

NRHEG Public School

Independent School District No. 2168



High School
306 Ash Ave. South
New Richland, MN 56072
(507)465-3205
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Elementary School
600 School St.
Ellendale, MN 56026
(507)684-3181
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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.

NRHEG School District Update

Dale Carlson, Superintendent

Does Character Matter?

November 2016

Our mission as a school community is to **empower students with knowledge and skills to succeed**. We achieve this by inspiring students today and preparing them for a future that will require innovation, creativity, collaboration, initiative, leadership, responsibility, and many more skills in order for them to be successful and make a positive contribution to their community and to those around them.

Developing one's character is an important part of preparing our children for a bright and hopeful future. Martin Luther King, Jr. believed, "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education."

Character development begins early in one's life. The values instilled in a young child by parents or guardians begin to shape that child's character. However, we are never too old to be influenced by those around us even to the point that our character is impacted. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe believed that "character develops itself in the stream of life." Are you a different person than you were ten, twenty, or thirty years ago?

Throughout our School District, students and staff continually engage in conversations about appropriate and acceptable behavior in their school and community as part of our work with positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS). Being positive, respectful, responsible, safe, honest, and trustworthy are key attributes believed to be essential to be a successful contributor and member of one's school, community, workplace, and home.

In the October 20, 2016, publication of the *Star Eagle*, Elementary Principal Doug Anderson announced the implementation of the **Virtues Project** at the Elementary School; one more initiative as part of the School District's efforts in promoting a positive and healthy school

Dale N. Carlson, Superintendent

David A. Bunn, High School Principal

Douglas A. Anderson, Elementary Principal

learning environment. The Elementary School's PBIS Team leads in developing and implementing initiatives that promote a school environment that is positive, respectful, responsible, and safe. A group that works closely with the PBIS Team is the PAWSitive Committee and focuses on integrating and supporting anti-bullying efforts throughout the Elementary School. Barb Handahl, who is a member of the committee and also serves as Family Services Coordinator, shared more about the *Virtues Project* in the October 27, 2016, publication of the *Star Eagle*. If you missed the article and would be interested in learning more about the *Virtues Project* including the 52 Educational Virtues, I encourage you to contact Barb Handahl or Doug Anderson at the Elementary School.

So does Character matter? What qualities or attributes describe you as a person? How important are these qualities in determining your role and influence in your school, community, workplace, or at home? You have the opportunity to impact many lives around your beginning with the children of our communities. Do not miss these opportunities.

I leave you with a few thoughts that I have shared with students in the past that continue to have relevance for my life.

A key ingredient to our success as a school is the level of respect you have for yourself, your peers at school, your family, and your community. Make a positive difference in your school and the lives of those around you every day. Do not miss even one opportunity.

Learn everything you can from your teachers and help others around you in their learning. Be responsible and respectful in how you act and in the decisions and choices you make. Do your part in keeping yourself, your friends, your peers, and your school safe. Most importantly, believe in yourself and your unlimited potential in making a difference.

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 November 21, 2016, School Board meeting will be at the Elementary School beginning at 6:30 pm, and the December 19, 2016 School Board meeting will be at the Secondary School beginning at 6:30 pm. The annual Truth and Taxation public meeting will begin at 6:00 pm on December 19 prior to the start of the regular School Board meeting.

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!