



Parents Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Starting Middle School can bring about many questions for parents. Niverville Middle School (NMS) Parent Advisory Council (PAC) provides resources for parents by outlining information to the top questions in a variety of subjects related to student life at NMS.

Whether you are joining us from another community, or coming over from Niverville Elementary School, the Parent Council's mission is to liaise with our parent community for the purposes of ongoing communication and information sharing.

We hope you find helpful information in the pages that follow. If we have missed an answer to one of your questions - email us at nms58parentcouncil@gmail.com

Please note:

These references are not meant to replace the ***School Handbook*** as your first source of resource material regarding policies, programs, activities and services available at NMS.

Contact our school team at nms@hsd.ca for any questions or personal needs for your child and family.



Table of Contents

Attendance & Schedules	3
Communication	4
Education	4
Emergency Response	5
Facilities	5
Fees	5
Finances	6
Food	7
Fundraising	8
Parent Council	8
Religious Exercises	10
School Placement	10
Technology	10
Volunteer	10



Attendance & Schedules

Weather Related School Closure - Can't keep up with the weather required for a school closure? Did you hear about the latest changes to this policy? The division will close for cold weather reasons when the temperature at the Environment Canada weather station in Kleefeld at 6:00 AM is at **minus 35 degrees Celsius or colder** OR **is experiencing a wind chill of minus 45 degrees Celsius or colder**.

Visit the divisional page for more information <https://hsd.ca/schools/weather-related-closures/>. Review the closure policy in the parent-student-handbook <https://nms.hsd.ca/parents/parent-student-handbook/> to understand where and when announcements are made.

Parent Portal - Have an upcoming appointment? You can update your student's attendance on the Parent Portal! Attendance awareness is important for student safety, please let the office know with a quick phone call or email if the parent portal is unavailable. <https://hsd.ca/schools/parent-portal/>

School Attendance - Did you know that the Manitoba Association of Parent Councils (MAPC) website has great resources for families struggling with attendance? <https://mapc.mb.ca/resources/school-attendance>. You can also visit the school's handbook for information on the attendance policy (section 8, page 10) and much more <https://nms.hsd.ca/parents/parent-student-handbook/>

Bus Schedules - Have a bus student attending NMS? Your bus driver will contact you in late August / early September to confirm pick-up times for your student. Learn more about Niverville bus routes at <https://hsd.ca/services/transportation/niverville-urban-bus-routes/>

News and Events - See the latest news from NMS on the school website main page. <https://nms.hsd.ca/> Keep on top of school activities and schedules by watching daily announcements <https://nms.hsd.ca/students/daily-announcements/> and the upcoming events calendar on the school website main page.



Communication

Announcements - Daily announcements are posted online! Save it or create a shortcut on your phone! Check here for NMS <https://nms.hsd.ca/students/daily-announcements/>

School Calendar - The Hanover Division does not print paper copies of the calendar anymore. You can find digital ones on the schools' websites <https://nms.hsd.ca/calendar/>. You can toggle the legends to hide/display different categories. You can view it by day/week/month and the print button is on the top right side of the screen!

Parent Portal - Parents are loving the portal as a one stop place to sign permission forms, pay fees, get report cards, let the office know about absences in advance or the morning of and so much more! Are you one of the few who are confused by it or new to our community and this online platform? No worries...start here <https://hsd.ca/schools/parent-portal/>

Social Media - Did you know you can have a little peek behind the scenes of what is going on in our school by visiting them on Twitter? Our schools are sharing great things on social media at your fingertips...check it out here <https://nms.hsd.ca/social-media/>

Learning Matters (magazine) - Did you know our school division has a publication that celebrates all the wonderful learning that is happening in our schools? The content is created by students and their educators? Read all about the great things that are going on in your local school as well as in other schools in our division here <https://learningmatters.hsd.ca/>

Education

Deeper Learning - Do your kids come home talking about "Deeper Learning" and you've wondered what they are referring to? Read about our division's educational priorities here: <https://hsd.ca/deeper-learning/introduction/>.

Inclusive Education - Do you have questions about inclusive education? Does your family or a neighbor have concerns over gender diversity, racism or special needs and accessibility? Visit Hanover's webpage <https://hsd.ca/2015/10/13/inclusive-education-universal-design-for-learning/> or visit MAPC's website for more information <https://mapc.mb.ca/resources/inclusive-education>



Emergency Response

Emergency Response Policy - Did you know our division is prepared for emergency incidents if they occur? Did you know there are some things parents can do / or not do to help keep our kids safe in that situation? Read here for more information

<https://hsd.ca/schools/emergency-preparedness/> or section 23 in the NMS handbook
<https://nms.hsd.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/28/2019/06/NMS-Handbook-2019-2020.pdf>

Facilities

Learning Commons - Did you know that our Library has been renamed, innovatively restructured and being redesigned to meet the technology needs of our students?

Rental space - Parents, community groups and organizations can rent space at the schools. You can book online quite easily at

<http://www.pointheremedia.com/hsd-communityuse/communityuse.php>, or at
<https://nms.hsd.ca/about/facility-booking/> and
<https://nhs.hsd.ca/about/community-use-of-facilities/> Bookings should be done 5 days in advance. See the Hanover website for more information
<https://hsd.ca/community/facility-bookings/> or you can also contact the division by Email community@hsd.ca or Phone 204.326.6471.

Fees

In addition to an activity fee , parents/guardians can expect fees at different grade levels for sports, yearbook, science fair, tech ed, human ecology, band or art. For an overall summary of financial expectations, please see the **Middle Years Fee Table** on our PAC Page / Parent Resources tab <https://nms.hsd.ca/parents/pac/>,



Finances

School Taxes - Did you know the Hanover website has information about the budget process? Approximately 60% of HSD's total revenue is received from the Province of Manitoba. The remaining 40% is received via taxpayers in the form of a division-wide Mill Rate.

What is a mill rate and can it differ in each community? A mill rate, calculated as a percentage, is set by the Hanover School Division during their annual budget assessment each spring. Once established, the mill rate is forwarded to the town office, who calculates what each property owner will pay based on a portion of the estimated market value of their properties. One mill represents \$1 of taxes for every thousand dollars of portioned assessment. "Portioned assessment" means that you are only taxed on a portion of your property's value. This amount is determined by a provincial property classification based on the type of property, size, use, and ownership of land and buildings.

Did you know that 5% of Hanover's budget is spent on bussing, compared to city divisions that only spend 2%? Read about it or attend a meeting and see why our parent councils are so important. <https://hsd.ca/governance/school-taxes/>

Tax Receipts - The Hanover School Division Board of Trustees encourages and welcomes donations for the advancement of education within our school communities. Hanover School Division (HSD) is registered by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) as a Qualified Donee (under the Income Tax Act) and therefore authorized to receive gifts from registered charities as well as issue tax receipts for qualifying gifts received by others.

Divisional Spending - Did you know that Hanover did not spend more on education costs than other divisions? In 2019, the average cost to educate one Hanover student is \$11,074. The provincial average is \$13,284. * HSD has one of the lowest cost per student averages in the province. Even though HSD is the 8th largest school division in the Province, administrative costs make up only 2.6% of the overall budget. The provincial average is 3.0%. HSD administration expenses are among one of the lowest in the Province.



Food

Son City Lunch - Did you know volunteer members from the *Word of Life Church* offer a weekly hot lunch to NMS students? A rotating lunch menu is offered to students at an affordable price of \$4.00. See the Son City Lunch button on the main page of the school website for more information on menus and cost.

Weekly meal payments are accepted in Cash. The pre-paid system provides parents the opportunity to pay for multiple meals in advance by cash or cheque (payable to "Word of Life"). Students will receive tokens for their pre-payment and can use them for the weekly lunch of their choice.

If you have further questions on the programs, you may call:

- Chris Cormie 204-997-0102

School Hot Lunch Program - Did you know during the 2019-2020 school year, Parent Council asked for regular weekly volunteers to run a Pizza-by-the-slice program? While unsuccessful, the Parent Council continues to search for lunch vendors that may provide services without the need for parent volunteers and at a reasonable cost.

Without parent volunteers, it may take some time for student leadership and teacher volunteers to establish a lunch-fundraising program on a regular basis. You may see periodic events for school program fundraising purposes from our student groups. Watch Daily Announcements to keep up to date.

Nutritional Policy - Did you know NMS has guidelines that include suggestions for nuts in our schools. Read about it in the handbook, Section 36 on Page 25

<https://nms.hsd.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/28/2019/06/NMS-Handbook-2019-2020.pdf> or here for the Divisional Nutritional Policy

https://hsd.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/CE_School_Nutrition_revised_Final-Feb-7-2017.pdf



Fundraising

Student Fundraising

NMS students fundraise (usually) with product-based fundraising events to cover the cost of their participation in band trips, at winter camps, or supporting student leadership group programs (e.g. SWAG or SWAT).

Parent Council Fundraising

When creating fundraising initiatives, NMS PAC are mindful of student fundraising events and support School Community Partnership programs and their needs.

In addition, parents are financially responsible for green space implementation and improvements. Review our commitment to the school community in our annual Community Report located under the Governance Tab on our PAC website page.

<https://nms.hsd.ca/parents/pac/>

Are you a parent in fundraising overload? We have many opportunities for parents to donate an event prize, time or a financial donation. Review and complete our **Parent Involvement form** on the Donate/Volunteer tab <https://nms.hsd.ca/parents/pac/> or email us nms58parentcouncil@gmail.com to connect and discuss ways you can help.

Parent Council

PAC Executive and Committees - Executive nominations take place between February and March with voting (as required) in April. Positions on PAC are a one-year term minimum and 4 year maximum. Committees require leads and volunteer assistance in many categories. Check out the opportunities and roles on our PAC webpage. <https://nms.hsd.ca/parents/pac/> Email us at nms58parentcouncil@gmail.com with a letter of interest during nomination call-outs or join any committee through the year as your time and interest become available.



Parent Involvement - Did you know that only ~2% of Niverville parents are involved at the Parent Council level? That's right. The standard participation rate is 20% of parent volunteers do about 80% of the work required to raise funds, plan, and implement additional support for our schools.

We all want the best for our kids; better playgrounds and enhanced programs. However, the same 10-20 people can't make that happen alone. We can't stress enough the need for parent involvement. Join us today by completing the Parent Involvement form. There are so many ways to help at the school, at a Parent Council event, with donations or time. There is something for every parent and family to choose from.

MAPC - Did you know there is a Manitoba Association of Parent Councils (<https://www.mapc.mb.ca/>)? They have a parent advocacy project that helps parents advocate for their children in the school system Read about it here <https://mapc.mb.ca/support>.

Policies

NMS has many policies outlined for parents and students alike in the Parent-Student-Handbook. We've outlined only a few here for your interest and review. To understand more, check out the handbook <https://nms.hsd.ca/parents/parent-student-handbook/>.

Personal Communication Device (PCD) Restricted-Use Policy

Students are encouraged to keep their personal communication devices at home. If they choose to bring one to school, they are to be kept turned off and out of sight during instructional times of 9:00-12:15 and 1:15-3:40. See more on this policy on page 15, <https://nms.hsd.ca/parents/parent-student-handbook/>.



Religious Exercises

Religious Exercises - Did you know that religious instruction is governed by the Public Schools Act? Read here for more information for our division

<https://hsd.ca/schools/parent-resources/religious-exercises-and-instruction/>.

School Placement

Picking a School - Have you or someone you know wanted to hand pick the school a child attends for their own learning requirements? Did you know Hanover School division has a schools of choice policy? Check out this website for more information,

<https://hsd.ca/schools/schools-of-choice/>

Technology

Chromebooks - It is best used online with the Google platform that includes Gmail for emails, Google Docs for essays, letters, proposals, slides for presentations and so much more. Please read Page 13 of the handbook

<http://nhs.hsd.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/29/2019/08/NHS-HANDBOOK-2019-2020.pdf>

Volunteer

NMS and PAC encourages the parents/guardians of our students to get involved and volunteer. Hanover School Division policy states that all volunteers, drivers, and coaches must complete a Child Abuse Registry check and a Pledge of Confidentiality form. The necessary forms are available in the school office. Also, all volunteer drivers must complete and submit an HSD Volunteer Drivers form before transporting students.

It only takes 5 minutes - stop by the office with two pieces of id; our office staff will help do the rest!