



# 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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(507)465-3205  
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David Bunn, Principal

## Elementary School

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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.*

## School District Update

Dale Carlson, Superintendent  
November 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*.

### School Learning Model Update

For the past two weeks, have experienced an increase in quarantine numbers among both students and staff. During this time, we have also experienced additional positive cases within our school community. At the time of writing this article, we plan to remain in *Hybrid Learning* for both buildings, but this could change with short notice if it is determined we are unable to staff to the appropriate level needed in either building, and/or if the number of positive cases increase to the point we need to move to *distance learning* for a period of time in one or both buildings. We have developed a COVID0-19 Dashboard that you can find on the website at <http://t.ly/cS8E>. We plan to update the dashboard weekly on Fridays.

As we have worked with Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) public health officials on a weekly basis in examining our cases, we have been reminded of behaviors within our own school community of those who are to be in quarantine or isolation and yet, are out in the community. We have reason to believe there are individuals who have tested positive (isolated) and knowingly were in close contact with others even after having symptoms and/or testing positive. In some of these cases, it is possible that the positive case exposed another individual who then attended school as they were not quarantined at the time and were not experiencing symptoms. Public health officials are sharing with us that it is these types of actions that can result in virus spread within a community and school building and cause a school to move to *distance learning* due to virus spread.

We believe most students learn best when they are physically present in school. While we have not been able to be *in-person* everyday yet this year, we do believe the next best learning model for students is *Hybrid Learning* even though it might be the most challenging learning model for students, families and staff for planning purposes. We believe providing some *in-person learning* each week is a better learning model for most students than *distance learning* every day. However, we will not place students and staff at risk by remaining in *Hybrid Learning* if we believe we are going to experience an uncontrollable and untraceable virus spread within our school buildings.

Thank you for your support of the safety measures being taken within our communities including masking, distancing, washing hands, and staying home if ill which also includes experiencing any of the common symptoms associated with the virus. If you have a family member who is currently isolated due to testing positive, please make sure all other family members remain quarantined. For those with children attending NRHEG Public Schools, in the event your child tests positive, we encourage you to contact the school or MDH immediately so that contact tracing may begin. Please go to the

MDH website at <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/situation.html> to find the most up to date information.

We continue to work closely with county and state public health officials in monitoring the most relevant information and metrics that will guide our learning model decisions. Thank you for all you are doing to take care of yourself, your family, and those around you.

### **Truth in Taxation**

The public is invited to the Truth in Taxation Public Hearing to be held at 6:00 pm on Monday, December 21, in the Secondary School Media Center. The hearing will also be live-streamed via YouTube by clicking on the link [NRHEG School Board Meeting Live Stream](#). A recording of the hearing is available by going to the same link as above. You may also access the link by going to the [NRHEG Public Schools Website](#). A review of the District's budget as well as the proposed tax levies to be considered for certification by the School Board at its regular meeting immediately following the public hearing will be presented.

A reminder that the School Board conducts its regular monthly meeting on the third Monday of each month. Typically, 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, until further notice, the School Board will hold its regular monthly meetings at the Secondary School Media Center due to "live-stream" technology requirements. The School Board intends to continue live-streaming School Board meetings at least through the COVID-19 pandemic period when restrictions are placed on the number of the public that may attend. The November 16, 2020, School Board meeting and the December 21, 2020, School Board meeting will both be held at the Secondary School beginning at 6:30 pm. Until further notice, Board members have the option to attend the meeting remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. 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 going to the link at <https://www.nrheg.k12.mn.us/Page/3436>. 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 Website at <https://www.nrheg.k12.mn.us/pages/NRHEG>. At this time, anyone wishing to make a public comment to the Board will need 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!