

# NRHEG Public School

Independent School District No. 2168



High School  
306 Ash Ave. South  
New Richland, MN 56072  
(507)465-3205  
Fax (507)465-8633

Elementary School  
600 School St.  
Ellendale, MN 56026  
(507)684-3181  
Fax (507)684-2108

## Secondary Principal Board Report 4-14-20

BeThe Light <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P4sPcDxJZqk>

### **From John Millea of the MSHSL #BeTheLightMN Brings Schools, Students, Communities Together 4/5/2020**

"On March 24, an administrator at a high school in the Texas panhandle was driving home from a meeting in Amarillo. In the evening darkness, in the midst of fears about Covid-19, he had a thought: Is there a way to shine some light for all to see?

Dumas High School principal, Brett Beesley, called football coach Aaron Dunnam, Beesley told local media in Texas. "I asked Aaron what he thought if we turned our football stadium lights on every night from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m., to show the students in Dumas we're thinking about them. Aaron loved it and ran to the stadium and flipped them on. I then thought, 'Why not challenge other schools to do the same?' It's a way to show our kids we'll be back, and a sign of hope."

From Dumas to all over Texas and beyond – including here in Minnesota -- #BeTheLight has become a big deal. I learned about it by seeing Tweets from Colorado, where Colorado High School Activities Association assistant commissioner, Adam Bright, had seen Tweets from Texas schools.

My friend, Ryan Casey, the director of digital media at the CHSAA, Tweeted this on Tuesday, March 31: "Stadiums across Colorado lit up on Monday night as schools and districts sought to offer a beacon of hope to their students." #copreps #bethelightCO @AdamCHSAA

I retweeted Ryan's message with these words: "This is such a simple and great idea. How many #mshsl schools will flip on their stadium lights every Monday night in support of students?"

And here we are now, with approximately 250 Minnesota high schools turning on stadium lights one or two evenings per week or Monday through Friday. It has been

*Dale N. Carlson, Superintendent*

*David A. Bunn, High School Principal*

*Douglas A. Anderson, Elementary Principal*

incredible to see so many schools join in this effort to show support for and solidarity with their students, staff and communities. Lights have gone on at football/soccer/lacrosse stadiums, baseball and softball fields, tennis courts, all over the state.

Entire conferences have come on board, including schools in the Gopher Conference: Bethlehem Academy, Blooming Prairie, Hayfield, Maple River, Medford, New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva, United South Central and Waterville-Elysian-Morristown.

The complete list of participating schools can be found on the MSHSL Facebook page.

Schools have stressed that they don't want people who see the lights to gather. Some have recommended that people are welcome to drive past the stadiums, forming a long line of headlights, and others have asked the public to also turn on their porch lights in a show of unity.

Many schools have posted inspiring messages on Twitter:

Albany: "Lights will be on 8:00p-8:20p this coming Monday at Micheal Field/Herges Stadium. 20 min to recognize Class of 2020. Follow MDH guidelines-no gathering/groups-but let's see a line of headlights to show off our Purple Pride and support for our students!!!"

Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted: "HLWW will turn on the lights at the FB field Monday at 9 pm for 20 minutes as a "Ray of Hope" for the Class of 2020. This also serves as a Community Ray of Hope for our health workers, businesses, firemen, police & everyone in our three towns. Use your porch lights!"

Tartan High School in Oakdale is part of District 622, and the lights at Tartan Stadium will be lit on Monday at 20:20 (8:20 p.m.) for 622 seconds. At Norwood Young America, part of District 108, lights will go on for 108 minutes.

Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City's announcement mentioned, "Three towns, united as one, shining bright with hope." St. Croix Prep's Twitter note said, "We miss our students and want you to know we are here! Enjoy the lights but continue to practice social distancing."

In a follow-up Tweet, St. Croix Prep said, "It's a little thing but it's little things like this that help us feel like we are doing something. And that we have a visible way to show we are all still together even when we are apart."

There have been personal touches, too.

Marie Hansen, a teacher at Burnsville High School, posted this on Twitter: "I'm the least sporty person, but are you even a high school teacher if you're not sobbing over all these Friday Night Lights left on to light the way back home for the kids who will come back to fill these stadiums and schools someday???"

Be The Light Minnesota."

Below are some pictures of our fields: Thanks to Mr. Stork for helping us with this sign of hope!





**From Mrs. Fredrickson:** "Our 6-7-8-9-10-11-12 Music students are off and running with their DLP in Music! Some of the activities the students are working on include weekly Google Meets where we sing and warm up together vocally, connect on how their transition is going concerning the DLP, completing assignments via Schoology- whether it's watching a music orientated YouTube video or coming up with a creative spring concert program, we are doing our best! We are thankful for this opportunity to continue to work with our students during C19."

**From Mrs. Bently:** "The student editor of the Panther Press, Jordan Horejsi, proposed some story ideas for the newspaper which ended up being published in the April 16 edition of the NRHEG Star Eagle. She and I wrote paired articles which were printed on the front page of the paper--hers about student perceptions of the "distance learning" program, mine about teacher perceptions.

The Star Eagle also consented to allow a 3-page edition of the Panther Press; a typical edition occupies only 2 pages. The pieces on the third page are advice and statements of empathy from 2019 NRHEG graduates, written by last year's student editor of the Panther Press, Rachel Horejsi.

The school was contacted by the leaders of the New Richland and Ellendale American Legion posts. These organizations want to show community support for this year's seniors by sponsoring a parade in their honor. A survey has been sent to members of the senior class to learn what their level of interest would be. Preliminary results show fairly strong enthusiasm for the idea. Much planning and effort, as well as some concerns about timing, must be worked out before we will know whether the parade will be possible and what form it will take.

Power96 Radio in Albert Lea has contacted the senior class with the intent of continuing the annual "NRHEG Senior Night at Power96." The plan is to conduct virtual interviews sometime the morning of Monday, May 11, and then to air the taped discussions on the air that evening between 5 and 7 p.m.

Josten's delivered seniors' graduation gowns and other items in the school parking lot on Wednesday, with cars driving up in turn to receive their packets.

There has been something of an outpouring of sympathy and support for this year's senior class. The parent teacher organization has set aside funds on their behalf, and has promised at least some financial support toward any possible future picnic or other gathering.

I have made a personal commitment to seek out stories and events which can be shared with the public in articles about the school, district staff, and our students. The intent is to keep the public aware of the services the school is providing despite having to comply with "shelter at home" expectations. If you know of any events or initiatives which should be publicized, please let me know."

**From Mr. Domeier:** Trying out public speaking with distance learning has been a true learning experience for both students and teacher! The kids have tried new things they might not have been able to in the classroom, such as run a slide show while speaking from their computer (we can see both speaker and show), going outside to show a visual aid, and including a pet in a speech! It's a different way of giving a speech to an audience, but the students are showing they have what it takes.