



New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Public Schools

Independent School District No. 2168

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Empowering students with knowledge and skills to succeed.

2020-2021 School Year Learning Model Family Update

December 16, 2020

School Board Action and Governor's Announcement

Dear Families:

At a special School Board meeting held last night on Tuesday, December 15, the School Board extended the *distance learning* period for both school buildings through at least Friday, January 8, with a tentative return to *hybrid learning* for both school buildings no earlier than Monday, January 11.

However, today, Governor Walz directed the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) to provide new guidance that prioritizes putting elementary students back into the classroom. Per the updated [Safe Learning Plan for the 2020-21 School Year](#) as of today (12-16-2020), elementary schools may “*reduce the use of county data as a singular determining point when considering their learning models, and mitigation strategies are increased to help get students back in classrooms while keeping students, families, educators and staff safe.*”

The *Safe Learning Plan* will allow an elementary school to choose to operate an *in-person learning* model beginning January 18, 2021, as long as they are able to implement additional mitigation strategies that you will find in the *Safe Learning Plan*.

In the coming days, staff leaders will be developing transition plans to prepare the Elementary School to move to *in-person learning* and to determine if we will be able to implement the required mitigation strategies. There are questions that will require answers in order to clarify a potential start date(s) and how the transition to *in-person learning* impacts plans to return to *hybrid learning* on January 11.

The guidance for determining when the Secondary School may move to a less restrictive learning model has not changed. At this time, we are hoping to return the Secondary School to *hybrid learning* beginning January 11.

A short note regarding winter activities, the Board determined last night that practices will not start prior to Monday, January 4, which aligns with the Governor's order.

Thank you for all you are doing to take care of yourself and those around you!

Dale Carlson
Superintendent