Teacher Qualifications

We are required to notify parents of their rights to access information on the professional qualifications of the students' classroom teachers:

Whether the teacher is licensed for the grades/subjects assigned.

Whether the teacher is teaching with a waiver.

The academic preparation of the teacher and whether their child is provided services by a paraprofessional and his/her qualifications.

Notify parents when students have been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified.

Nondiscrimination Notice

Rush City Schools offers a variety of vocational opportunities through the Business Education, Agriculture, and Industrial Technology Departments. These opportunities are offered regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability. Admission for specific courses is based on grade level, and in some cases, prior experience related to advanced courses.

Rush City Schools conforms to all the laws, statutes, and regulations concerning equal employment opportunities and affirmative action. We strongly encourage women, minorities, individuals with disabilities, and veterans to apply to all of our job openings. We are an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identify, or national origin, age, disability status, Genetic Information & Testing, Family & Medical Leave, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law. We prohibit retaliation against individuals who bring forth any complaint, orally or in writing, to the employer or the government, or against any individuals who assist or participate in the investigation of any complaint or otherwise oppose discrimination.

Rush City Schools ISD #139 promotes equal opportunity for students and staff and prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability. School Board policy designates the Superintendent as coordinator of Title IX, ADA, and Section 504 regulations. Teresa Dupre; PO Box 566, 51001 Fairfield Ave; Rush City, MN 55069; Phone: 320-358-4855.

Notices

Assurance of Compliance with State and Federal Law Prohibiting Discrimination

We hereby affirm that the Rush City School District Number 139 is in compliance with the following state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination:

- 1. MN Stat. 363.03, Minnesota Human Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination in education programs and activities on grounds of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, or disability.
- 2. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (PL 88-352) which provides that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which the district receives federal financial assistance.
- 3. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (PL 88-352) as amended by the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972 (PL 92-261), which prohibits discrimination in employment because of an individual's race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.
- 4. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (PL 92-318), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities receiving or benefiting from federal financial assistance.
- 5. The Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (PL 90-202), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age (40 through 64).

- MN Stat. 126.21, which prohibits sex discrimination in athletic programs.
- 7. EDU 4 (1.004), curriculum, which provides that "No school shall provide any course or activity on the basis of sex. This includes health, physical education, home economics, and industrial education."
- 8. EDU 620-639 (1.0620-1.0639), relating to equality of educational opportunity and school desegration.

This assurance is given in consideration of and for the purpose of obtaining any and all federal grants, loans, contracts, property, discount, or other federal and state financial assistance extended after the date hereof to the district by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and the State Department of Education, including installment payments after such date on applications for federal financial assistance and state aid allotments which were approved before such date. The district recognizes and agrees that such federal and state financial assistance will be extended in reliance on the representations, supporting information required by MN. Stat. 124.15, subd. 2a, and agreements made in this assurance. This assurance is binding on the district and the person or persons whose signatures appear and who are authorized to sign this assurance on behalf of the district.

The superintendent of schools is designated as the administrator of this program. Anyone feeling they have been discriminated against in any of these items should contact him/her to register a complaint.







Directory Information

Elementary and High School Students

In compliance with Section 99.3 of the Data Privacy Act, the Rush City Public Schools declares the following information relating to students to be "directory information": Student's name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, date and place of birth, participation in school activities, dates of attendance, school awards received, and other similar information. What this means is that the school will release upon request the above information regarding students to military recruiters, colleges, tech schools, congressmen, etc.

Students and parents have the right to refuse to permit the designation of any or all of the above categories of personally identifiable information as directory information with respect to that student. Students or parents wishing to do so should contact Mr. Stavig at the High School or Mr. Mielke at the Elementary School by Friday, September 23, 2016. Students will automatically be included in the directory information list if parents have not contacted the school.

Notices

State Choice Programs Open Doors for Minnesota Learners

Several choice programs have been adopted by the Legislature since 1985.

Two pamphlets are available to help guide in the selection of a school: How to Pick Your Child's School and How to Select a School For Your Child: A Family Guide. Ask someone in your local school office or call the Hotline: 612-296-1261 (metro).

Families and learners may choose from the following enrollment options programs:

POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTIONS allows 11th and 12th graders to attend, full or part-time, a technical college, a community college, a private, liberal college or university, or any of the state universities for high school credit. Students must meet the requirements of that postsecondary institution. Students should work with their high school counselor to ensure the courses taken will meet graduation requirements.

SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT OPTIONS OR OPEN ENROLLMENT permits kindergarten through twelfth grade students to apply to attend a school outside the district in which they live. Applications must be received by the nonresident district for enrollment

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION INCENTIVES program is designed to encourage learners, who are having difficulty in school or who have dropped out of school, to complete their high school credits in alternative settings. Qualifying students may attend another traditional high school inside or outside their district, an Area Learning Center, an Alternative School or Program, or a nonpublic, nonsectarian school which has been contracted by a district to provide educational service.

DIPLOMA OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS encourages individuals aged 21 or older, who have not completed high school to return to get their diplomas. Qualifying persons have up to two years of free state aid to finish their requirements. Many of the same programs available under High School Graduation Incentives are available to adults.

AREA LEARNING CENTERS provide year round, non traditional education toward a high school diploma for students 12 years of age through adult on a full- or part-time basis. Students develop, with an instructor, learning plans which best fit their course needs and learning style.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS personalize the education of learners at risk of not completing high school. Classes are taught using nontraditional methods and allow for flexible scheduling. These programs operate during the school day and year.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR MINOR PARENTS AND PREGNANT MINORS are designed to ensure teens, who are parents or pregnant, complete their high school education. When requested, educational programs which fit the needs of the individual must be made available, by the school district, along with any necessary supportive services.

For more information about these enrollment options programs visit your school or district office. You may contact the District Office at 358-4855, or call the Enrollment Options Hotline, 612-296-1261.

2016 - 2017 Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Notice

Rush City School District is proud to be taking a leadership role in providing a safe, comfortable and productive environment for our students and staff so that we achieve our core mission - educating students. Our school will follow EPA guidance to improve our indoor air quality by preventing as many IAQ problems as possible, and by quickly responding to any IAQ problems that may arise. Good air quality requires an ongoing commitment by everyone in our school.

School staff, students and parents can obtain checklists or self-help information so they can properly evaluate their child's home or out-of-school situation by contacting the school. Staff and parents can also obtain information about school facility construction, maintenance, housekeeping practices, chemicals used, mold herbicide applications to determine the extent to which activities contribute to a child's symptoms by contacting the school

The Rush City School District Indoor Air Quality contact person is Jeanne Korf, Facilities Manager. If there are any questions regarding the school's IAQ Programs, please feel free to call the school at (320) 358-1393.

Free and Reduced Cost Legal Resources and Legal Referral Services for Students

Below are two organizations which provide free or low cost legal assistance, referrals to attorneys or student advocacy. Each agency has limitations on whom it is able to serve. For instance, some agencies may have guidelines about client income. In addition, each agency will make determinations about whom it can serve based on factors such as staff resources and the legal viability of each case. The best way to determine if an agency can help you is to call. Even if an agency cannot take your case, it may be able to provide you with referrals to other legal resources.

Legal Aid Service of Northeastern Minnesota (LASNEM) 235 Sixth Street Pine City, MN 55063 320-629-7166

Mid-Minnesota Legal Assistance 430 First Avenue North, Suite 300 Minneapolis, MN 55401-1780 612-332-1441 RCEF Calendars



Thank You For the Support!

Thank you to everyone who attended or helped with the **All-School Reunion** in August. It was a fun time with many activities and shared memories. We hope each and every person enjoyed some time with friends. The money raised goes to support scholarships and grants to fund innovative teaching ideas in the Rush City School District. The Rush City Education Foundation (RCEF) has given \$26,607 to support education in the Rush City School District over the past five years with \$12,000 used for 16 scholarships and \$14,607 used to fund 14 grants that impacted 1077 students. Your enthusiasm and support is greatly appreciated!

Congratulations to the seniors who received RCEF scholarships this past spring: Emma Peterson, Brittany Molberg, Lindsey Williams, and Sydnie Sybrant.

Teachers: The next grant deadline is October 14, 2016. You may download a grant application from our website (address below). Please complete and return by mail, email or by giving to Melissa Weiner in the high school counselor's office.

RCEF needs volunteers. Please contact us if you are interested in serving on the board. By investing a small amount of time, you can help improve educational excellence in the Rush City District. Please contact us (see information below.)

Website: RushCityEducationFoundation.org **Email**: RushCityEducationFoundation@gmail.com **Mail**: RCEF, PO Box 153, Rush City, MN 55069

Scott Friday, Foundation President 320-469-1791

JoAnn Belau, Foundation Fund-raising Chairperson 361-522-7419

Erin White, Grants Chairperson e.white4@hotmail.com

Our Mission: To promote and enhance student achievement and invest in educational excellence.

RCEF is a nonprofit 501(c)3 charitable organization. Donations are tax-deductible.

Follow us on Facebook and our website to get information and learn about upcoming events.

A limited number of the printed

2016-17 Rush City School Calendars

featuring RCHS student art work were printed and are now available!

If you would like one, please stop by the District Office located in the HS.

(While supplies last)



Rush City Schools PO Box 566 Rush City, MN 55069

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