



STUDENT HANDBOOK

2024 - 2025

WELCOME

WELCOME TO NIVERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL!

At this school we think, act and dream big! Our enthusiasm and energy for learning is big. We have big goals and big ideas! Our school is a caring, positive and supportive environment that empowers everyone to do their best and be involved - where individuals are compelled to step forward and develop the courage to persevere. We are dedicated and committed to improving student learning and demonstrate this in our words and actions. There is a climate of high expectations and success for all students. There is heart and soul in everything that goes on at our school and it is the combined effort of students, staff, parents and community that nurtures this culture. We look forward to getting to know you and working together to create the best high school experience ever. This handbook has been written to help you gain insight into the beliefs and values of Niverville High School and allow you to better understand how our school functions.

While innovation and flexibility are at the core of how we operate, we also believe that high standards of conduct and character development are important for providing clear guidelines for students. Our handbook outlines our expectations and procedures, which allows students plenty of room for self-expression, creativity, growth and exploration, and also provides NHS the ability to address individual needs and circumstances.

The items contained in this handbook are a small part of the many policies and regulations that have been set out by the Hanover Board of Trustees. This is not meant to be a policy book, but an overview of a few procedures, policies, and regulations that most often affect the students of Niverville High School. The full policies are available on the Hanover School Division website.

We will update the handbook each year to reflect changes in our practice and the changing world in which we live. The suggestions of parents are welcome and can be directed to the principal.

We look forward to connecting with you and anticipate many successful moments throughout the school year.

OUR SCHOOL

Our school strives for strong connections through a collaborative, active learning environment that aims to challenge and inspire all students, and foster a culture of respect and social responsibility in partnership with families and our community. We are committed to making Niverville High a place where students feel a sense of community and connectedness, experience both academic and personal success, and feel well prepared for their futures.

OUR MISSION

CONNECT. GROW. THRIVE.

It is our mission to engage students in rich, authentic learning experiences that reflect real world challenges and opportunities for the purpose of:

- creating connections
- personal growth
- participating successfully in today's complex society

OUR VISION

To develop strong positive relationships built on collaboration and compassion that will create trust and personal respect for one another.

To create an authentic learning environment that is connected, meaningful, engaging, interdisciplinary, inquiry-based, and relevant.

We believe that learning is richer when it is active, that ideas and information are best understood when given a real world context, and that classrooms can expand beyond the walls of the school. We want to challenge and empower each individual to pursue his/her potential, to develop a love for learning, and to embrace each day as a new possibility.

We believe it's not what you know, but what you can do. The value of learning is discovered through initiating and sustaining complex work, applying creative and critical thinking skills in new, unpredictable situations, and presenting quality work.

We believe students will achieve success when they:

- feel included and appreciated by their school community
- are respected for their diverse abilities, cultures, interests and dreams
- are actively involved in their own learning

Through our intentional work, every student will have the opportunity to actively participate in school life; find connection and community; encounter new ways of thinking and being in the world; acquire 21st century skills and abilities; and experience rich authentic learning.

GENERAL INFORMATION

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Paul Grosskopf - Principal
Graham Sereda - Vice Principal
Karin Koop - Administrative Secretary
Phyllis Ens - Secretary
Michelle Friesen - Learning Commons Support Specialist

OFFICE HOURS

8:00 - 4:00

DAILY CLASS SCHEDULE

AM 9:00 - 12:30
LUNCH 12:30 - 1:20
PM 1:20 - 3:40

NHS operates on a M-F schedule. Period start times and length vary each day but the school day start and end times remain consistent.

LEARNING COMMONS HOURS

8:00 - 4:00

The learning commons is a centralized collaborative learning environment designed to foster relationships and intellectual engagement. This welcoming common space at Niverville High encourages connection, exploration, creation, and collaboration; a place where information, ideas, deep thinking, and conversation come alive.

Our learning commons is a flexible space that accommodates small group collaboration, presentations, meetings, and individuals needing a quiet space. It promotes a culture of reading, literacy, and technology integration; therefore providing a variety of areas to serve the different learning needs of its users. A learning commons support specialist is on site to assist students with locating digital and print material, Chromebook support, and to facilitate students in their efforts to discover, create and share knowledge.

LIFE GROUPS

All grade 9 and 10 students at NHS will belong to a LIFE group comprised of approximately 15 students and rotating teacher mentors. LIFE groups will meet every Wednesday morning from 9:00-10:00 for the purpose of:

- L** - Life/Work Inquiry & Planning
- I** - Individualized Goal Setting
- F** - Fostering Community
- E** - Exploring Possibilities

LOCKERS

Lockers are available for students to keep their belongings safe. The school will provide a lock and advises that students use their lockers daily to keep track of their belongings. Combinations should be kept confidential and lockers are to be kept clean. Locks will need to be returned at the end of the year.

SCHOOL FEES

A complete list of school fees can be viewed on the NHS website under the “students” tab.

CANTEEN - LUNCH SCHEDULE

Tuesday - **MEAT BUNS** \$2.25 for 3 (\$0.75 per)

Thursday - **PIZZA** (price tbd)

WHAT TO WEAR

Everyone is asked to dress in a manner that is appropriate to a school setting and sets a tone for a respectful learning environment. Clothing choices should show respect for personal health and hygiene, respect for self and others, and be appropriate for the public learning space. The intent of the guidelines listed is to help develop and protect the safety, self-confidence, self-respect and self-esteem of all people who attend Niverville High School. In situations of non-compliance, individuals will be asked to change their dress accordingly:

1. Clothing must comply with the specific program requirements along with health and safety policies in selected areas eg. gym, science labs, shops, and kitchens
2. Clothing and accessories that are offensive and potentially demeaning to a group or individual may not be worn - this includes printed material involving alcohol, drugs, sex, violence, profanity, gangs, sexism or racism
3. Hats, toques and hoods need to be removed during the national anthem
4. Clothing must be sufficient to conceal undergarments at all times

These guidelines are representative but not exhaustive. Teachers and principals will make the final determination on what constitutes appropriate attire. Those who come to school dressed inappropriately will be asked to remedy the situation by changing into different attire. If the problem persists, parents will be contacted by the principals.

PARKING

Use of the NHS parking lot for all motor vehicles, including motorcycles, is a privilege and must be done under the following guidelines:

1. Students are required to park in designated student parking areas only
2. NHS and HSD will not accept any responsibility for missing items and/or damage to, or from, vehicles
3. Reckless driving may result in loss of privileges, school suspension, and/or a written police report

Please park all bicycles in the racks provided at the front of the school.

DEEPER LEARNING

At Niverville High School we believe that all students have the potential to be active, independent thinkers and learners. An effective education must prepare students with the skills needed for success in an ever-changing world. We believe that confidence and motivation are the seeds of life-long learning and that with these, education can be an exploration of ideas and values. Student engagement is critical to inspire students to pursue their own interests and push their personal limits of achievement.

NHS strives to meet the changing educational demands that students face in the 21st Century. In addition to a strong academic foundation, we give priority to developing the skills of collaboration, communication, creativity, and critical thinking within our curriculum. While fostering a sense of global mindedness, and a strong sense of self, students are given opportunities to develop their strengths and build a personal sense of character and citizenship.

Communication — communicating (and listening) effectively with a variety of styles, modes, and tools (including digital) tailored for a range of audiences

Critical Thinking — critically evaluating information and arguments, seeing patterns and connections, constructing meaningful knowledge and applying it in the real world

Collaboration — work interdependently in teams with strong interpersonal and team-related skills including effective management of team dynamics and challenges, making decisions together, and learning from and contributing to the learning of others

Creativity — the ability to see and pursue new opportunities that did not previously exist; asking the right inquiry questions to generate novel ideas and exercising leadership to pursue those ideas and turn them into action

Character — learning how to learn, armed with the essential character traits of grit, tenacity, perseverance, and resilience; and the ability to make learning an integral part of living

Citizenship — thinking like global citizens, considering global issues based on a deep understanding of diverse values and worldviews, and with a genuine interest and ability to solve ambiguous and complex real-world problems that impact human and environmental sustainability

INTERDISCIPLINARY PROJECT-BASED LEARNING

In grade 9 and 10 the core academic subjects of English, Social Studies and Science are taught through an interdisciplinary, or cross-curricular, approach. Interdisciplinary course options are also available in grade 11 and 12. The learning outcomes in each content area are explored inter-connectedly through projects that have real world application.

This dynamic, rigorous, student-centered approach connects curriculum to authentic learning experiences and develops 21st century skills through meaningful work. Knowledge is applied and skills are developed through inquiry that has context and purpose. Students have opportunities to connect with community members and industry experts and deepen their understanding as they explore essential questions and learn to think critically. Through interdisciplinary PBL, students develop a love of learning as they see purpose in the work they do. For more information visit [New Pedagogies for Deeper Learning](https://www.npdL.global/) at <https://www.npdL.global/>



LEARNING SUPPORT

A variety of instructional approaches and assessment methods are used by teachers to engage students and allow them to think critically and solve complex problems; work collaboratively; communicate effectively; incorporate feedback; and develop the academic mindsets necessary to direct their own learning and master essential academic content.

ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING

Assessment is part of the learning process that represents each learner's unique understanding and skill development. Our goal at NHS is to provide authentic feedback and assessments that allow students to demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways and encourages them to adjust, improve and extend what they know and can do.

Report cards will be issued in November, January, April and June.

LEARNING SUPPORT

Our intent is to make the school experience positive and to help each student be as successful as possible. Students experiencing difficulty with learning, or who are struggling in a specific course, may request the help of the learning support teacher or may be referred by school staff. Where warranted, the learning support teacher may administer tests to help diagnose a student's learning ability and skills, and if necessary, refer the student to a divisional clinician for further assessment or assistance.

Student Care Team: This team consists of the learning support teachers, school counsellor, principal and vice principal, who work with students, parents, and classroom teachers to assist, make adjustments and monitor progress where individualized programming is necessary.

School Counsellor: The primary goal of the school counsellor is to help every student find success at school. The counsellor works with whole classes, small groups, individual students, parents and teachers. The counsellor works with students to develop positive learning behaviours (time management, study skills, goal-setting), positive social skills (peer relationships, family relationships, managing feelings, solving conflict, character education, self-esteem), and explore career options (identifying personal interests and skills, career paths). The school counsellor also provides information and guidance in the areas of course selection and grad requirements, university entrance requirements, and scholarship availability.

All students are welcome and encouraged to visit the counsellor at any time. Parents who are concerned about their child should feel free to contact the counsellor at any time who will see that the best possible care and consideration will be given to the student in need. If circumstances warrant, students may be referred to other professionals for further assistance. Student concerns are kept strictly confidential except in situations of child protection, potential harm, legal action, or consultation.

GRADUATION

GRAD REQUIREMENTS

Niverville High School offers an academic program that will prepare students to enter post-secondary institutions such as university or college or to move directly into the work force upon graduation. To meet the province's graduation requirements, each student must attain a minimum of 30 credits. Some credits are compulsory; they are designed to ensure a quality education and represent a range of subject areas as chosen by Manitoba Education. The remaining courses may be chosen as electives.

MANITOBA COURSE REQUIREMENTS

These are the courses required by the Province of Manitoba for graduation:

English Language Arts	4 credits	Grade 9, 10, 11, 12
Mathematics	4 credits	Grade 9, 10, 11, 12
Physical Education/Health	4 credits	Grade 9, 10, 11, 12
Science	2 credits	Grade 9, 10
Social Studies	1 credit	Grade 9
Geography	1 credit	Grade 10
History of Canada	1 credit	Grade 11

Note: Students planning to attend university will require a minimum of 6 courses at the Grade 12 level with the total number of credits remaining at 30 or higher.

NHS COURSE REQUIREMENTS

These are the courses required by Niverville High School as part of our comprehensive educational program:

Career Development	1 credit	Grade 9 & 10 (½ credit at each grade level)
Keyboarding	½ credit	Grade 9
Grade 9 "Try-a-Trade" - students will choose 3 out of the 4 options		
Business Innovations	½ credit	Grade 9
Interactive Digital Media	½ credit	Grade 9
Drama	½ credit	Grade 9
Art	½ credit	Grade 9

SPECIAL GRADUATION RECOGNITION:

Merit: A student who successfully completes a minimum of two (2) credits over and above the 30 credit provincial grad requirement will receive Merit recognition.

Distinction: A student with an average of 90% or higher in any Grade 12 course will receive Distinction recognition for those specific courses.

GRAD PLANNING

The school counsellor is actively involved in each students' graduation plan. Students are encouraged to meet with the counsellor to discuss course options, required credits, and educational goals.

An overview of MB grad requirements can be found at https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/policy/gradreq/docs/grad_req_en.pdf

STUDENT CONDUCT

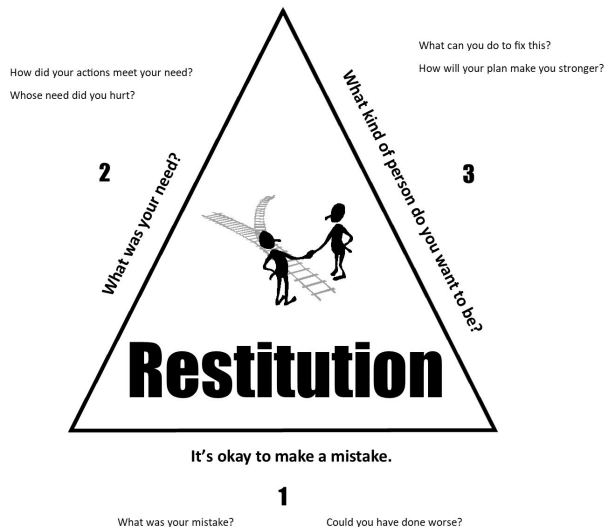
Niverville High believes that a healthy learning environment depends upon every student's trust in the safety and integrity of the school community. It is expected that every student and staff member will contribute to the building of that trust by respecting the rights of others within the community while striving toward his/her individual goals.

CREATING A POSITIVE LEARNING COMMUNITY

We ask that students:

- ◆ Interact with all members of the school in a respectful manner;
- ◆ Make the most of educational opportunities through active classroom participation and involvement in extra-curricular school activities;
- ◆ Use electronic devices in a mature and respectful manner, without disruption to learning;
- ◆ Show respect for school property and the personal belongings of others;
- ◆ Use appropriate, profanity-free, language;
- ◆ Resolve interpersonal conflicts and difficulties through discussions with the other person or through seeking assistance from school personnel

NHS focuses on a proactive approach and early intervention as the key to maintaining a positive school environment in which students can learn. We use a restitution model of discipline to foster the building of healthy relationships and develop appropriate behavior. Conduct that interferes with teaching and learning or threatens the safety of others will be addressed in an effort to correct the behavior and maintain a safe environment for everyone.



As much as possible, conduct issues will be handled on an individual basis, where all circumstances will be considered, including the welfare of the individual child, as well as the school. Follow-up to incidents will be reasonable, and in keeping with the nature of the offense.

STUDENT CONDUCT

ATTENDANCE

The learning experience that takes place in the classroom environment is a meaningful and essential part of the educational structure. Classroom attendance is considered to be an integral part of the student's course of study. Time lost from class is irretrievable, particularly in terms of opportunity for interaction and exchange of ideas between student and teacher.

We ask that parents/guardians contact the office to let us know when your child will be away from school. This can also be done through the Parent Portal, which is also where parents may check their child's daily attendance. If you do not have parent portal access, please contact the NHS office. In situations of repeated and/or chronic absenteeism, the school team will meet with parents/guardians to strategize how attendance can be improved and also discuss potential outcomes of continued non-attendance.

LATES

Niverville High values being on time for class. This sets the tone for optimal learning and shows respect for the entire learning community. In the event where being late is unavoidable, students are to check in at the office for a late slip. This will assist with our attendance records and minimize disruptions to the classroom.

HALLWAYS

While classes are in session, hallways become extensions of the classroom and need to support learning. Students on spare are asked to spend their time in the learning commons, multipurpose area, outside, or in a classroom under staff supervision. Students may also leave campus if they choose.

SMOKE, ALCOHOL, DRUG FREE ENVIRONMENT

We recognize that use and abuse of harmful substances seriously impedes a student's education and threatens the welfare of the entire school community. Niverville High School, in conjunction with Hanover School Division, is committed to protecting the school community from harm and exposure to harmful substances.

All school division property shall be smoke, alcohol, and drug free which includes chewing tobacco and vaping. Smoking and vaping products/paraphernalia are not allowed at school at any time, including evenings, weekends, or at off-site school sanctioned events. Persons under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs are prohibited from being on school property or participating in school or student-related activities. Student failure to comply with this policy will result in consequences such as a verbal warning, in-school suspension, and out-of-school suspension.

COMMUNICATION

Communication opens doors and build trust. Open and frequent communication cultivates a climate of mutual respect that builds rapport and fosters relationships between students, staff, parents and community members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Daily announcements and event information are made available in classrooms during period one. They are also posted in the school and on the NHS website.

SCHOOL WEBSITE: nhs.hsd.ca

The primary purpose of the NHS website is for communication with parents/guardians and students. The website is kept updated with daily announcements and events. Additionally, it provides school and teacher contact information, schedules and programming details, as well as links to social media accounts and the Hanover School Division website.

PARENT PORTAL

Stay connected and informed! The HSD Parent Portal is a communication tool designed to enhance and increase parent/guardian involvement in the education of their children. With a single username and password, parents/guardians can access a variety of information for each of their children attending an HSD school. Go to hsd.ca/schools/parent-portal/ to login or create an account or click the link on the homepage of the NHS website. If you require assistance accessing the portal please contact the school office.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on Instagram @nivervillehs



PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

Volunteering on the PAC is a great way to get involved, meet new people, and stay connected to what's happening in your child's school.

Details and contact information is available on the school website under the Parent tab.

LINES OF COMMUNICATION

Teachers may contact parents at any time to discuss student academic progress, attendance or behaviour. Parents may also contact the teachers or principals during the school year if they have any concerns. If there is an issue in a particular classroom, please phone or send an email to the teacher. Often this will help to resolve concerns. If a teacher has a concern, they will do the same.

Regardless of the level on the following outline, the communication process remains the same:

1. Start at the level of your concern
2. Clarify your concern
3. Discuss the concern with the other person to find a resolution
4. If the concern cannot be resolved, consult the next level

Level 1	Student
Level 2	Parents/Teachers
Level 3	Principals
Level 4	Superintendents
Level 5	Trustee(s)
Level 6	Provincial Government

TECHNOLOGY

We live in a technology and media-driven world, marked by access to an abundance of information, rapid change, the ability to collaborate, and to make individual contributions on an unprecedented scale. Effective citizens must be able to exhibit a wide range of information and media literacy skills. Our goal is to integrate technology into the school environment in an effort to develop these specific skills, as well as to strengthen the learning experience and help students navigate complex problems in a globally competitive information age.

1:1 CHROMEBOOK INITIATIVE

Niverville High is a 1:1 school, meaning each student is provided with a personal chromebook for the four years they are in high school. Teachers and students will be able to leverage technology to enhance learning and develop essential digital literacy skills.

Students and parents will need to sign the User Agreement Form and pay an annual insurance fee of \$20. Further details are available on the website under the Student tab.

DIGITAL RESPONSIBILITY

Our goal in providing access to technology is to help promote a wide variety of educational opportunities. Technology adds great value when used appropriately but, naturally, the ease of personal electronic communication presents situations that can interfere with the educational process. The school division makes a dedicated effort to prevent unsuitable material from being accessed using content-filtering software. In addition, the school division has the capability of monitoring each user's computer activity on the school's network. Even with these safeguards, it is impossible to completely prevent users from accessing all inappropriate material. Therefore, it is the responsibility of each user not to intentionally access, distribute, or promote inappropriate material.

CELLPHONE POLICY

Niverville High School Policy Overview

Effective September 3, 2024, Niverville High School has implemented a new cellphone policy in alignment with the Manitoba government's directive aimed at minimizing distractions and enhancing the learning environment. This policy is designed to ensure that students remain focused during instructional time while acknowledging the importance of access to technology for educational and safety purposes.

Policy Enforcement:

Students found using their cellphones in violation of this policy will be subject to the following consequences:

1. **First Offense:** Verbal warning and confiscation (turned in to the office) of the cellphone until the end of the school day
2. **Second Offense:** Confiscation of the cellphone (turned in to the office), parent/guardian notification, and the cellphone returned only to a parent/guardian.
3. **Third Offense:** Confiscation, parent/guardian meeting, and potential loss of cellphone privileges during school hours for a specified period.

TECHNOLOGY

Policy Details:

1. Cellphone Use in Grades 9 to 12:

A. Class Time: Students in grades 9 to 12 **are not permitted** to use cellphones during class time. Cellphones must be stored in a designated area (e.g., backpacks, lockers, or teacher designated classroom storage) and kept on silent mode. A reminder, students are not allowed to have cellphones in any washroom.

B. Breaks and Lunch: Students **are permitted** to use their cellphones during breaks and lunch periods. A washroom break while in class does not constitute as a break. Students using their cellphones in the halls or bathrooms will have the same consequences as students using cellphones in the classroom. Students are encouraged to engage with their peers and participate in school activities during these times.

2. Cellphone Use for Educational Purposes:

A. Exceptions are allowed for educational purposes when explicitly directed by the classroom teacher and through prior communication and consultation with the school principal. In such cases, the teacher will provide clear instructions on when and how cellphones may be used.

B. During instructional time, students are expected to keep earbuds and headphones removed. Access to music can be through the student's chromebook during times designated by the teacher.

3. Medical and Diverse Learning Needs:

A. Exceptions to the cellphone policy will be made for students with documented medical needs or diverse learning profiles. These students must have a plan in place, through prior consultation with school staff.

B. Students with approved exceptions must use their cellphones in a manner that does not disrupt the learning environment.

4. Staff Guidelines:

A. All staff members are expected to model appropriate cellphone use. Personal cellphone use during instructional time will not be permitted unless required for educational purposes or in cases of emergency.

B. Staff will receive clear direction on how to enforce the policy consistently across all classrooms.

5. Communication to Parents/Guardians, Students and Staff:

A. The policy will be communicated to all Parents/Guardians, Students and Staff at the beginning of the school year through the Niverville High School website, email, in class and during school orientation sessions.

B. Ongoing reminders, updates and check-ins (with students) will be provided as needed to ensure the policy is well understood and consistently followed.

C. The school will continuously evaluate the implementation of this policy.

Open communication is key to a successful school experience, so please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns related to this policy. We are here to support you.

(Sources: <https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/?archive=&item=64657>)

Manitoba Government Bans Cellphone Use in Classrooms.

SAFETY

A SAFE AND SECURE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Niverville High believes everyone in the school community shares in the responsibility of creating, maintaining and promoting a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging. Students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the goal of a safe and secure environment for fellow students, staff and others at all times, but especially while on school property and when moving between school, home and at school activities.

VISITORS

Sincere efforts are made to provide parents and other visitors with a courteous welcome. Please call ahead to make an appointment if you want to meet with a specific person. Parents and visitors are asked to check in at the office upon arrival at the school and staff will provide directions to scheduled meetings or will call a specific student to the office. Visitor parking is available in the school parking lot and is designated as such.

SCHOOL CANCELLATION

There may be times when school will be cancelled due to extreme weather or in the case of an emergency. Hanover School Division automatically phones to inform families of school closures and posts the news on the HSD website: www.hsd.ca. School closure announcements will also be made over the radio stations CHSM AM 1250 and MIX FM 96.7 at 6:30 a.m.

SAFETY PROCEDURES

The safety of all students and staff of Niverville High School is of great importance. We have established appropriate safety measures for the various situations that may occur and affect our students, staff and school visitors. To ensure everyone's safety, we need to be prepared should an emergency occur.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

In order to facilitate a common understanding among the school division the following protocols are in place in the event of threats to school safety:

Shelter in Place - used for an environmental or weather related situation where it is necessary to keep all occupants within the school (protecting them from an external situation). In Sheltering in Place, everyone may move freely within the school while exterior doors and windows are locked. Students and staff must remain in building until advised by authorities that outside conditions are safe. Examples: chemical spills, explosions, dangerous animal or extreme weather.

Hold and Secure - used when it is desirable to secure the building due to a threat occurring outside the building but not related to the school. An active police incident in a neighborhood would trigger a Hold and Secure. No one leaves the school during this time. School functions normally with all exterior doors locked until the situation is resolved.

Lockdown - used only when there is a major incident or threat of violence toward the school. Staff and students are restricted in their movements to a specific area which is then protected through locking of exterior and classroom doors, and covering windows. In Lockdown, the school will be locked with NO arrivals or departures of anyone including staff, students and parents/guardians.

Evacuation - used in the event that students and staff must leave the school building due to some environmental concern in the school. Example: fire, bomb threat, or gas leak in or near the school.

Safety drills occur regularly throughout the school year. In the event of a real emergency students must respond to directions from the staff quickly and orderly. Regularly scheduled classes/activities will resume when it is safe to do so. Parents will be notified when these situations occur.

CONNECTING with NHS



@nivervillehs



nhs.hsd.ca



nhs@hsd.ca



204-388-9761



Parent Portal