

Principal's Report to the Niverville High School Parent Advisory Council

Date: January 19, 2026

Presented by: Paul Grosskopf, Principal

1. Welcome Back & Reflections on Community

Happy New Year, and thank you for your continued support of Niverville High School. January brings a strong sense of renewal, and as a school we are using this moment to refocus on where we are headed together.

As we closed out 2025, NHS was reminded again of the strength of our school community — students, staff, and families working in partnership to ensure every student feels supported academically, socially, and emotionally. This sense of shared purpose continues to be grounded in our two guiding stars: **Culture** and **Community**. These values guide the expectations we set, the care we show one another, and the decisions we make during important transition points such as the midpoint of the school year.

2. Mid-Year Momentum: Learning, Focus, and Well-Being

January represents the midpoint of our school year and an important time of focus and reflection. Students are working to consolidate their learning, complete culminating projects, and prepare for final assessments and provincial exams.

As we enter one of the busiest stretches of Semester 1, staff continue to provide steady routines, clear expectations, and supportive relationships — all critical for students as they manage stress and deadlines. Week 17, our first week back, was a strong start and reflected high professionalism and calm leadership throughout the building.

3. Provincial Exams & Semester 1 Wrap-Up

Our Grade 12 students completed four full days of **ELA Provincial Exams (January 6–9)**. This requires significant planning and coordination, and we are grateful for the behind-the-scenes leadership that ensured students were supported in a calm and organized testing environment.

Additional provincial exams later this month include:

- Applied Math – January 20
- Essential Math – January 21
- Pre-Calculus – January 22

4. Assessment Days (January 26–30): Expectations and Equity

Final Assessment Days will take place from **Monday, January 26 to Friday, January 30**. During this week, there are no regular classes and students attend only for scheduled assessments.

As consistently communicated, **assessment days are an expectation, not an option**. These culminating tasks represent essential learning and mirror accountability structures students will experience in post-secondary settings and the workplace.

We continue to ask families to avoid booking appointments, holidays, or travel during this time. Missed assessment days:

- Interrupt academic momentum

- Create inequity when alternate arrangements are requested
- Place significant strain on teacher workload and school operations
- Reduce opportunities for meaningful closure and feedback

NHS will not be accommodating alternate assessment schedules except in exceptional circumstances such as documented illness or emergency. This supports fairness, consistency, and respect for all learners.

5. Building Community Beyond the Classroom

A key highlight this month is our continued focus on building community experiences that strengthen student belonging and engagement.

Niverville Schools at the Nighthawks Game – January 15

On January 15, NHS students attended the Niverville Nighthawks game alongside students from NES and NMS. This event was about more than hockey — it strengthened community pride, cross-grade connections, and a shared K–12 identity. It was an excellent example of school-connectedness in action, and staff reported it was a meaningful moment for students.

6. Student Events, Creativity, and Community Engagement

Annual Art Show – January 29

We invite families to join us on **Thursday, January 29 from 6:00–8:00 p.m.** in the MPR for our annual Art Show. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Grade 11 and 12 student creativity, voice, and growth.

Yearbooks

Yearbooks for 2025–2026 are now on sale for **\$40**, with orders due by **Friday, January 30**. No extra copies will be available in June.

Safe Grad Fundraising

Safe Grad 2026 50/50 tickets are currently on sale. This supports an inclusive and memorable celebration for our graduating class.

7. Staff & School Operations: The “Invisible Work” That Keeps NHS Strong

This month also highlighted the incredible behind-the-scenes work that keeps a growing school functioning smoothly.

- Week 16 recognized the people who keep NHS running every day — including key frontline support, learning support routines, and student acts of service that built joy and belonging across the building.
- Week 18 emphasized how busy weeks reveal strong teams, highlighting staff adaptability, teamwork, and continued commitment to students even when schedules are heavy.
- We also acknowledge staff leadership in supporting major events such as Teen Challenge presentations, Grade 10 “Reality Check,” and the Manitoba Education Student Services Review, which required significant preparation and ensured our student services processes remain strong, aligned, and student-centered.

8. Staffing Update

We extend our best wishes to **Mrs. Krcadinac** as she begins her maternity leave. We will share updates with families as staffing plans are finalized.

9. Important Dates (January–February)

January

- Jan 6–9 – Grade 12 Provincial ELA Exam
- Jan 15 – Niverville Schools at Nighthawks Game
- Jan 20–22 – Grade 12 Provincial Math Exams
- Jan 23 – Last Day of Classes (Semester 1)
- Jan 23–24 – JV Boys Basketball Tournament
- Jan 26–30 – Assessment Days / Final Exams
- Jan 29 – Art Show (6:00–8:00 p.m.)

February

- Feb 2 – PD Day (no classes)
- Feb 3 – Semester 2 Begins
- Feb 6 – Report Cards Issued
- Feb 12 – Winter Activity Day

Parent & Community Partnership – Gratitude in Action

- I want to extend a sincere thank-you to our Parent Advisory Council and our parent community for the **Staff Appreciation Taco Bar Lunch**. Your thoughtfulness, generosity, and care mean a great deal to our staff. Gestures like this do more than provide a meal — they strengthen morale, remind staff they are valued, and reinforce the strong partnership we share between home and school. Thank you for continuing to support the people who support your children every day.
- I would also like to share deep appreciation to the **47 community volunteers and local businesses** who participated in **Reality Check for our Grade 10 students on January 14**. This experience is an essential learning opportunity that helps students develop real-life skills in budgeting, decision-making, and planning for the future. The success of this day depends entirely on community involvement, and we are extremely grateful for the time, energy, and encouragement our volunteers contributed. Events like Reality Check remind students that they are surrounded by people who believe in them and want to see them succeed.

10. Closing Message

January is a powerful reminder that learning is a journey shaped by reflection, resilience, and partnership. We are grateful for the continued trust, support, and communication from our families and PAC.

Our doors remain open, and we welcome your questions, ideas, and involvement as we continue building a school where everything *CLICKS* — where students feel supported, challenged, and proud to belong.

With appreciation,

Paul Grosskopf

Principal, Niverville High School