



New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Public Schools

Independent School District No. 2168

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Dale Carlson, Superintendent

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Douglas Anderson, Principal

Empowering students with knowledge and skills to succeed.

July 23, 2020

NRHEG Families:

I hope all is well and you are staying healthy. Planning for the start of the school year continues as staff develop plans for each of the three scenarios outlined by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) including:

1. In-person learning for all
2. Hybrid Model - 50% capacity based on state guidance and with strict social distancing requirements
3. Distance Learning Only

In creating the plans for the 2020-2021 school year, gathering input has been essential. Thank you to parents for responding to the survey at the end of June. Staff have also had the opportunity to provide feedback to our planning committee made up of teachers and principals. In addition, Transportation, Food Service and Custodial staff are involved in coordinating efforts to plan for the three scenarios. While an important goal is to bring students and staff back safely to the school buildings; equally important is to have instructional plans in place that will address the individual needs of our students and families whether that means “in-person” or “distance” learning.

Planning for the *Hybrid Model* has presented unique challenges due to the 50% capacity and social distancing requirements. The 50% capacity is based on building capacity. We have measured classrooms, worked through the guidance from the state, and know that we have the building capacity that would allow for 50% of our students in elementary and secondary building each day under the *Hybrid Model*. We are continuing to explore this option as we move forward. Along with maintaining the required distancing at all times, transportation will be a challenge, and we will be looking to partner with our parents to help us solve this issue under the Hybrid scenario.

In both the *In-Person for all* and the *Hybrid Model*, we will have a distance learning plan for those choosing to keep their children home. The distance learning plan under those two scenarios will have the same rigor and expectations as those attending class in person. We will share more details in the coming weeks.

On July 30th, 2020, we expect to receive further guidance from the Governor’s office on which scenario will begin the year. At that time, we will be asking for further information and input from each of you. Our goal is to safely bring back our students and our staff to our buildings, and we hope that we have that opportunity.

Please refer to *Important Coronavirus Information* on the District’s website at <https://www.nrheg.k12.mn.us/domain/700> for updated guidance from MDE, the Minnesota Department of Health, the Centers for Disease and Prevention, and other resources.

We look forward to working with each of you to educate your children and understand your concerns about the uncertainty that lies in front of us all. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact your child’s principal or me.

Sincerely,
Dale N. Carlson, Ph.D.