



# New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Public Schools

Independent School District No. 2168

## District Office

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Dale Carlson, Superintendent

## Secondary School

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Douglas Anderson, Principal

*Empowering students with knowledge and skills to succeed.*

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## 2020-2021 School Year Learning Model Family Update

November 7, 2020

### Secondary School Moving to Distance Learning

Dear Families:

**Unfortunately, we will be moving the Secondary School from *Hybrid Learning* to *Distance Learning* immediately beginning Tuesday, November 10. At this time, the Elementary School will remain in *Hybrid Learning*.** However, this could change as well depending on the metrics we are following and/or the ability to adequately staff our classrooms and building.

Monday, November 9, will **not** be an instructional day for secondary students in order to allow staff to prepare for the transition. School districts are allowed a total of five (5) planning days per school building to be used when either transitioning between learning models or to make modifications within a learning model. Monday will not have to be rescheduled for secondary students. The Elementary School will be in session on Monday under *hybrid learning*.

As I reported to you on Thursday, several of the metrics we are monitoring are trending in the wrong direction. Since Thursday, we have had three (3) more individuals associated with our Secondary School test positive for the coronavirus. When looking at our [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) that was updated late Thursday, you will see a significant increase in the number of cases within our school district as well as the four zip code areas that make up our school district. The county-wide cases reported in the past few days for Waseca County, Freeborn County and Steele County would suggest an upward trend in cases in areas that include residents of our school district.

As I reported on Thursday, we are anticipating the MDH 14-day county-wide case numbers for Waseca, Freeborn, and Steele to all increase for the period 10/18-10/31 that will be published next week on November 12. The projections are to be in the low 30s to mid 40s across the three counties.

At this time, the Secondary School will remain in *distance learning* through the Thanksgiving holiday with a tentative return to *hybrid learning* set for Monday, November 30. However, the *distance learning* period could be extended depending on the number of cases within the school district, our communities and counties. In addition, the Secondary School will remain in *distance learning* if we are not able to adequately staff our classrooms and building due to staff in isolation or quarantine.

Information regarding activities and meals for students will be shared in a separate communication.

Moving either school to *distance learning* is a difficult decision as we believe most students learn best when they are physically present in school. However, we will not place students and staff at risk by remaining in *Hybrid Learning* if we believe the risk is high for the virus to spread within our school building. Our behaviors as a school community and how our communities respond to stopping the virus

spread will have an impact on when our students will be able to return to school *in-person*. If you have a family member who is currently isolated due to testing positive, please make sure all other family members remain quarantined and contact your child's school even during a *distance learning* period. In the event a child tests positive, we encourage you to contact the school or MDH immediately so that contact tracing may begin.

We continue to work closely with county and state public health officials in monitoring the most relevant information and metrics that will guide our learning model decisions. Thank you for all you are doing to take care of yourself, your family, and those around you.

Dale Carlson  
Superintendent