

New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Public Schools

Independent School District No. 2168



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Empowering students with knowledge and skills to succeed

Elementary Principal's Board Report January 2021 NRHEG Elementary School Doug Anderson, Elementary Principal

2020-2021 School Year

Section	Enrollment	# of Sections	Students/Sect.
ECSE	9	2	
Bridges	12	1	12
K	59	3	19.67
1	56	3	18.68
2	57	3	19
3	53	3	17.66
4	56	3	18.66
5	62	3	20.66
Total	364	19	

1. Recent Family Communication

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

Dear Elementary Families,

In just a couple of days, our students will return to Hybrid Learning on January 14 (Group A) and January 15 (Group B). Grades 3-5 will remain in Hybrid Learning until February 1. On Monday, January 18, our Bridges-Grade 2 students will move to daily, In-Person Learning. A reminder that Monday, January 25, is a previously scheduled *No School Day*, due to the end of the quarter and teacher planning. In-Person will have our students in school M, Tu, Th, and F. Wednesday will continue to be a distance learning day in the morning and teacher planning in the afternoon.

As we return to In-Person Learning, there are a few areas that we would ask that you review with your child(ren) before coming to school. Our staff will also spend a great deal of time reviewing the expectations and changes that are in place for this model. As we make this move to In-Person Learning one consistent expectation and goal is to keep each classroom together as much as we possibly can. We are expected to limit a classroom's contact with others. By doing so, if there would be a positive case, we can then quarantine a specific classroom and teacher without having to move our entire school to Distance Learning. Our goal is to remain in the In-Person Learning Model. The key points to returning to In-Person Learning are listed below:

-Students must sanitize their hands upon entering the building (just as we've done in the Hybrid Model).

-When arriving at school, students will place their items in the locker and either go to the cafeteria for breakfast, or to the gym (Bridges-Grade 2 in the north gym and Grades 3-5 in the south gym). Each class has been assigned an area in the gym. Paraprofessionals will assist students when they arrive at the gym. Ellendale and Geneva students will return to one of the gyms at the end of the day before boarding their route bus.

-Music and Computer Technology classes will be taught in your child's classroom. Mrs. Meyer and Mrs. Fredrickson will move from classroom to classroom.

-Our students will be provided with a noon recess (outdoors-weather permitting). When outdoors, their class will be assigned an area of the playground where they will play with their classmates. Unfortunately, they will not be able to play with those outside of their class or on other parts of the playground.

-Masks will continue to be worn while in school (except for lunch and outside recess). Students will also wear their masks during phy-ed and during the time that they are in the gym in the morning and the afternoon.

-Because we will be able to safely distance, breakfast will be served in the cafeteria. Lunch will be served in the classrooms under the supervision of the paraprofessionals. Classes will occasionally have the opportunity to eat in the cafeteria (socially distanced) on a rotating schedule.

Thank you for your continued support of our students, our staff, and the ever-changing 2020-2021 school year. We would appreciate it if you could take a few moments to share the contents of this message with your child(ren). As a building, we are especially excited to know that we will very soon have all of our students back in school. Stay safe and healthy!

NRHEG Elementary Office

2. Return to In-Person Learning Mitigation Expectations

Mitigation Expectations:

- Implement a rolling start process for students to be brought back to the building. Bridges-Grade 2 return (in-person) on January 18 and Grades 3-5 return (in-person) on February 1.
- Execute COVID-19 saliva testing program for staff. Our testing begins on January 14 and will continue every 2 weeks.
- Face masks and face shields will be worn together by school staff at all times.
- When educators cannot be six feet from students (small group and individual instruction) when possible add a clear barrier between the adult and student.
- Face coverings must be worn when engaging in indoor physical activity (e.g. during indoor recess, indoor physical education class, or when exercising in a gym).

3. Family Communication-January 5, 2021

Good Afternoon Elementary Families,

As Dr. Carlson has shared with you, the elementary school will be moving to in-person learning for our Bridges-Grade 2 students on January 18 and on February 1 for our Grades 3-5 students. We wanted to share with you important information and school expectations that will allow us to make this transition to In-Person learning. Many of these items are part of the required mitigation strategies from the *Minnesota Department of Education*.

Student Arrival/End of Day: As students arrive at school we will continue to expect that they sanitize their hands upon entering the building. Our students will then go to one of the two gyms where they will be assigned to an area where they will be seated with their classmates. They may read, draw, or visit while distanced. If your child is an Ellendale-Geneva route bus rider, they will return to this area at the end of the day.

Noon Recess: Elementary students will go outside for recess (weather and temperatures permitting). Students will remain with their classmates (cohort) during their entire recess time. Classes have been assigned an area of the playground where they may play. At the end of recess, teachers will meet their students and will walk them back to their classrooms. When recess is outside, face masks are not required. If the recess is held indoors due to the

temperature or the weather, students will go to one of the gyms and will move to their assigned area similar to what they do in the morning or at the end of the day. Face masks are required for indoor recess.

Breakfast: Breakfast will be served in the cafeteria. We are able to socially distance our students during the morning breakfast time.

Lunch: Lunch will be served in the classrooms during your child's regularly scheduled mealtime. Paraprofessional supervisors will assist. Meals will be delivered to the students in "to go" containers and wastebaskets will be located in the hallways, outside of classrooms. The custodial staff will clean the classrooms after lunch.

Specialists-Music, Technology, and Physical Education: Computer Technology and Music Education will take place in individual classrooms. Physical Education classes will be held in the gymnasiums or outdoors (weather permitting). If classes are held indoors, masks will be worn.

Parent-Teacher Conferences-February 2 & 4: Parent-Teacher Conferences, scheduled for February 2 and 4, from 4:00-8:00 p.m., will again be held virtually. Your child's teacher will be communicating scheduling information with you next week.

Hybrid Calendar Attached: Along with this message is a copy of the Hybrid Calendar. This will be most useful for our Grades 3-5 families as they follow the Hybrid schedule from January 18-29, until they return to In-Person Learning on February 1.

Bridges-Kindergarten Families: Please note that on Thursday, January 14, and Friday, January 15, the Bridges and Kindergarten classrooms will follow the Hybrid Schedule where Group A students will attend on Thursday, and Group B students will attend on Friday. Following this schedule will allow our staff to work closely with a smaller group of students while practicing and becoming familiar with the change in our daily routine.

If you are making a change in the learning model for your child (ex: moving from full-time distance learning to in-person learning) please notify the elementary office with that information by January 8, 2021. If you have already contacted us, there is no need to contact us again. If you currently participate in the district daycare program, the director will be sending you a separate communication.

We are excited to be planning for a return to In-Person Learning. Returning to In-Person Learning will require several changes and adjustments on our part and on the part of our students and families. We realize that some of those changes will be more challenging than others. We also realize that based on local case numbers, our plans could change. However, as we continue to work together in bringing everyone back to school, we look forward to the opportunities this creates for all students. Thank you for your patience, understanding, and your support as we make this transition.

NRHEG Elementary Office

- 4. February Parent-Teacher Conference Update (Virtual Conferences Scheduled)**
February Conferences, scheduled for February 2 and 4, will be held virtually as they were this fall. Teachers have sent scheduling information to families on Thursday and Friday, January 14 and 15.

5. Elementary Distance Learning Information

There are currently **25** Distance Learning Students at the elementary school (as of 01-13-21). Last month, there were **36** students. The grade level breakdown is below.

Bridges	0
Kindergarten	3
Grade 1	5
Grade 2	3
Grade 3	5
Grade 4	6

