



NRHEG Public School

Independent School District No. 2168

High School
306 Ash Ave. South
New Richland, MN 56072
(507)465-3205
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Elementary School
600 School St.
Ellendale, MN 56026
(507)684-3181
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[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.

Facility Planning Survey

Dale Carlson, Superintendent

September 2018

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*.

On September 4, doors opened to our schools welcoming students for the 2018-2019 school year. Our teachers and support staff worked extremely hard to ensure the start of the school year was a positive one for our students and their families.

It has been a great start to the school year. Our purpose as a school community is to partner together in providing students with a quality education. As a school district, we strive to do what we need to do in order for our students to experience opportunities that will prepare them for a world that continues to change. We know that by working together, we have a greater chance of being successful in our work so that every student learns at high levels in order to be successful in a global society.

Making sure our facilities and educational programs keep up with the changes necessary to prepare our students for a successful and fulfilling future is perhaps the most significant contribution and impact our residents can have on the continued success of the school district and our students. Since the June 2015 referendum where voters did not support recommended improvements to our two school buildings, the Board of Education (BOE) has been committed to engaging our communities in determining priority needs impacting our school buildings and educational programs for our students. A survey was administered in January 2016 following the unsuccessful 2015 referendum to better understand what was most important to our communities in providing a quality education for students well into the future. The survey findings also provided further insight into reasons for the unsuccessful referendum.

Results of the 2016 survey revealed that a majority of respondents believed the BOE should explore a referendum to update and renovate schools with 77% of respondents believing the BOE should address facility needs within the next one to five years. In response to the survey results, as well as a need to put in place an improvement plan for the School District, the BOE invited a community-wide group of employees, parents, students, and community members to develop a strategic plan which was adopted by the BOE in May 2016. The plan included a facilities priority area of “ensuring our facilities and infrastructure are designed to optimize student learning and staff performance in a safe, sustainable, and attractive environment.”

Dale N. Carlson, Superintendent

David A. Bunn, High School Principal

Douglas A. Anderson, Elementary Principal

As an outcome of the District's strategic plan and identified priority on facilities, the BOE conducted a thorough facility assessment of both buildings. The assessment findings along with educational programming recommendations by staff have been the focus of a 35-member community Task Force for the past six months.

The Task Force and BOE is reaching out to all District residents in the next few weeks to gather input regarding district operations and educational facility needs with a community-wide survey. The BOE hired *School Perceptions*, an independent educational research firm, to conduct the survey and ensure all responses are kept confidential. *School Perceptions* is the same firm that assisted the District in conducting the January 2016 survey. Respondents have the option of completing the survey electronically or by returning the paper copy that is planned to be in homes by September 14. The survey will be open through October 5, at 5:00 pm. The District will have additional survey copies in the offices at each school building.

To assist residents in learning more about items included in the survey, building tours will be offered at each building so residents can see first-hand the project areas that are mentioned in the survey. A tour of the Elementary School in Ellendale will be held on Tuesday, September 18, beginning at 6:30 pm in the Media Center. A tour of the Secondary School in New Richland will be held on Thursday, September 20, beginning at 6:30 pm in the Cafeteria/Commons.

The community survey is a great opportunity for every resident to provide input in this important process, and will provide invaluable information as the BOE makes important decisions impacting the future of our schools and school district for many years to come. Thank you in advance for taking the survey.

A reminder that the School Board conducts its regular monthly meeting on the third Monday of each month. 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. The September 17, 2018, School Board meeting will be at the Elementary School beginning at 6:30 pm., and the October 15, 2018, School Board meeting will be at the Secondary School beginning at 6:30 pm.

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!