



New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Public Schools

Independent School District No. 2168

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Empowering students with knowledge and skills to succeed.

2020-2021 School Year Learning Model Family Update

November 19, 2020

Elementary in Hybrid Learning and Secondary in Distance Learning

Dear Families:

At this time, we continue to be in *Hybrid Learning* for the Elementary School and *Distance Learning* for the Secondary School based on the School Board's most recent data review and decision at the November 16 School Board meeting. At Monday night's School Board meeting, the Board did extend the current distance learning period for the Secondary School through December 4 based on continuing positive cases within the school.

Today's Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) published 14-day county-wide number for Waseca County is 58.48 for the period 10/25 - 11/7. Looking ahead to the 14-day period 11/1 - 11/14 to be published next week on November 26, Waseca County Public Health (WCPH) projects the overall case rate to increase to the range of 95-100.

Today's Steele County MDH 14-day county-wide case rate is 89.98 for the period 10/25 - 11/7 and projects to be in the range of 144-148 for the period 11/1 - 11/14 to be published next week. Today's Freeborn County MDH 14-day county-wide case rate is 84.52 for the period 10/25 - 11/7 and projects to be in the range of 115 - 125 for the period 11/1 - 11/14 to be published next week.

Monday night, the Board discussed the status of the Elementary School and hybrid learning. The decision was made to continue in hybrid learning given the low case rate within the school. However, we continue to monitor not only the number of positive cases within the school, but also assessing the impact keeping the Elementary School in hybrid learning might have on our communities. We are in close contact with our Regional Support Team (RST) that includes representatives from MDH, as we seek updated guidance on balancing what is happening within our school buildings with the increasing rise in county-wide cases in order to determine necessary adjustments in our learning models.

The significant increase in the case rates throughout our three counties and across the state is of great concern. The School Board will be holding a special meeting on Monday, November 23, beginning at 6:00 pm in the Secondary School Media Center to examine the most current information and COVID-19 metrics and consider the need to make adjustments in current learning models. Please see the [COVID-19 Information](#) page on the District's website for the most recent metrics we are following.

We celebrate all those who work in public schools as part of *American Education Week*. Historically, *American Education Week* is celebrated during the week prior to the week of Thanksgiving. For many years, I have associated *American Education Week* with Thanksgiving as it is a time to "give thanks" to all those who work every day to change the lives of students. Please take time to thank those in our schools who have made a difference in the life of your child(ren) and family.

Thank you for all you are doing to take care of yourself and those around you!

Dale Carlson
Superintendent