



# New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Public Schools

Independent School District No. 2168

## District Office

306 Ash Avenue South  
New Richland, MN 56072  
(507)465-3206  
Fax (507)465-8633  
Dale Carlson, Superintendent

## Secondary School

306 Ash Avenue South  
New Richland, MN 56072  
(507)465-3205  
Fax (507)465-8633  
David Bunn, Principal

## Elementary School

600 School Street  
Ellendale, MN 56026  
(507)684-3181  
Fax (507)684-2108  
Douglas Anderson, Principal

*Empowering students with knowledge and skills to succeed.*

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### 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.*

## Staff Appreciation, Distance Learning and More

Dale Carlson, Superintendent

May 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*.

### Staff Appreciation!

Last week, we joined school districts across the country in recognizing school employees for the difference they make in the lives of our students. Regardless of the position, each school employee is an educator to our students.

Closing our school buildings due to COVID-19 has had a significant impact on our students, families, employees and communities. Acknowledging and celebrating the dedication and commitment of our staff has never been more important than now. Staff members have made significant contributions to ensure that our distance-learning plan engages and challenges our students while also making sure our essential services of providing childcare to children of qualifying families and meals to students happen every day.

NRHEG school employees have the opportunity and responsibility to educate students and model for them our mission and core beliefs in all that we do. Public school educators are special. Most of them spend a career in service to others. They do not receive nearly the recognition they deserve, but that is not why they are in the education business. Our educators do what they do every day simply because they care about, and enjoy working with kids.

Our employees serve our students through their understanding, knowledge, leadership, and high level of care. They serve our communities as dedicated and diligent employees. We serve them with our appreciation and gratitude. Thank you to all school employees for what they do each day in service to students, staff, parents, and our communities.

### Distance Learning

Distance learning instruction will continue for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year for our students and staff with the last student day scheduled for Thursday, May 28. At the time of submitting this article to the Star Eagle, we continue to wait for further guidance from the Minnesota Department of Education regarding Summer 2020 programming and other services that we will or will not be able to provide. We also are monitoring closely and planning accordingly any guidance being considered for the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

As so many have experienced throughout this extraordinary time, it is very difficult to plan too far ahead due to the ever-changing guidance and mandates given to us that we must follow. We will continue to do our best with the information we have available at the time to prepare as far into the future as possible. Thank you to students and parents for your support, engagement and participation in our distance-learning delivery model.

### Construction

Construction plans for both buildings continue to move forward. We are closely monitoring the impact COVID-19 may have on construction schedules. Foundation work for the new shop addition and the greenhouse at the Secondary School started about two weeks ago and we expect the walls to start going up soon. The demolition of several of the Secondary School classrooms to be remodeled along with the Elementary School office is scheduled to begin earlier than planned due to the decision that students would not be returning to the school building this school year. Work in many of those areas has already started. Construction information can be found on the District Website at <https://www.nrheg.k12.mn.us/Page/3294>.

### Budget

The Board of Education (BOE) will be considering adoption of the 2020-2021 school district budget at the May 18 School Board meeting. The Board will also be receiving the latest projection on the 2019-2020 school year budget and how COVID-19 has impacted revenue and expenditures since mid-March.

As I mentioned in my April Star Eagle article, The BOE is considering the approval of a planned deficit budget for a fourth year in a row where projected expenditures exceed anticipated revenue. Fortunately, the BOE has been able to maintain the district's fund balance within the BOE's target, but this will continue to be more challenging. An added factor now is the state's most recent budget forecast and the impact it will have on public school funding. This will likely add to the school district's financial challenges moving forward for at least the next three to five years.

The BOE is planning for a budget work session in early June to discuss long-term budget planning beyond the 2020-2021 school year. Along with the possibility of further reduction strategies to be identified, the BOE will be discussing and considering options available to increase revenue.

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. However, due to construction, the Elementary Office has been temporarily moved to the Elementary Media Center. As a result, **the May 18, 2020, School Board meeting will be held at the Secondary School beginning at 6:30 pm.** In fact, all School Board meetings for the months of May, June, July and August will be held at the Secondary 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. Members of the public may view the Board meeting live via YouTube by clicking on the link <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeJxHiECoUTI9OUwNd2p0KA>. Recordings of the Board meeting are available by going to the same link as above. You may also access the link by going to the District's website at <https://www.nrheg.k12.mn.us/pages/NRHEG>. 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!