



New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Public Schools

Independent School District No. 2168

District Office

306 Ash Avenue South
New Richland, MN 56072
(507)465-3206
Fax (507)465-8633
Dale Carlson, Superintendent

Secondary School

306 Ash Avenue South
New Richland, MN 56072
(507)465-3205
Fax (507)465-8633
David Bunn, Principal

Elementary School

600 School Street
Ellendale, MN 56026
(507)684-3181
Fax (507)684-2108
Douglas Anderson, Principal

Empowering students with knowledge and skills to succeed.

2020-2021 School Year Learning Model Family Update

February 17, 2021

Secondary School Transition Plan to *In-Person Learning*

Dear Families:

At the February 16, 2021, School Board meeting, the Board approved a plan to transition Secondary School students to *in-person learning* over several weeks. Students still have the opportunity to remain in *full-time distance learning*.

Parts of the plan presented have already started including the transition of grade 6 students to *in-person learning* four days a week on January 26. At the same time, grade 12 students were given the opportunity to attend *in-person* four days a week as well. Thank you to grade 6 and 12 students and families for making the transitions a success.

This week, grade 7 & 8 students were provided the opportunity to start attending four days a week. For now, Wednesday mornings continue to be dedicated to distance learning for all students and Wednesday afternoons reserved for staff to plan for distance learning per the Governor's Executive Order. Today, a survey is being sent to grade 9-11 parents providing families with an opportunity to select their choice for *in-person learning* four days a week or *full-time distance learning*.

The transitions already in place and our plans for grades 9-11 approved by the School Board last night occurred prior to learning of the Minnesota Department of Education's (MDE) plans to release updated guidance for middle and high schools today. The [updated Safe Learning Plan](#) released today by MDE provides updated guidance for MS/HS. We are still reviewing the changes but so far believe our plans remain unchanged.

This afternoon, Governor Walz commented on the objective of returning all students to *in-person learning* or *hybrid learning* by March 8. Our plan achieves that objective with students in grades 9-11 having the opportunity to return to *in-person learning* four days a week beginning Tuesday, March 2 (March 1 is a teacher development day).

While we transition our secondary students to *in-person learning*, distancing will be reduced but maintained at the maximum distance possible in each given area. Students will be required to properly wear a mask. As I have had the opportunity to visit with parents over the past several weeks about their desire to have their child(ren) return to their school "in person" as many days each week as possible, I have shared that the success of our plans to return students to school depends in large part on how students respond to the mask requirement. Washing hands often and staying home if ill are also important safety measures that we all need to do so that we can keep our students in school.

Principal Dave Bunn will continue to communicate specific details of the Secondary School transition plans with students, families, and staff in the coming days.

We continue to monitor the positive cases throughout our three counties and within our schools and communities. I am hopeful the continual trending downward of positive cases continues. If you have a family member who is currently having any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or testing for COVID-19, please make sure all other

family members remain quarantined and contact the school nurse, Donna Olson, @ 507-416-2105 or lolson@nrhcg.k12.mn.us.

Moving forward, we know how quickly the number of positive cases and/or quarantines impacting students and staff in a building can change beginning with our ability to adequately staff a building. Families need to continue to be ready to move to a more restrictive learning model i.e. distance learning, in a short period of time.

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