



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Rochester Community Schools welcomes
U.S. Army Brigadier General John Cushing, class of '89 graduate**

ROCHESTER, Mich. – Brig. Gen. John Cushing, Rochester Adams High School class of 1989 graduate, returned to his alma mater on Friday, walking the halls for the first time after 34 years to honor local veterans, share gratitude and show support for students pursuing science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education.

Cushing serves as the commanding general of the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command (DEVCOM), where he leads a world-class team of scientists, engineers, analysts, technicians and support staff who leverage cutting-edge technologies, such as artificial intelligence, quantum effects, autonomy, robotics, advanced energetics and synthetic biology, to give soldiers the advantage over adversaries.

“This command has 14,000 people, eight reporting centers and three international units. There are a lot of really smart people who are shaping what the Army of the future needs to look like,” said Cushing. “When we’re surrounded by excellence, we’re set up for success.”

Cushing was commissioned as an armor officer after graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He served in various assignments stateside, as well as in deployments to Iraq during Operation Inherent Resolve; Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom; and two tours to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Cushing has served 30 years, following the legacy of his father and grandfather, who also served in the Army.

Rochester Adams Principal Pasquale Cusumano and Interim Superintendent John Silveri welcomed Cushing to the building, along with his mother, Anne, who remains a current resident of the City of Rochester Hills. It wasn’t long before they opened the 1989 yearbook and located Cushing’s senior picture, discovered his photo in the composites that line the walls of the school, and reminisced about the changes to the building and Cushing’s time as a student and athlete at Rochester Adams.

Rochester Community Schools Mission

To provide a quality education in a caring atmosphere for students to attain the necessary skills and knowledge to become lifelong learners and contribute to a diverse, interdependent and changing world.

In recognition of Veterans Day, Cushing then joined nearly 200 Rochester Adams students, staff and families to honor local men and women who served in the U.S. Armed Forces. The annual event included a special breakfast that provided an opportunity for the students to have conversations with individuals who have served in the military.

As an additional sign of gratitude and respect, art students handcrafted poppy flowers for the veterans, and all 1,500 students were afforded the opportunity to place American flags alongside the perimeter of school grounds with personalized signs of appreciation – a tradition that could be seen districtwide at all three RCS high schools.

Addressing the crowd, Cushing expressed his sincere thanks to the event organizers, students, administrators, staff and especially the veterans.

“Thank you to the veterans who are here today. Less than one percent – let this sink in a little bit – less than one percent serve their country in the uniformed services. For our veterans who have served, you have paved a way for me to be able to serve. You have made this country what it is today.

“We couldn’t do half the things in our country if we didn’t have folks who served our country,” said Cushing.

Cushing also shared gratitude for his high school. “I had teachers that were tough, that would challenge me to do better. It is an honor to give back to the high school that helped shape who I am as an individual,” said Cushing.

Following the veteran’s event, Cushing met with the AdamBots robotics team in the school’s innovation lab to participate in STEM demonstrations. He talked with the students, reinforcing the importance of how innovative technologies, such as robotics and autonomous systems, are shaping the Army of 2040.

As the morning came to a close, Cusumano reflected on the events. “We are extremely proud of our students who take every opportunity to embrace kindness. We are also proud of the individuals who once walked these hallways as a student and have gone on to do great things for our community, our country, and for the world.”

“It was truly an honor to welcome Brig. Gen. Cushing back to Rochester Adams,” said Cusumano.

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Photo credit: Jason Zhang
Cushing locates his photo in the '89 class composite



Photo credit: Rochester Community Schools
Cushing addresses students, staff and families



Photo credit: Rochester Community Schools
Yearbook memories



Anne Cushing joins her son



Photo credit: Jason Zhang
Students welcome Cushing to Adams

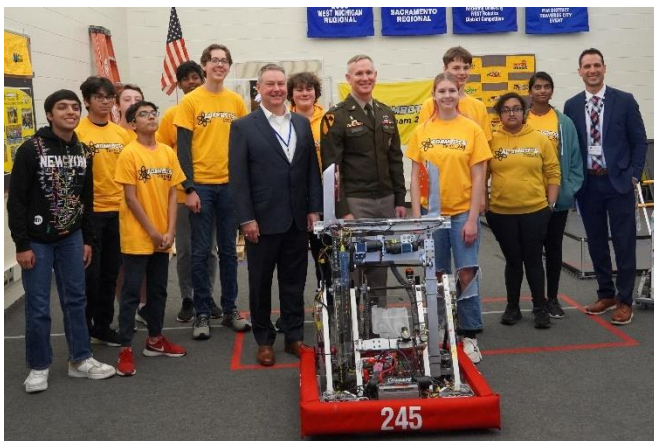


Photo credit: Rochester Community Schools
Pictured with AdamBots robotics team



Photo credit: Rochester Community Schools
Cusumano, Cushing and Silveri

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Photo credit: Rochester Community Schools
Engaging with AdamBots robotics team



Photo credit: Rochester Community Schools
Cushing poses with AdamBots t-shirt cannon



Photo credit: Rochester Community Schools
Walking the hallways of Rochester Adams High School

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