



# New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Public Schools

Independent School District No. 2168

## District Office

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*Empowering students with knowledge and skills to succeed.*

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## 2020-2021 School Year Learning Plan Family Update

September 23, 2020

### Secondary School Returning to Hybrid Learning on September 28

Dear Families:

At Monday's School Board meeting, the School Board approved returning the Secondary School to *Hybrid Learning* starting September 28. After consulting with the Regional Support Team, the Board's decision will move forward and Secondary Students will return to *Hybrid Learning* and the revised *Hybrid Learning* schedule starting Monday. The Elementary School will remain in *Hybrid Learning*.

In the MDE's *Safe Learning Plan*, it states that changes to a learning model should "center on the impact of COVID-19 at the school level, while maintaining awareness of changes in viral activity in the community." There are a very small number of students in isolation or quarantine at this time. There are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the school district at this time. According to MDH 9/17 Zip Code published case data, from 9/3 to 9/16 there were 14 or fewer people in the NRHEG Public Schools primary ZIP Codes that tested positive for COVID-19.

Also in the *Safe Learning Plan*, it states "districts or schools should wait a minimum of two to three weeks before bringing any students back for in-person or hybrid learning" when transitioning out of Distance Learning. Students and staff in grades 6-12 will have been in *Distance Learning* for two weeks that started September 14.

Information shared by the Regional Support Team included:

- 14-day county-wide case counts from past MDH Thursday publications, projected case counts for the three weeks between 8/30 and 9/19, zip code data, and current positive cases, isolations and quarantines within school districts were examined.
- Unofficial projected county-wide case counts with "correctional facility" data separated showed a downward trend for the next two Thursday publications (9/24 and 10/2). However, with correctional facility numbers included in the published number, it is anticipated the Waseca County case rate will exceed the 72 that was reported on September 17.
- RST suggested waiting one week before considering the decision to return Secondary School to *Hybrid Learning* to allow for one more week of trend data. This would also provide time to learn of initial results from the community testing event held in Waseca this week.

Based on the Board's accepted motion and intent to move forward unless the RST said "no," **the Secondary School will return to the *Hybrid Learning Model* starting Monday, September 28.** The Elementary School will continue in the *Hybrid Learning Model*.

Monday, September 28, will be *in person* for 'A student groups' and *distance learning* for 'B & D student groups' under the *Hybrid Learning model*. Also starting with next week, the revised *Hybrid Learning* schedule begins with Wednesday being a distance learning day for all students. The week will look like:

Monday	A in person / B & D distance learning
Tuesday	B in person / A & D distance learning
Wednesday	Distance Learning for All
Thursday	A in person / B & D distance learning
Friday	B in person / A & D distance learning

**Please be aware that the school district is constantly monitoring the number of students and staff in quarantine, isolation and those who have tested positive for COVID-19. Adjustments in the learning model may be made due to health conditions.**

Thank you.

Dale Carlson, Superintendent

Rick Schultz, School Board Chair