

RLHS is firmly committed to ensuring that students can compete in the global, technology-rich environments they will encounter in their future. We continue in our pursuit of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning for all students. In 2014, we implemented E-Portfolios for our seniors, as a way to customize learning for each student and will continue to do so as a graduation requirement. Highlighting students' interests and post-secondary plans helps our teachers make connections with students, encouraging them to become more active participants in the classroom.

Based on Wisconsin recommendations, RLHS has adopted the **National 16 Career Clusters** that also serve as a tool for organizing curriculum and instruction. Career Clusters provide opportunities for all students, regardless of their career goals and interests. Within these clusters, there are many pathways. Career Clusters are a tool for a seamless education system that:

- blends rigorous academic/technical preparation
- provides career development
- offers options for students to experience all aspects of a business or industry
- facilitates/assists students and educators with ongoing transitions

**Career Pathways** provide a framework for seamless education. Career Pathways are the core of workforce and economic development in our state and will:

- promote the connection between education and workforce/economic development
- provide a seamless transition from high school to college
- focus on high skill, high demand, and high wage careers
- increase emphasis on attainment of a technical skill proficiency, degree/credential

The partnerships we are currently working to establish and expand will capitalize on community support and develop a meaningful career pathway for students. This will allow students to explore and deepen their understanding of potential career choices before they begin their post-secondary education. Career Pathways allow the high school and local employers to form partnerships in order to meet one another's needs. These partnerships are just the beginning of co-dependent relationships that we look forward to developing in the future with our local businesses, colleges and leaders of industry to prepare students with curriculum that is aligned with the demands of the businesses and community alike.

**A Program of Study:** Rice Lake High School's E-Portfolio contains a sequence of instruction (based on recommended standards, and knowledge and skills) consisting of coursework, co-curricular activities, work-site learning, service learning and other learning experiences. This sequence of instruction provides career preparation. The final component of this college/career readiness is a Program of Study and an Academic Career Plan, which are both included in our E-Portfolio.

In addition to the E-portfolio, Rice Lake High School prepares our students for any college or post-secondary option they choose to pursue. Students need to take risks and challenge themselves with advanced courses that interest them.

**Academic Career Plan:** We will continue encouraging students, parents, teachers and counselors to work together on an Academic Career Plan for the future. This career plan will encourage students to discover their strengths and interests, while choosing courses which are aligned with their potential career interests. The RLHS Course Description Booklet includes examples of career pathways and courses that are offered at RLHS to help parents in guiding their child through the four-year high school plan.

I am firmly committed to the Rice Lake Area School District and community and will continue to work hard to be sure each student reaches his or her full potential. We are always looking for ways to improve. With high expectations, a supportive learning environment and a clear vision, the Rice Lake Area School District will earn the reputation it deserves, as the district that is committed to preparing students for the future.

Curt Pacholke, Principal  
Rice Lake High School