

Google Hangouts/Meet/Voice - Counselor/Social Worker Informed Consent

Google Hangouts/Meet are conducted via a secure connection between two electronic devices using live video and audio. Google Hangouts/Meet are available to each student through their student Gmail account. Google Voice is a phone application that staff may utilize to be able to contact students over the phone while keeping staff phone information confidential. Communicating with students via Google Hangouts/Meet and Google Voice is an effective way to continue to connect with students during the time that NRHEG Public Schools is utilizing Distance Learning.

There are potential disruptions to this technology, including interruptions and technical difficulties. NRHEG Public Schools staff may discontinue sessions at any time if it is felt that the videoconferencing, text, email or telephone connections are not adequate for the situation.

Communicating through Google Voice or by Google Hangouts/Meet is not for everyone and you have the right to voluntarily discontinue meeting in those ways. If you feel this way, please make the NRHEG Public Schools staff you are working with aware of your preferences.

NRHEG Public Schools staff will be set up with adequate electronic equipment to limit the risk of technical difficulty. If there is a technical difficulty, the provider and client will communicate briefly through school email or phone to end the session.

There are some situations in which NRHEG Public Schools staff can decide to discontinue a Google Hangouts/Meet or Google Voice conversation. If there is an emergency (this could include high risk of self-harm or harm of others, living in an unsafe residence, etc) during a Google Hangouts Meeting or Google Voice conversation, NRHEG Public Schools staff will contact emergency services and the student's emergency contacts.

Important statement from the NRHEG Student Device Handbook regarding appropriate use of technology: ACCEPTABLE USE: The use of the NRHEG School District's technology resources is a privilege, not a right. The privilege of using the technology resources provided by the NRHEG School District is not transferable or extendible by students to people or groups outside the district and terminates when a student is no longer enrolled in the NRHEG School District. This policy is provided to make all users aware of the responsibilities associated with efficient, ethical, and lawful use of technology resources. If a person violates any of the User Terms and Conditions named in this policy, privileges may be terminated, access to the school district technology resources may be denied, and the appropriate disciplinary action shall be applied. The NRHEG School District's Student Code of Conduct shall be applied to student infractions. **Violations may result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension/expulsion for students.**

Students meeting with NRHEG Public Schools staff will ensure that they are in a private location and that they are assisting in protecting their own confidentiality. Students will also close out of other programs on their computer during the video meeting or phone conversation.

If a life-threatening situation should occur the student agrees to contact 911 or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255. The student should not try to contact NRHEG Public Schools staff through Google Hangouts Meet or Google Voice in case of an immediate emergency.

Other crisis contacts include: Crisis Response: 1-844-274-7472 (crisis2southeastmn.com)
Crisis Text Line: Text MN to 741741