



Tiger Tails

The promise of Rush City Schools is to create global citizens who are lifelong learners.



District Office (320) 358-4855	High School (320) 358-4795	Elementary (320) 358-4724	Early Childhood (320) 358-3635	Transportation (320) 358-3562
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THIS IS TIGER TERRITORY



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Rush City Schools



Superintendent

Brent Stavig

bstavig@rushcity.k12.mn.us | 320-358-4855

Dear Rush City Families,

Thank you for trusting us with your children, 2023 is shaping up to be an incredible year! Our students are excited about learning, getting involved with clubs and activities, and enjoying school. We're also gearing up for Homecoming 2023, a week of celebration and a great chance to show our Tiger Pride. We hope to see you at the fun events we have planned!

We're committed to getting closer to our community. Your voices and teamwork are important as we work towards our goals and meet the needs of our students and community. You can get involved by joining committees or teams or even consider working with us; we have job openings for paraprofessionals, custodians, and substitutes. Check our website often as you never know when the right position for you may become available.

Here are some voluntary opportunities for you to get involved:

- **School Board Advisory Committee:** This committee typically meets on the second Monday of each month from 6 - 7:30 p.m. They gather feedback, evaluate district needs, and make recommendations to the Board of Education.
- **MTSS District Leadership Team:** This group usually meets once a month from 1-2 p.m. MTSS stands for Multi-Tiered System of Supports. This group oversees the process we use to systematically ensure all students get the help they need to be successful in school.
- **American Indian Parent Advisory Committee:** They meet on the second Monday of the month at 4 p.m., in the HS Media Center. The purpose of this committee is to form a partnership between the district and parents/guardians of American Indian students to create goals that support the education of our American Indian learners in our district. This committee is parent-driven and is a great opportunity for parents to have a strong voice in their children's education.
- **Staff Development Committee:** Two times a year district leaders collaborate with members of our staff to create and evaluate the district's professional development plan. Having parents from each building serve on this committee would provide valuable perspectives regarding strengths and potential areas of growth for the staff who serve our children.
- **PBIS Committee:** This committee meets on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 a.m., in the HS Media Center. PBIS stands for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. This group develops opportunities to support students' behavioral, academic, social, emotional, and mental health.

We'll send out a survey soon, inviting you to join committees or volunteer. If any of these opportunities interest you, please email me at bstavig@rushcity.k12.mn.us.

Sincerely,

Brent Stavig, Superintendent



Rush City High School



High School Principal
Janet Wagener

jwagener@rushcity.k12.mn.us | 320-358-4795

Happy October Rush City Families,

Don't forget it is HOMECOMING WEEK next week! GO TIGERS!

Conferences: Parents/Guardians, please join us for high school conferences. Come meet all of your students' teachers, view classwork, and have open discussions about strengths & areas for improvement. We are stronger as a team and our teachers have a lot to brag about. October 23rd (Noon-3:45 p.m.) and 26th (4 p.m. to 7 p.m.).

Attendance Reminder: Attendance is essential in ensuring the success and academic achievement of our students. Please be conscientious of the number of days your student(s) miss school and communicate with the office any time your student must be absent. Please look at the Student/Parent Handbook to learn more about our attendance policies (see board policy #503) and procedures. If possible, please use our spring break period for vacations/trips.

3 Unexcused Absences

*School sends a warning letter to families letting them know the student is close to reaching the county definition of truancy which is 5 unexcused absences.

5 Unexcused Absences

*School sends another letter notifying families that information was sent to the county and they will be inviting families to a county meeting.

7+ Unexcused Absences

*School has to file truancy with the county.

7 - 10 Excused Absences:

*School to send a warning regarding excessive absences

*Request for doctor's notes or nurse's assessment for any future absences due to illness

10+ Excused Absences:

*School to impose Mandatory Doctor's Note or Nurse's Assessment requirement

*Failure to produce a Doctor's note or Nurse's Assessment will result in an unexcused absence

*If absences reach threshold number, referral to the county.

[Click to View Chisago County's Truancy Policies and Procedures](#)

Student Parking Passes Reminder: Parking passes must be displayed at all times when on school grounds. Students that forget to display have been receiving a verbal warning from administration first and the second warning could result in a detention.

Students who are planning on parking on school grounds must do the following:

1. Have a signed (student & parent) parking contract turned in to Mrs. Wiener in the High School Office. Families/Students can pick up these forms from the high school office starting now.
2. Once the signed contract is turned in to the high school office, they will be issued a school parking permit which must be displayed at all times when parking on school grounds.
3. There is still no fee for parking on school grounds.

Cell Phone Policy: The students have been doing a wonderful job following the new cell phone policy. We have had minimal cell phone violations. THANK YOU STUDENTS! We are seeing an increase in participation in class along with increased socializing with friends during passing time and class. The new policy for Rush City High School means that students can no longer have their cell phones in classrooms during instruction. Students may use their cell phones only during passing times between classes, during lunch, or before and after school. See the student handbook for further details.

School Picture Retake Date: Friday, October 27

Substitutes for paraprofessionals and substitutes: We are in need of substitutes. If you are interested in learning more about the requirements and “how tos” of subbing please contact me and I can help you with the process. For paraprofessionals, you need a high school diploma/GED, and for substitute teaching, you need a four-year degree



[Click HERE to access ParentVUE](#)

This provides access to your student's schedule, grades, and basic school information.

For assistance with ParentVUE please email office staff:

Melissa Wiener mwiener@rushcity.k12.mn.us

Jennifer Berry jberry@rushcity.k12.mn.us

Cathy Monster cmonster@rushcity.k12.mn.us

Again, welcome back and let's make this another great year at Rush City High School. We are in this together to provide an amazing education for our students! Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

Janet M. Wagener

Rush City High School Principal

320-358-1264

jwagener@rushcity.k12.mn.us

!!NOW HIRING- PARAPROFESSIONALS!!!

The High School has part-time and full-time paraprofessional openings: [**APPLY HERE**](#)

TIGERS **HOMEcoming** **SPIRIT** **OCT 8-13** **WEEK** **RUSH CITY HIGH SCHOOL**

SUN
10/8

FLOAT BUILDING @ BUS GARAGE: 1 PM

MON
10/9

DRESS UP: TWIN DAY/ADAM SANDLER DAY
JV FOOTBALL VS OGILVIE @ HOME: 4:30 PM
CORONATION @ HS AUDITORIUM: 7:30 PM

TUES
10/10

DRESS UP: HAWAIIAN/JERSEY/USA DAY
CROSS COUNTRY @ ROYALTON: 4 PM
VOLLEYBALL VS PINE CITY @ HOME
• **JV 5:30, VARSITY 7 PM (SENIOR NIGHT)**

WED
10/11

DRESS UP: GYM BRO/FRAT/PREPPY DAY
ELEMENTARY PEP FEST @ EL GYM: 2PM
FLOAT BUILDING @ BUS GARAGE: 6-8 PM

THURS
10/12

DRESS UP: COLOR WAR
7- PINK, 8- WHITE, 9- GREY, 10- BLUE, 11- RED, 12- BLACK, STAFF- ORANGE
HIGH SCHOOL PEP FEST @ 2:30
VOLLEYBALL VS NORTH BRANCH @ HOME
• **C TEAM 5 PM, JV 5:30 PM, VARSITY 7:15 PM**
HOMEcoming COURT RECOGNIZED

FRI
10/13

DRESS UP: TIGER PRIDE / BLUE & GOLD
HOMEcoming PARADE: 2:25 PM
ANNUAL COMMUNITY PIG ROAST @ HS COMMONS: 4-6:30 PM
Varsity FOOTBALL VS MLWR @ HOME: 7 PM
• **ROYALTY RECOGNIZED @ HALFTIME**
BONFIRE FOLLOWING THE GAME



RUSH CITY HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

The Rush City High School Marching Band had a busy summer. We marched in three parades! The students showed their school spirit in the Chisago County Fair parade on Saturday, July 22nd, and the Harris Days parade on July 29th. Thanks to an ESSR grant, we were able to march at Valleyfair! The students worked hard and played even harder! We had a great time representing Rush City and the band department as we marched through the Valleyfair amusement park. Thanks to all the parents and community members for all of your support!



CE Jacobson Elementary



Elementary Principal

Alicia Nelson

anelson@rushcity.k12.mn.us | 320-358-4724

We're back in full swing!

Together, we are better for our children, families, our community, and each other. 😊

What I love most about school is OUR STUDENTS! I am so proud of them. They are kind, considerate, and inclusive, and I love seeing the smiles on their faces as they come into school. It has been a busy, busy start to the year!

Here are some things we have had going on:

- **Student Activities**
 - Climb Theater Presented 2 plays for us on September 26th!

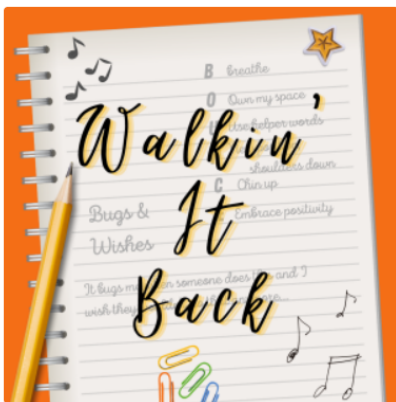
Grades K-3 Talula Rabbit



Talula Rabbit's New Habit for K-2nd

Talula Rabbit is having hard time following directions, playing by the rules of games, and being a good friend. She blurts out whatever she's thinking, acts impulsively, and constantly loses focus when something else becomes more interesting. Her lack of self-control makes some of the other kids at School of the Woods feel uncomfortable and unsafe. With the help of her parent, classmates, and students in the audience, Talula learns how to self-regulate. In the end, Talula's newly expressed self-control brings positive results, including better friendships. **Self-Regulation**

Grades 4-6 Walkin' It Back



Walkin' it Back for 3rd-6th

Joey wants to feel powerful and often ends up doing so at the expense of others, while Luka feels stuck without a way to do anything about it. Parker, a new student, decides to help both of them with tools she learned at her previous school. With memorable songs teaching steps for students to follow, this musical helps students not just feel empathy, but act with empathy, as well as better regulate their words and actions. **Empathy and Self-Regulation**

- 5th Grade attended Chisago County's Water Festival on Thursday, September 21st
- Bus Safety Training for all grades took place on Friday, September 22nd
- Academics
 - Academic testing and benchmarking for the fall window is complete.
 - Students took FAST assessments in reading and math and placement tests for phonics and reading instruction.
- S.E.L.
 - **Our MTSS implementation is in full swing!** What is MTSS? Multi-Tiered Systems of Support is a framework for our school district to use that enhances learning, instruction, and teaching strategies for all learners from those who exceed expectations and need extensions of learning, to those who are on target, and to those who require intervention at varying content areas and levels of intensity.
 - Students are taking part in our school's PBIS initiative! They earn ROAR bucks for showing awesome behaviors in 👍 Respect 👍 Organization 👍 Attentiveness 👍 Responsibility
 - They get to "shop" with their ROAR bucks for special activities, coupons, and prizes!!!

It is teacher observation season! During this time I get to visit classrooms for longer periods, learn a lot about what's going on with our school culture and climate, instruction, and make plans for teacher-staff development. I really enjoy seeing students in action! In addition to seeing each grade level in action, I especially look forward to observing the following initiatives in our building:

- **LETRS and Walk to Reading**—You may have seen this in my weekly messages that are emailed out. Walk to Reading takes into consideration the skills and proficiencies of each student so that they are placed in reading groups to maximize growth and potential in literacy. Though the focus is on reading (phonics, fluency, comprehension, vocabulary) there is also a great impact on writing.
- **Intervention Groups**—We have intervention groups in reading, math, social-emotional development, and behavior skills. These are made possible through grants and school initiatives such as Title One, ADSIS, and LETRS implementation. Student progress is measured through specific data collection to determine the effectiveness of both instruction and the intervention. Students exit intervention services once they meet proficiency standards. We also have special education groups happening for those who need intensive intervention and instruction.
- **Support for Professional Growth and Retention:** providing tools and support for staff, teaching new strategies, developing collections of effective teaching and intervention for all students, and district-level goal setting and monitoring are also portions of our MTSS initiative.

CONFERENCES ARE COMING UP October 23rd (12:00 p.m.-3:45 p.m.) & October 26th (4:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.)

We are using Synergy's PARENTVUE for you to schedule conferences this year.

- This takes place in the same way we had you schedule your "Get to Know You Days" appointments.
- Do NOT try to schedule yet—the scheduling window is not open yet.
- We will notify you when it's time to log in and sign up for conferences!
- We have an option for supporting **families with 4 or more children this year**. Please reach out to the elementary office in advance if you have 4 or more children to schedule conferences for. We are here to help make this an easier process for our families! Please call 320-358-4724
- **You need to be able to access your ParentVUE easily from now on.** This will be used for many things moving forward in our school. Our high school uses this as well. Please check by logging in and making sure you have access as soon as possible. Save/write down your password for future use. For assistance with your ParentVUE, please email Nancy Moulton at nmoulton@rushcity.k12.mn.us.
- **IMPORTANT TIP:** Once you sign up for a conference, and then if you go back to check your conference time...do NOT CLICK ON IT! This will actually DELETE your conference time.

Be sure to keep your contact information updated throughout the year by calling our office to receive frequent and accurate updates, invitations, and information.



Dear Families:

Get ready! The Scholastic Book Fair is coming our way (YAY!). Choosing their own books empowers kids and inspires them on their journey to becoming lifelong readers. AND—as always—every purchase at the Fair benefits our school.

Here's what you need to know about the big event, which will take place:

Monday, October 23rd Noon to 4pm & Thursday, October 26th 4pm to 7:30pm
CE Jacobson Elementary Cafeteria

Say goodbye to cash and hello to **eWallet**—your child's digital payment account. Before the Fair, set up eWallet for worry-free, cash-free purchases. Anyone can contribute! Share each child's eWallet so friends and family can add funds and give your kids more books to enjoy.

If you can't make it to the Fair, then **shop at our school's Book Fair online**. All orders ship directly to your home, and shipping is free for book orders over \$25. Every online purchase will also benefit our school.

Visit our Book Fair homepage to learn more and get started with eWallet and online shopping:
<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/jacobsonelementaryschool>

The countdown to more Bookjoy is on! Catch you at the Fair!

Happy reading,

Alicia Nelson
Principal
CE Jacobson Elementary School

Homecoming is the week of October 9th-13th!

Homecoming Happenings:

Dress Up Days for Students

▶ **Monday**-PJ Day or Twin Day!

▶ **Tuesday**-Crazy Wacky Mixed Up Day or Hawaiian Day!

▶ **Wednesday**-Color Wars Each grade level wears the color below:

PK/K-Red; 1-Blue; 2-Green; 3-Yellow; 4-Orange; 5-White; 6-Purple; Staff-Black

▶ **Thursday**-Hat Day or Gym/Athletic Day!

▶ **Friday**-Spirit / Tiger Gear- Blue and Gold; Parade-exit school by 2:20pm. Parade begins at 2:25pm—new this year.

FUNDRAISING

Our Candy Bar Fundraiser starts on October 6th and ends on October 25th! We will use our profits for student activities all throughout the school year and we are working toward adding options for our playground! Thank you so much for your support in this!



You can make the difference!
Help us raise money for our student activity fund for equipment and experiences for our students.

60 assorted \$1.00
World's Finest
Chocolate Bars.



Check out chocolate and/or turn in money any day!

C.E. Jacobson World's Finest Chocolate Fundraiser

Kick off date: October 6th

End Date: October 25th



FREE 30 day trial membership to Three Winners on every bar.
Access over 50,000 local and national coupons from your smart



Safety first, students should not sell door to door. Please be careful handling the chocolate.
Do not leave chocolate in your car, in direct sunlight or near any source of heat.

- ✓ Turn in permission slips to the office to receive your chocolate.
- ✓ **TOP SELLER in the school will receive \$50!**
- ✓ For every box sold, you'll receive a prize.
- ✓ Top seller in each grade will receive a 5 lb. chocolate bar.
- ✓ 25 Golden Tickets will be randomly hidden in the chocolate boxes to win a 1 lb. chocolate bar.
- ✓ Top three selling classes will win a chocolate treat for each student.
- ✓ **The teacher of the top selling class of the entire school will receive \$100!**

Upcoming Dates and Information

Important Dates

Elementary Picture Retakes - October 26th

Conferences - October 23rd (12:00pm-3:45pm) & October 26th (4:00pm-7:30pm)

*The Scholastic Book Fair is open during conferences!

Unity Day - October 18th Schoolwide Activities/Photo **All students wear ORANGE**

No School - October 19th-20th; October 23rd (Staff Development Day)

End of Candy Bar Sales - Wednesday, October 25th

End of Quarter 1 - Thursday, November 9th

No School - Friday, November 10th (Staff Development Day)



SCHOOL PROCEDURES AND UPDATES

In the mornings: Please be careful with parent drop-off in the parking lot in front of the school.

- **Do not park your cars along the curbs and walk students in toward the building.**
- The drop-off loop needs to continue to run smoothly and there have been many delays in students getting situated into school on time.
- If you must park, it's important that you use a parking space and not take up room in the drop-off loop.
- If your student eats breakfast at school, you can drop off as early as 7:40 a.m. but **NO LATER THAN 7:55 a.m.** in order to allow time for your child to eat.
- If your student does **NOT** eat breakfast, please do **NOT** drop your child off early. Drop-off can be between 8:00 a.m. and 8:09 a.m.

REMINDER OF SPECIAL MUSIC PERFORMANCES

Below is our elementary school concert calendar for the year. You will also receive updates all throughout the year about many other special events and programs for our students and families!

Elementary Music Programs - SAVE THE DATES! 🎵

All Programs Below Take Place at the **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** unless otherwise indicated

Doors open 15 minutes before programs begin

K/Grade 1 Music Program - Friday, December 8, 2023 - 9:30 am OR 1:45 pm - Elem. Gym

Grades 6-7 Band Winter Concert - Monday, February 5th, 2023 - 7:00 p.m. - HS Theater

Grades 2-3 Music Program - Friday, February 9, 2024 - 9:30 OR 1:45 pm - Elem. Gym

Grade 4- 5 Music Program - Thursday, March 28, 2024 - 9:30am OR 1:45 pm - Elem. Gym

Grade 6 and Jr. High Choirs Root Beer Rag - Tuesday, April 23, 2024, 7:00 pm

Location TBD

Grades 6-7 - Bands Root Beer Rag - Thursday, May 2, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Location TBD

Hear our ROAR

R - Respectful
O - Organized
A - Attentive
R - Responsible



Activities



Community Education and Activities Director

Lee Rood

lrood@rushcity.k12.mn.us | 320-358-1265

It has been a great start to the school year for Rush City Tigers activities! All of the fall teams have enjoyed the great weather to start the school year. If you haven't had a chance to come out and watch a regular season game or event this fall, there is still time to support the students as the fall season ends.

The cross country team hosted the 1st annual Autumn Run at Frandsen Park on September 21st. While it was warmer than most of the runners would have liked, the colors at the park were spectacular. Add Thursday, September 19th, 2024 to your calendars now to come out to the park to support the cross country runners and see the great fall colors around Rush Lake. There are two close events left for the fall cross country season for you to attend. October 17th will be the Great River Conference Meet at the Pine City Country Club and October 26th will be the Section 5A meet at Grand National Golf Course in Hinckley.

Volleyball hosted the 2nd annual Tiger Classic in August. They went 4-0 that day and won the tournament! They continue to perform well and work hard as they see a chance to return to the state volleyball tournament. They have 3 home matches in the next 2 weeks for everyone to come out to watch. Their playoffs will begin on Wednesday, October 25th. For times and places of these games and events check out the [events and activities calendar](#).

The football team has hosted 3 of their 4 home games and has some long road trips to Mesabi East and International Falls to finish up the regular season. They had a big win at Greenway-Nashwauk Keewatin and the young team has continued to improve each week. Look to come out to support them at their final home game on October 13th against Moose Lake/Willow River. Their playoffs will begin on Tuesday, October 24th.

HOMEcomings WEEK is coming October 8-14th. Look in the newsletter for a complete list of activities and their times. Come out and show your Tiger Pride!

Mark your calendars for an evening and/or afternoon of great entertainment, Mrs. Bigelow and the cast and crew of the all-school play are working hard rehearsing already and would like to invite you to come watch their production of "Clue" November 17-19. Showings will be at 7:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights and 2:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon. Come out and see these kids showcase their talents. Prices are \$6 for students and seniors and \$8 for adults. Hope to see you there!

Any students who are planning to participate in a winter sport should check to make sure that they are registered for that sport on the [activity registration page](#). Students must also have a current physical on file in order to start practices on time. Start dates for winter sports are on the school activities calendar. If you have any questions or need assistance, please reach out to me or Cathy Monster.

If you want to keep up with changes in the activities that your kids are participating in, simply set up '[Notify Me](#)' through the events & activities calendar on the district's homepage. Any time that changes are made to those schedules on the Events and Activities Calendar, you will receive a notification.

1. Set up an account using your email address and create a password.
2. Choose all of the activities you would like to be alerted to.
3. Setup Notification Preferences
 - a. You can choose to get notifications of the upcoming events in the activities you choose.
 - b. You can choose to get notifications only when a scheduled event is changed.
4. Click “Save My Settings” and you are finished.

If you already have an account, you can change your ‘Notify Me’ settings anytime by logging back into your account, making the changes, and saving the changes you make.

Sincerely,

Lee Rood
Community Education and Activities Director

mySAEBERS MESSAGE

Rush City Public Schools is committed to supporting every student’s academic growth as well as their social-emotional growth. Our goal is for all Rush City students to be equipped to work toward their goals, bounce back from setbacks, manage their emotions, develop positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

As part of this process, all students in grades 2-8 will be completing a survey in their classrooms on October 25 and April 10 called the mySAEBRS (Social, Academic, Emotional, Behaviors Risk Screener). The survey will ask students to rate themselves (Never, Sometimes, Often, or Almost Always) in 20 areas (e.g., how often they feel distracted, cooperate well with peers, have difficulty responding to setbacks, etc.).

Students will complete the survey using school Chromebooks, and the survey results will be collected using a secure online platform. From there, building leadership teams and teacher teams will review the data to develop action steps to support all students. The survey helps us plan how to support all students across the school building, and it also helps us to identify students who may benefit from additional, targeted instruction and/or support.

We strongly encourage all students to participate. **If you do NOT want your child/children to participate please contact Mary Kurvers at the email address below by October 13th.** Please reach out if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Mary Kurvers
Curriculum Instruction and Assessment Coordinator
mkurvers@rushcity.k12.mn.us

High School Counseling

OCTOBER is one of our busiest and favorite months as it is: Career/College Knowledge Month!

The SENIORS will be attending the National College Fair on October 5th.

We will also have guest speakers and a teacher/staff share panel of career and college exploration, and on the 30th they will have time to complete their college applications. In MN the college app fees are waived during October!

Each grade will have its individual focus for participation in the next steps including a Freshman Focus, Steadfast Sophomores, and Jumpin' Juniors.

We have college reps visiting our school and will be giving away college swag for students in the 7th-12th grade they can win by wearing their favorite college shirt on THURSDAYS! Please remind your students about this!

"Determination is doing what needs to be done even when you don't feel like doing it." -unknown

Cheers!

Kari Weileder, Annie Knutson, Carrie Kirchberg

Mrs. Weileder

kweileder@rushcity.k12.mn.us

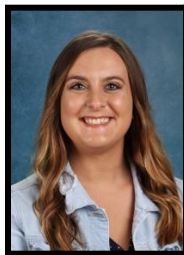
320-358-1267



Mrs. Knutson

aknutson@rushcity.k12.mn.us

320-358-1325



Mrs. Kirchberg

ckirchberg@rushcity.k12.mn.us

320-358-1269



Elementary Counseling



Counselor

Hannah Feten

hfeten@rushcity.k12.mn.us | 320-358-4724 ext. 312

The school year is off to a great start!

I have loved getting to know everybody during the first few weeks of school and can already tell that this is going to be a great year!

We are now getting started with small groups which should be lots of fun! I can't wait to meet even more students through small groups and help them learn and grow. For these groups, the teachers will recommend students that they think might be a good fit for them and we will form them based on that! If you have a student that you think might benefit from being in a group, feel free to reach out!

I also do individual one-on-one, short-term counseling sessions with students. I can refer out to our TSA-linked school therapist, Bethany Cleary if the needs rise above that as well. If you have any questions on how that process works, feel free to reach out!

I look forward to working with the Rush City community. If I can assist you or your student(s) in any way, please don't hesitate to reach out!

Health and Wellness



Licensed School Nurse

Gretchen Cornelius, RN, BSN

gcornelius@rushcity.k12.mn.us

320-358-1364 (elementary) | 320-358-1270 (high school)

Hello! My name is Gretchen Cornelius, formerly known as Erickson. I am the new nurse here with Rush City Schools. I grew up in Rush City and have pretty much been a lifelong resident. Also, with having two children of my own attending school here, I feel I already know many of you AND I am so excited to be here!

Since we've already been having a lot of illnesses going around, I would like to put out some reminders.

- Please teach and encourage your children to wash their hands OFTEN while at home and at school (It would even be great if they wash them before leaving home and again right when returning home).
- Avoid sharing food and drinks
- Cover their cough/sneezes
- Avoid touching their face; especially around the mouth and eyes.
- Please review the handbook on when to keep your child home from school.

Also, if your child has a health concern or one develops throughout the school year, please reach out to let me know (email is best) so we can make a plan that will provide a safe and effective learning environment for your child. I look forward to working with you all. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. Together we can make this new school year a fun and safe one!

Gretchen Cornelius, RN, BSN

gcornelius@rushcity.k12.mn.us

320-358-1364 (elementary)

320-358-1270 (high school)

Early Childhood



Early Childhood Coordinator

Sara Sieling

ssieling@rushcity.k12.mn.us | 320-358-3635

Hello Rush City Families!

It has been an exciting start to our school year! Our preschool classes remain full of eager children who are ready to learn. We have made it through the first few weeks of learning how to be a ROAR student and will continue to impress our teachers with those skills!

Here are a few updates from the Rush City Early Childhood Program:

- [Preschool](#) - We still have openings in our 4-year-old, afternoon classes as well as our 3-year-old classes. More information can be found [HERE](#). Early Learning Scholarships are available to those who qualify through the Minnesota Department of Education Pathway I or Pathway II program. Information is available upon request.
- [ECFE Classes](#) - Early Childhood Family Education classes are available!

Our current offerings are:

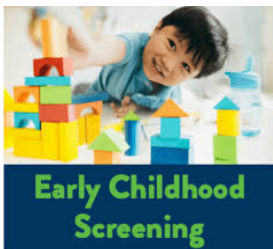
- Birth - 18 mos: Class meets most Friday mornings from 8:15 - 9:15
- 18 - 36 mos: Class meets most Friday mornings from 9:30 - 11:00 (Parent/child separating class)
- Friday Fun classes for ages 3-5: Fall Fun, Halloween Party, and Grandparent Play



**EARLY CHILDHOOD
FAMILY EDUCATION**

Please click on the link to be taken to our website with more detailed information and how to register!

[ECFE Class Offerings](#)



[Early Childhood Screening](#) - Rush City Early Childhood invites parents of 3.5 to 5 year-olds to make an appointment with us to attend screening. Screenings are required before students enter kindergarten, however, there is no need to wait or delay screening until your child is older. Screening is not a placement test. Screening questions and passing scores are based on the age of your child on the day they are screened. Screening is a quick check to be sure your child is meeting important developmental milestones. To register, follow this [LINK](#), contact Melissa Schroeder, maschroeder@rushcity.k12.mn.us, or call 320-358-3635.

Upcoming screening dates are October 13th and November 14th.

Want to be the first to hear about our new and upcoming offerings? Click [HERE](#) to be added to our mailing list.

Looking for a way to help support Rush City Early Childhood Programs? Check out our [Amazon Wishlist!](#)

Food Service & Nutrition



Food Service Supervisor

Molly Gotwald

mgotwald@rushcity.k12.mn.us | 320-358-4306

We would like to invite all families to fill out and return the [Application for Educational Benefits](#) - although our students' meals are offered without charges this year, our school district will receive funding towards additional activities and educational items for each family approved.

Our Farm-to-School Grant efforts have provided our students with five different apple varieties from three separate orchards in our state, as well as berries for parfaits and fruit choice on the last few Thursdays. With a few more deliveries upcoming, we are excited to see what new flavors are going to arrive!

We hope that everyone has a fabulous October and a safe Halloween!

RUSH CITY BACKPACK FOOD PROGRAM

If you have any questions about the program or would like to change your child's enrollment status, please **contact Kristi Davis** (kdavis@rushcity.k12.mn.us or 320.358.4724 ext. 400).

Donations are essential in sustaining this program. If you would like to contribute, you can do so in two ways:

1 - Donate perishable food (you have extras from your garden or purchased too much produce at the store) or non-perishable foods to the Family Pathways in North Branch and specify that you want to support the Rush City Backpack Program. Family Pathways will donate \$1 per pound of food to our program.

2 - Send a cash or check donation to Family Pathways, but be sure to clearly mark that it is for the Rush City Backpack Program.

These donations go directly to our account that serves OUR students here at CE Jacobson. The most important part is that you specify that your donation is for the Rush City Backpack Program. This ensures that our account gets credited with your donation.



Transportation



Transportation Supervisor

Anders Johnson

ajohnson@rushcity.k12.mn.us | 320-358-3562

I hope everyone is doing well.

We are very excited that almost all of our school buses are now equipped with stop-arm cameras thanks to a grant. Hopefully, this helps with stop-arm violations.

Please remember that if you need to get messages to drivers concerning morning transportation to call the bus garage before 6:30 a.m. at 320-358-3562.

Thank you for everyone's patience as we worked through the first several weeks of the school year.

Best Regards,
Anders Johnson

School Bus Safety Tips for Children

When waiting for the bus: Be patient, stand back from the road, and no running or rowdy behavior.

When on the bus: stay seated, listen to the driver, and use quiet voices.

It's important for parents to discuss and demonstrate pedestrian safety with their children and reinforce safe crossing after exiting a bus:

When getting off a bus, look to be sure no cars are passing on the shoulder (side of the road).

Before crossing the street, take five "giant steps" out from the front of the bus, or until the driver's face can be seen.

Wait for the driver to signal that it's safe to cross.

Look left-right-left when coming to the edge of the bus to make sure traffic is stopped. Keep watching traffic when crossing.

-Minnesota Department of Transportation

School Resource Officer



Deputy Gage

jgage@rushcity.k12.mn.us | 320-358-1343

Greetings Tiger Families,

I am sure most of you have heard in the media that several law enforcement departments throughout the state have pulled their SROs due to new language that was implemented in an education bill. After a few meetings and discussions, Sheriff Brandon Thyen decided it would be best not to approve the SRO contract with the City of Rush City and Rush City School District until the language is changed. With that, I and any Deputy responding to the schools are not working under a school contract but rather the city contract.

On another note in 2023, the State of Minnesota mandated that all students in public schools must receive age-appropriate education related to safe walking and bicycling during the first few weeks of school. This legislation is similar to the law that requires students to receive bus safety education at the beginning of each school year. I spoke to students about the importance of utilizing safe walking and safe biking skills. The most important takeaway for the students is to look left, right and left again and make sure drivers can see you before crossing the street. Encourage your child(ren) to utilize these skills when they are out and about.

If your family will be out Trick-or-Treating below are some good tips from the American Safety Council.



Contact Us

Superintendent	Brent Stavig	320-358-4855	bstavig@rushcity.k12.mn.us
High School Principal	Janet Wagener	320-358-4795	jwagener@rushcity.k12.mn.us
Elementary School Principal	Alicia Nelson	320-358-4724	anelson@rushcity.k12.mn.us
Activities/Athletic Director	Lee Rood	320-358-1265	lrood@rushcity.k12.mn.us
School Nurse	Gretchen Cornelius	320-358-1364	gcornelius@rushcity.k12.mn.us
School Resource Officer	Deputy Jess Gage	320-358-1343	jgage@rushcity.k12.mn.us
College and Careers Counselor	Kari Weileder	320-358-1267	kweileder@rushcity.k12.mn.us
High School Counselor	Annie Knutson	320-358-1325	aknutson@rushcity.k12.mn.us
Elementary School Counselor	Hannah Feten	320-358-4724	hfeten@rushcity.k12.mn.us
Food Service Supervisor	Molly Gotwald	320-358-1306	mgotwald@rushcity.k12.mn.us
Transportation Supervisor	Anders Johnson	320-358-3562	ajohnson@rushcity.k12.mn.us
Early Childhood Coordinator	Sara Sieling	320-358-1368	ssieling@rushcity.k12.mn.us
Community Ed	Cathy Monster	320-358-4795	cmonster@rushcity.k12.mn.us
Tiger Care		320-358-1389	

School Board Members

Matt Meissner	Chairperson	320-358-0274	mmeissner@rushcity.k12.mn.us
Teri Umbreit	Vice Chairperson	651-621-4495	tumbreit@rushcity.k12.mn.us
Kristin Papke	Clerk	612-229-5480	kpapke@rushcity.k12.mn.us
Kenneth Lind	Treasurer	612-290-2296	klind@rushcity.k12.mn.us
Stefanie Folkema	Director	320-358-0013	sfolkema@rushcity.k12.mn.us
Will Schmidt	Director	507-993-9259	willschmidt@rushcity.k12.mn.us

School Board Meetings

The Regular School Board Meetings are scheduled for the Third Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the High School Media Center.

[School Board Webpage](#)

Important Forms/Links

[Enrollment Forms](#)

[2023-2024 Application for Educational Benefits](#)

[Enrollment Options Form \(Open Enrollment Application\)](#)

[2023-2024 School Year Calendar](#)

[2023-2024 Events and Activities Calendar](#)

[COPPA \(Children's Online Privacy Protection Act\)](#)