

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

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

January 2018

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*.

As the Board of Education continues its work on developing a facility plan for the next 5, 10, and 20 years, I invited Business Education teacher, Mr. Jordan Paula, to share information about the transformation of learning spaces at the Secondary School. Recently, Mr. Paula was awarded a grant to begin renovating a classroom that will provide students with a learning environment conducive to collaborative work spaces. This is one example of the conversations and planning our teachers are engaged in as we plan for the future. Mr. Paula shares how the working conditions and expectations by employers continue to change and we must be able to adapt our learning environment in order for our students to build the skills necessary to be successful in the ever-changing workplace.

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 January 16, 2018, regular School Board meeting will be at the Elementary School beginning at 6:30 pm., and the February 22, 2018, regular School Board meeting will be at the Secondary School beginning at 6:30 pm. Please note that both the January School Board meeting and the February School Board meeting are on a Tuesday since Monday, January 15, and Monday, February 19, 2018, are both holidays. (School is in session for students on January 15, but is not in session on February 19.)

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!

The Flexible Learning Classroom

by Jordan Paula, Business Education Teacher

Dale N. Carlson, Superintendent

David A. Bunn, High School Principal

Douglas A. Anderson, Elementary Principal

I'll just "Google" it. This statement is becoming more and more common as we are increasingly drawn to technology. Dictionaries, encyclopedias, and textbooks are being replaced by search engines like Google. As teachers, our role is changing. Teachers can no longer just stand in front of a room, share information with students and hope the students can share that information back to the teacher. To prepare for the workforce, our students need to be able to think critically, work together, and problem solve; and it is the role of the teacher to facilitate that learning. Our classrooms and our teaching should help students build those skills to be competitive and successful in the workforce. The traditional classroom, consisting of rows of desks, is not necessarily conducive to building those skills, particularly the collaboration piece. One way to help facilitate that group experience is to set up a classroom that allows for flexibility and collaboration. A flexible learning classroom is just that.

At NRHEG, we have developed such a space. Spearheaded by our Technology Coordinator, Angie Aaseth, and designed by students in my Digital Media class, a learning space was created to allow for multiple groups to work simultaneously in a relaxed environment. At the start of the year, the students were tasked with designing a room in which they would want to learn and they also established "rules" for the room for all students to follow. We were graciously awarded a grant through the E.F. Johnson Foundation and Rosenau Fund to purchase items such as a new projector, six new computers, and some seating for the room. We have also had some items donated. Our long-term vision for the space includes items such as a 3D printer, virtual reality system, and other STEM-related items to help enrich the learning experience for students. This space will allow for a central location to house those items and be used by multiple departments.

Our space consists of two conference tables with mounted Chromecast-enabled TVs at each of those tables. Computers are hooked up to each of those monitors so students can work in groups and do not have to stare at one computer monitor, but now everyone can work together and see what is happening. Teachers also have the ability to "Cast" what is on their monitor to those TVs which opens up many possibilities in presenting information as well. In the middle of the room, there is a bank of eight computers, four old and four new. Two corners of the room have comfortable seating and mounted dry-erase boards for students to again collaborate in a more relaxed environment. Along the back wall of the room we have a couch, two lounge chairs, and a coffee table that was made by three seniors for this classroom. We have plans for adding pub-style tables and chairs to provide more seating options and act as a teacher workstation. We have enough seating in the room for up to 30 students.

With so much information at our fingertips, students and employees alike need to be able to digest that information and make informed decisions. While technical information is fundamentally important, many employers want employees who can and are willing to learn new information and adapt to different settings as jobs evolve and new technologies change the employment landscape. As a school, through the World's Best Workforce, we will continue to adapt to meet the needs of our students and this new flexible learning space is just a small step towards making our students career and college ready.