

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

Date: February 2026

Presented by: Paul Grosskopf, Principal

1. Semester 1 Reflection & Semester 2 Launch

As we begin Semester 2, I want to congratulate our students and staff on successfully completing the first half of the school year. January was filled with provincial exams, final assessments, and important transitions. The focus and resilience shown by students during that stretch was commendable.

Week 19 and Week 20 marked the close of Semester 1 and highlighted the importance of consistency, accountability, and calm leadership during busy times. Staff supported students through assessments while maintaining high expectations and strong communication with families.

Semester 2 brings renewed energy, fresh schedules, and a meaningful turning point, especially for our Grade 12 students, who are now in their final semester at NHS.

2. A Message for Our Graduating Class

Our Grade 12 students are entering an important five-month stretch. This is a time for leadership, reflection, and intentional decision-making. Their daily choices and attitudes shape not only their own experience but the overall culture of the school.

We continue to work closely with families as conversations around graduation requirements, post-secondary pathways, and next steps increase. Opportunities such as the University of Manitoba Open House and SET Day have provided meaningful exposure to future possibilities.

These experiences help reduce anxiety and build confidence about life beyond high school.

3. Attendance, Accountability & School Expectations

As communicated in the newsletter, Semester 2 is a reset opportunity for all students. We are reinforcing:

- Attendance and punctuality
- Strong routines and organization
- Early communication when support is needed

Week 19 emphasized the importance of consistent family communication to reduce surprises and strengthen home-school partnership.

We also continue to see positive results from our cell phone policy, including improved focus, stronger peer interaction, and enhanced classroom engagement. We appreciate the continued support of families in reinforcing these expectations.

4. Learning Beyond the Classroom

February has highlighted powerful learning opportunities that extend beyond traditional instruction:

Family of Festivals – Band Program

Our band students participated in the Manitoba Band Association Family of Festivals – a tradition rooted in decades of excellence. This requires extensive rehearsal, coordination, and mentorship, and we are grateful for the leadership within the program.

Science, Engineering & Technology Day (SET)

Students attending SET Day at the University of Manitoba gained exposure to STEM pathways and post-secondary environments, helping make future careers feel tangible and achievable.

Learning Support Professional Development

Our Learning Support and EA teams engaged in targeted professional development to strengthen collaboration and alignment of practices.

Investing in adult learning directly benefits student outcomes.

5. The Details That Keep a School Strong

Weeks 21–22 reminded us that sustainable schools are strengthened by both visible and invisible work:

- Careful preparation and coordination during provincial exams ensured calm and organized processes for students.

Week 20 - January 30, 2026

- School-wide inventory and insurance review processes helped protect our facility and resources.

Week 22 - February 13, 2026

- Custodial staff ensured the building remained inspection-ready and safe.

Week 21 - February 6, 2026

This detailed, behind-the-scenes work protects the integrity of our systems and ensures NHS remains strong and sustainable as we continue to grow.

6. Important February Dates

- February 6 – Report Cards Issued
- February 16 – Louis Riel Day (No School)
- February 17 – Senior Band Performance
- February 18 – Grade 9 Band Performance
- February 27 – PD Day (No Classes)
- February 27 – Grad Picture Day
- March 2-6 – Our Potential, Our Purpose Exhibit in the MPR (March 2nd and 4th being open to the community from 5pm to 7:30pm)

7. Looking Ahead – June Assessment & Provincial Exams

Although June may feel far away, we have begun reinforcing key dates now to support planning:

- June 9–11 – Grade 12 Provincial Exams
- June 12 – Last Day of Classes
- June 15–19 – Final Assessment Days

These are essential instructional and assessment days. As previously communicated, assessment schedule changes due to family travel will not be accommodated except in documented emergency circumstances. Early communication and planning help ensure fairness and equity for all students.

8. Closing Reflections

February reminds us that student success is shaped by consistency, relationships, and shared responsibility. Semester 2 is not simply a continuation, it is an opportunity to recommit to routines, expectations, and growth.

Thank you to our Parent Advisory Council and families for your ongoing trust and partnership. Together, we continue to build a school where students feel supported, challenged, and proud to belong.

With appreciation,

Paul Grosskopf

Principal, Niverville High School