



New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Public Schools

Independent School District No. 2168

District Office

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Dale Carlson, Superintendent

Secondary School

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David Bunn, Principal

Elementary School

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(507)684-3181
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Douglas Anderson, Principal

Empowering students with knowledge and skills to succeed.

Our Mission

Empowering students with knowledge and skills to succeed.

Our Vision

To be the school district of choice, inspiring excellence in academics, arts, and activities.

Distance Learning, Construction, Budget and More!

Dale Carlson, Superintendent

April 2020

Our vision as a school community is to *be the school district of choice, inspiring excellence in academics, arts, and activities*. We strive to do this every day by *empowering students with knowledge and skills to succeed*.

Distance Learning / Childcare / Meals

Distance learning instruction continues for our students and staff. Staff also continue to provide childcare for children of qualifying parents and more than 500 meals per day to our students. Thank you to our outstanding employees for coming together in a short period of time to provide these essential services for our families and communities during this extraordinary time.

At the time of submitting this article to the Star Eagle, we are still planning for students to return to their school building on Tuesday, May 5. However, that may change based on future direction from the Governor. Until then, teachers, paraprofessionals and other staff will continue to engage with students in order to maximize student learning in the distance learning format. Thank you to parents and extended families for your support and engagement with school staff in order to deliver a high quality distance learning plan. Please visit our website at <https://www.nrheg.k12.mn.us/Page/9> for the latest information pertaining to our Distance Learning Plan. There are ongoing resources you may want to access regarding services being provided along with COVID-19 resources.

Construction

Construction plans for both buildings continue to move forward even though we are closely monitoring the impact COVID-19 may have on construction schedules moving forward. A Knutson Construction operations trailer for the Secondary School was dropped off in the west parking lot on April 2. Fencing will begin to go up around the west parking lot of the Secondary School and eventually will block off access to the west parking lot. Our construction management firm, Knutson Construction, is hopeful to break ground on the new Secondary School shop addition in April. The rest of the project will begin at the end of the 2019-2020 school year and continue throughout the summer. Construction in both buildings is to be completed by mid-August with the exception of the new shop addition which is targeted to be completed by November 2020. Staff have been working on student programming plans for Summer 2020 that includes Community Education, Targeted Services, and various student activities including camps and practices. We know the construction will restrict identified areas in each building throughout the summer which is why we are working closely with Knutson Construction to schedule the various activities in locations and at times that will result in minimal

disruption to our programming. Construction information can be found on the District Website at <https://www.nrheg.k12.mn.us/Page/3294>. We will be providing project updates throughout the spring, summer and fall.

Budget

The Board of Education (BOE) met on March 9 and March 30 for the purpose of examining and developing the 2020-2021 school district budget. For a fourth year in a row, the BOE is having to consider adopting a planned deficit budget in which projected expenditures exceed anticipated revenue. At the March 30 work session, the BOE approved a finance goal to adopt a planned budget for 2020-2021 that achieves the BOE's fund balance target of between 22% and 28% of the unassigned general fund while minimizing a projected deficit budget not to exceed \$200,000. For the past two years, there has been a decrease in the fund balance specific to the unassigned general fund. We are projecting a decrease for 2019-2020 as well.

To achieve this directive, administration is examining potential expenditure areas to reduce in order to achieve the BOE's target. It is important to note that projections in both revenue and expenditures will likely change, requiring more or less reductions to be made in order to achieve the BOE's goal. Beyond 2020-2021, the BOE has acknowledged the need to reverse the trend of deficit spending which will require corrective action. Further reduction strategies as well as options available to increase revenue will be considered.

The BOE will be reviewing a preliminary 2020-2021 budget recommendation at the April 20 School Board meeting with final approval at the May 18 School Board meeting.

A reminder that the School Board conducts its regular monthly meeting on the third Monday of each month. The location of the meeting is rotated monthly between the NRHEG Secondary School Media Center in New Richland and the NRHEG Elementary School Media Center in Ellendale. The April 20, 2020, School Board meeting will be at the Secondary School beginning at 6:30 pm., and the May 18, 2020, School Board meeting will be at the Elementary School beginning at 6:30 pm. Until further notice, Board members have the option to attend the meeting remotely. There will be a minimum of one Board member and myself at the designated site. All COVID-19 CDC safety guidelines will be enforced for any public attending. We are hopeful to provide remote access for the general public to view Board meetings either live and/or taped in the near future. At this time, anyone wishing to make a public comment to the Board will have to attend in person at the designated site.

We celebrate together in the accomplishments of our students because we are in this journey together as a school community. Thank you for all you do to support NRHEG Public Schools and our students! Be safe and stay strong!