



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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Douglas Anderson, Principal

Empowering students with knowledge and skills to succeed.

NRHEG School District Update

Dale Carlson, Superintendent

September 2019

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*.

On September 3, doors opened to our schools welcoming students for the 2019-2020 school year. Our approximately 160 employees worked extremely hard to ensure the start of the school year was a positive one for our students and their families.

Prior to the first day of school for students, staff gathered on August 29 for a District-wide kickoff where we welcomed new staff and celebrated the opportunity we have to live our mission each day of *empowering students with knowledge and skills to succeed*. I was reminded of the many gifts and talents shared by our staff every day with students and with one another. Every staff member carries a level of responsibility to make sure we touch every child so that they have hope for a future filled with achievement and success. Our entire community shares that same responsibility.

Dr. Stuart Robertshaw was our keynote speaker for the morning. His message of “The Healing Power of Humor” was an important message for all of us as we begin the school year. Laughing, smiling, and spreading joy throughout the school and work environment promotes a positive teaching and learning culture and environment for our staff and students.

Over the course of four days, teachers participated in staff development focusing on our District Strategic Plan specific to the areas of **Student Achievement and Student Support** Within *Student Support*, teachers and paraprofessionals had the opportunity to hear Danielle Theis’ message about Trauma Responsive Schools as she helped us better understand our role in working effectively with students who experience mental health and behavioral barriers in the classroom.

Within *Student Achievement*, teachers continued their standards-based instruction and assessment work we started more than two years ago where they are engaged in a process of continuous improvement. Specifically, teachers examined progress made in the five performance goal areas of the District’s World’s Best Workforce Plan that has been in place for the past three years. Goals were revised along with targeted actions steps to implement over the next five years. Susan Burris from the Minnesota Department of Education facilitated the day’s activities.

It was a productive week for our staff, and it has been a great start to the school year. Together, we are here to partner with parents in providing their child with a quality education. We strive to do what we need to do in order for our students to experience opportunities that will prepare them for a world that continues to change. We know that by working together, we have a greater chance of being successful in our work so that every student learns at high levels in order to be successful in a global society.

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 September 16, 2019, School Board meeting will be at the Elementary School beginning at 6:30 pm., and the October 21, 2019, School Board meeting will be at the Secondary School beginning at 6:30 pm.

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!