

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

Date: March 16, 2026

Presented by: Paul Grosskopf, Principal

1. February Reflections & Moving Toward Spring

February was an incredibly vibrant month at Niverville High School. Students settled into their new Semester 2 classes while continuing to demonstrate strong engagement both inside and outside the classroom. Events such as the Family of Festivals performances and the many learning experiences happening across our building highlighted the energy and creativity that define our school community.

As we move into March, we begin to see the first signs of spring and the renewed energy that comes with longer days. It is also the point in the school year where we begin looking ahead to the final stretch toward June.

Throughout all of this, NHS continues to be guided by our two guiding stars: Culture and Community. These values remain central to how we support students, how we collaborate as staff, and how we partner with families.

2. Celebrating Student Opportunity and Growth

Recent weeks have highlighted several opportunities that allow students to grow beyond traditional classroom experiences.

Our music program continues to provide meaningful opportunities for students to perform and receive feedback from experts across the province. Participation in festivals such as Family of Festivals and the upcoming Brandon Jazz Festival showcases both student talent and the extensive preparation required to reach that level of performance.

Students also had opportunities to connect learning to future pathways through events such as Science, Engineering and Technology Day (SET) and university visits that expose them to post-secondary environments and potential career paths. These experiences help students see that their future options are both real and achievable.

Programs such as the Spaghetti Bridge Contest also allow students to apply engineering and problem-solving skills in creative ways, reinforcing the importance of innovation and collaboration.

3. Community Connections and Meaningful Learning

A highlight of the past month has been the many experiences that connect students to the wider community.

Students performed music at the Niverville Personal Care Home, creating powerful moments of connection across generations. Experiences like this remind students that their talents can serve others and contribute to the broader community.

Our school also continues to provide learning experiences that deepen understanding of Canadian history and reconciliation. The Blanket Exercise provided a powerful experiential learning opportunity for students to explore the impacts of colonization and reflect on their role in reconciliation.

We also saw students participate in Unified Basketball, which emphasized inclusion, teamwork, and belonging through sport.

4. Supporting Student Identity, Voice, and Future Pathways

One of the most powerful projects recently completed was the “Where We Are From” student writing project, which celebrates student identity and voice through personal storytelling. Projects like this provide students with space to express who they are while building confidence and pride in their experiences.

At the same time, we have begun welcoming our future Grade 9 students. Orientation events and school visits are underway as we introduce incoming students and families to NHS and begin the course selection process for next year. These transitions are important moments that help students feel excited and confident about joining our school community.

5. Staff Leadership and Professional Growth

The strength of a school is always connected to the people within it. Over the past several weeks we have seen staff leadership and collaboration across many areas.

Teachers and Educational Assistants engaged in meaningful professional development sessions designed to strengthen instructional practices and student support systems.

Professional learning continues to focus on reflection, collaboration, and improving how we meet student needs. This commitment to growth models for students the same mindset we hope they develop themselves.

6. Interim Progress Reports

Interim Progress Reports were issued on March 13 for students who may be experiencing challenges in their courses.

These reports are intended to provide early communication to families so that additional support and intervention can be put in place before final reporting periods. We encourage families who receive an interim report to connect with teachers so that we can work together to support student success.

7. Important March Dates

- March 3 – Grade 8 Student Orientation
- March 4 – Grade 8 Parent Orientation
- March 9 – Grad Student Meeting
- March 12–13 – Brandon Jazz Festival
- March 13 – PD Day / Interim Progress Reports
- March 17 – Spaghetti Bridge Contest
- March 20 – Rock Your Socks Day
- March 25 – Grad Retake Picture Day
- March 26 – RCMP Hockey vs NHS Panthers
- March 30 – April 3 – Spring Break

8. Looking Ahead

April will bring several important events including Autism Awareness Month, course presentations for Grades 9–11, and the next reporting period on April 17.

As we move into the final months of the school year, our focus will remain on maintaining strong routines, supporting student engagement, and continuing to build opportunities for learning both inside and outside the classroom.

9. Closing Message

March reminds us that learning is built through persistence, progress, and partnership. Our students continue to demonstrate creativity, resilience, and care for one another every day.

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

With appreciation,

Paul Grosskopf
Principal, Niverville High School