



New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Public Schools

Independent School District No. 2168

District Office

306 Ash Avenue South
New Richland, MN 56072
(507)465-3206
Fax (507)465-8633
Dale Carlson, Superintendent

Secondary School

306 Ash Avenue South
New Richland, MN 56072
(507)465-3205
Fax (507)465-8633
David Bunn, Principal

Elementary School

600 School Street
Ellendale, MN 56026
(507)684-3181
Fax (507)684-2108
Douglas Anderson, Principal

Empowering students with knowledge and skills to succeed.

Our Mission

Empowering students with knowledge and skills to succeed.

Our Vision

To be the school district of choice, inspiring excellence in academics, arts, and activities.

School District Update

Dale Carlson, Superintendent
September 2020

Our vision as a school community is to *be the school district of choice, inspiring excellence in academics, arts, and activities*. We strive to do this every day by *empowering students with knowledge and skills to succeed*.

Start of School Year

On September 8, doors opened to our schools welcoming students for the 2020-2021 school year. Our approximately 160 employees worked extremely hard to ensure the start of the school year was a positive one for our students and their families. The start of this school year is unlike any of us have ever experienced. NRHEG Public Schools is in the business of educating students and we know the most effective way is for students to be in their school building every day. However, until we can do this safely in order to minimize the spread of the virus, we must follow guidance from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and the Governor's Office.

At the time of writing this article, the Elementary School is in the *Hybrid Learning* model and the Secondary School is in the *Distance Learning* model. There is the possibility the school district may have to move to the most restrictive learning model of *Distance Learning for All* learning model parameter as determined by MDH. In that case, the school district will work closed with our Regional Support Team assigned by MDH to determine if and when an adjustment is needed. At the same time, the school district will continue to closely monitor case-rate trends downward in determining when the school district may be able to return to a less restrictive learning model. The more all of us can adhere to the public health guidance of remaining home when ill, social distancing, wearing a mask, and washing/sanitizing our hands, the sooner we will be able to have our students back in school every day. Thank you for all you are doing to minimize the spread of the virus.

Construction

The construction and renovations projects at both school buildings are nearing completion. The Elementary School has experienced air quality improvements throughout the building as well as a renovated secure entrance located on the east side of the building. The east entrance canopy will be replaced in the coming weeks.

The Secondary School has also experienced air quality improvements throughout the building as well as renovations to Science classrooms, Family & Consumer Science classroom, and Industrial Technology and Agriculture shop areas. New cabinetry was installed in many of our Middle School classrooms. A beautiful new Greenhouse is now located on the west side of the school. Two sets of restrooms have been renovated to provide greater Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access. Thank you to our communities for your support of the construction and renovation project!

Referendum

The NRHEG Board of Education (BOE) unanimously approved asking voters for local financial support through an operating levy request on the November 3, 2020 ballot. The ballot question asks voters whether to approve a levy increase that would increase school funding by \$560 per pupil annually over a ten-year period. If voters approve the additional revenue, the tax impact on a \$125,000 home is projected to be about 11.25/month. The increase in revenue, per student, to the school district would be about \$47/month.

The decision to put the operating levy on the ballot was based on several months of discussions and review of various options. The BOE took this action now after examining carefully the school district's financial history, present fiscal position and best budget projections looking several years into the future. Guiding the BOE's work has been its commitment to the school district's *Strategic Plan* beginning with the priority goal area of *Student Achievement*. Equally important is the BOE's focus and commitment to the priority goal of *Finance* and to "preserving the district's strong financial standing while maintaining programs, services, and facilities at maximum efficiency."

The operating levy request is in response to a number of financial pressures resulting in expenses exceeding revenue, challenging the school district's ability to maintain the quality education students deserve and the community expects. These pressures include state funding that has not kept pace with inflation and additional unfunded mandates which draw resources away from the general fund (spending directly for our students). You will find more information, including a tax impact calculator, at our [Funding Referendum November 3, 2020](#) page on the school district's website. You can expect more information shared with you in the coming weeks.

A reminder that the School Board conducts its regular monthly meeting on the third Monday of each month. Typically, the location of the meeting is rotated monthly between the NRHEG Secondary School Media Center in New Richland and the NRHEG Elementary School Media Center in Ellendale. However, until further notice, the School Board will hold its regular monthly meetings at the Secondary School Media Center due to "live-stream" technology requirements. The School Board intends to continue live-streaming School Board meetings at least through the COVID-19 pandemic period when restrictions are placed on the number of the public that may attend. The September 21, 2020, School Board meeting and the October 19, 2020, School Board meeting will both be held at the Secondary School beginning at 6:30 pm. Until further notice, Board members have the option to attend the meeting remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There will be a minimum of one Board member and myself at the designated site. All COVID-19 CDC safety guidelines will be enforced for any public attending. Members of the public may view the Board meeting live via YouTube by clicking on the link [NRHEG School Board Meeting Live Stream](#). Recordings of the Board meeting are available by going to the same link as above. You may also access the link by going to the [NRHEG Public Schools Website](#). At this time, anyone wishing to make a public comment to the Board will have to attend in person at the designated site.

We celebrate together in the accomplishments of our students because we are in this journey together as a school community. Thank you for all you do to support NRHEG Public Schools and our students!