



From the Principal's Office



We have just past the first reporting period for our junior and senior high students. We have been able to make the PowerSchool Parent Portal live after moving our grade 7-9 students from three reporting periods to four. You should now be able to monitor your child's progress in their courses continuously, not just at report card time. If you need any assistance in getting your Parent Portal account set up just contact Glenna at glenna.rothfus@nsaschool.ca.

The last 18 months of school closures and learning from home across North America has some of the biggest names in educational research focused on the best ways to do online education. We are taking advantage of this in our professional development plan for this year by looking at assessment as a tool for learning rather than just a mark or a number. One of the lessons from the research is the value of face-to-face interactions between teachers and students. It isn't surprising that personal interactions, the human touch, makes a difference in how satisfying the education experience is for both students and teachers. Those positive interactions seem to connect directly with student engagement and success. We have introduced scheduled live instruction/interaction sessions for our grades 1-9 students to take advantage of the positive effect it has on learning. If you haven't yet had a chance to have your child join these live sessions, I encourage you to give it a try.

NorthStar Academy is in the process of hiring an associate principal. With the doubling of our school population that has continued into a second year, the need for some additional administrative support has become clear. As well, rumour has it that the current principal will be retiring in June after 36 years in education. God has blessed me with a career path through two provinces and six schools. While each classroom brought great experiences the last two schools have been Christian ones where the opportunities to share my faith and to be encouraged in it have been abundant. Thank you for your support and the opportunity to serve.

Dates to Remember

November 11 - Remembrance Day - office closed
November 12 - Non-instructional Day
November 15 - Report Card Cut-off for Grades 1-6
November 26 - Non-instructional day

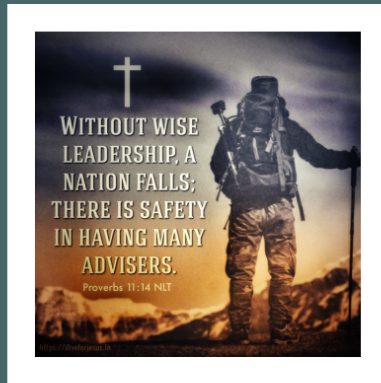


NSA Clubs are now open! Please head over to the Learning Commons and check them out.

Thank You

A big thank you to our activity day coordinator Amanda for all her hard work organizing activity days, clusters, and Limitless events! It has been difficult to plan events with all the constant changes but Amanda has spent hours ensuring our NSA students have many superb fun days! Please be patient with Amanda as she continues to navigate this difficult role.

Celebration Student Leadership Club



What: Do you have leadership qualities? Do you want to have a say? Then join this club where we will work together to plan Celebration Days for all NSA students and staff.

Who: Grade 6-12 Students

When: Tuesdays, 12:00-12:45

- First Meeting will be Tuesday, Nov.16th

Where: Google Meet

PowerSchool Student/Parent Portal -

Applies only to students taking PBR or online courses. Click on this link.

<https://sis.ghsd75.ca/public/>

Students: Log in with your NorthStar Gmail.

This is where you will be able to see your assignments, grades, teacher comments, and report cards.

Parents: To create a new account or log in with an existing account, click on the above link. This is where you will be able to see your child's assignments, grades, teacher comments and report cards. If you need assistance, please contact Glenna at glenna.rothfus@nsaschool.ca.



DID YOU KNOW...

...with Mr. Hooks

1. Golfer Arnold Palmer once hit golf balls of the second floor of the Eiffel Tower. His longest: 403 yards.
2. When you see something you like your pupils dilate.
3. It is physically impossible to tickle yourself because your brain anticipates the tickle.



Check Out Our Social Media by clicking the logos





HOME ENVIRONMENT AND LEARNING IDEAS FOR PARENTS

As the colder temperatures begin to set in, we can often find ourselves spending more time indoors and less time exploring and enjoying outdoor adventures. But this is the perfect time to explore books and great literature while curled up on the couch, with a wool blanket and hot cocoa!

Family read-a-louds are my favorite! (Yes! Even with high schoolers!) Parents or older children can model reading to younger siblings and provide a gateway for deep conversations about life, faith, and relationships.

Have a book recommendation? Please head to our Read-A-Loud Book Recommendation padlet. You can find it posted in our Parent Lounge under the supporting your Student tab. Maybe you will also find your family's next great read.

→ [Read-A-Loud Book Recommendations](#)

These colder months are also a great time to really give focus to supporting and developing children's love and ability to read. Once you find a favorite reading nook, try these tips for promoting strong reading skills:



HOME ENVIRONMENT AND LEARNING IDEAS FOR PARENTS

7 Tips: While Reading with your Child

01

One of the hardest parts of helping your child learn to read is knowing when to prompt and wait and when to tell them the word.

Pay attention to what words they can figure out on their own and which type of words they need help with. If they are stuck on a name, give them the name. If your child is stuck on a number of words, that means they are not yet ready to read this book on their own.

02

Try to give your child 5-10 seconds before jumping in, but make sure to watch for clues to frustration or discouragement.

Encourage your child: "Take your time, you got this" and "You can do this". Remain positive and encouraging throughout the story.

03

Help them by prompting them to use strategies such as picture clues, looking for little words inside the big word, and find a vowel chunk. You can ask them to make their mouth match the letters they see. Try these strategies before you tell them to sound it out as some words are unable to be sounded out.

04

Focus mostly on the meaning of what they are reading since gaining meaning from text is the goal of reading.

If you see new vocabulary words, explain what the word means.

05

Give them the vowel sound and ask them to put that sound in the word.

06

If they have read a word or sentence and it is incorrect, ask them "Does that sound right?" and "Did that make sense?". It is important for them to begin to self-correct and notice when what their reading does not sound right.

07

You will want to reinforce these strategies so that when your child reads on their own they know how to use them independently.

Throughout the story ask basic comprehension questions but try not to stop them too often as it will disrupt the flow of the story. Focus on big ideas: "So what is happening right now? Why might that be?"



This month we are getting to know... Rick Glasspell



Mr. Glasspell teaches OL Math 5 & 6, Health/PE 5-7, OL Math 20-2, & PBR Bio 20

Flashback to when you were 10 years old. What do you want to be when you grow up? I had to call my parents to answer this one. When I was 10, I was the starting goalie for the Naicam Vikings. The Oilers juggernaut was just getting going, so a dream would have been to be an NHL goalie. (P.S. I once stopped a shot by a future NHLer, Kevin Haller, who's daughter, Madison, is one the teachers at our school. He left a dent in my mask.)

What's better— Pizza or Tacos? Pizza, hands down!

How many years have you been teaching and what do you teach? Teaching is my second career. I actually got my Masters in Business Administration degree, first, from Briercrest Biblical Seminary, but then I went directly into teaching, at the University of Regina. Teaching actually runs in my family (me, my wife, my sister, my brother, my sister-in-law, and my mother). Originally, I graduated with a major in Business Education and a minor in Religious Studies, back in 2003, so I've been teaching for most of that time (for 2 years, I was a pastor). Most of my time has been spent teaching junior high, but the last number of years, I've had more Upper Elementary classes. For this year, I will be teaching Online Math 5 and 6, Health/PE 5-7, Online Math 20-2, and PBR Biology 20.

What's the most inspiring part of your job? A former professor of mine said that my gifts are that I'm good with people, which is what got me into education. I love talking with people, which is energizing, but the most inspiring thing is when I see kids "get it." It's that epiphany moment, where the light bulb goes on, and a student is finally able to understand what the concept is. It's amazing to see the expression on their faces when they grasp it--joy.

What is your favourite Bible verse & why? Joshua 1:8--"Do not let this Book of the Law out of your mouth. Meditate on it, day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in It. Then, you will become prosperous and successful." Our AWANA Commander had us memorize this, when I was in high school, and it has stuck with me ever since. Even though this verse was written to Joshua and the Israelites, the principle is still the same, today. Scripture mentions repeatedly that we are to know, think about, and use God's Word in our daily lives. Jesus responded to Satan's temptations by speaking Scripture. In Ephesians 6, when Paul talks about the Armour of God, the only weapon (the sword) that the soldier has is the Word of God. Knowing God's Word helps me to think rightly and godly and guides me each and every day.



Be an Overcomer!

What is something you have always wanted to accomplish but have never had the self-control or motivation to complete?

If you are anything like me, you have probably failed at many challenges or goals you have set for yourself in the past. Life is tough, and there are many competing attentions that make it hard for us to accomplish our personal goals. And sometimes, it is necessary to give up certain expectations for a season. But that said, it is also incredibly important for our own wellbeing, our obedience to God, and our witness before others to accomplish what we say we are going to do. Numbers 30:2 says, “If a man vows a vow to the Lord, or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word. He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.”

This month, I want to encourage you to pick **one personal goal/challenge to actually complete!** This could be something that you have tried to do before and have failed at, or it can be something that you have never tried before. Here is a list of a few options...

- Be 100% caught up on your schoolwork for one month
- Eat no processed sugar for two weeks
- Pray and read your Bible every single day for a month
- Intentionally send or say something encouraging to a friend or family member each day for two weeks
- Finish reading a book or listening to an audiobook/podcast that you have been putting off
- Spend time exercising three days a week for a whole month

There are endless options of things that you could accomplish! This month, I believe that it would be very healthy to challenge each other to complete a personal goal. **So that said, I will be extending this challenge to all the teachers and staff members at NSA!** We will all have the opportunity to complete our own November challenge. My personal goal is to read my Bible and pray every single day for the entire month of November. Please feel free to email me anytime to check on how I am doing with my goal. Also, if you would like some extra accountability, you can email me (Madison.Haller@nsaschool.ca) to let me know what your chosen goal is! I would love to partner with you in accomplishing your personal challenge!

But above all else, let us not forget that the Lord is the one who gives us strength to live God-honoring lives here on earth; “I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth” (Psalm 121:1-2).

So this month, let us challenge ourselves to complete a personal goal in the strength and power that the Lord provides!



ACTIVITIES WITH AMANDA!



October was absolutely beautiful! We managed to attend many outdoor activities. Now that the weather is turning colder, we are moving the activities inside!

Check out Parent Lounge in Moodle for information on how to register for Activities! We are working on a tab for our Activity Days, so you can easily access all information and ask questions in one spot! Please send any suggestions on what would be helpful to see there to activityday@nsaschool.ca.

What's Coming Up?

- Nov 9 - Samaritan's Purse Tour
- Nov 12 - Secrets of the Quarry
- Nov 12 - Up Close and Palaeo
- Nov 24 - Medalta
- Nov 25 - A Closer Look at Romans
- Nov 30 - Operation Christmas Child
- Dec 2 - Direct from Yamnuska Wolfdog Sanctuary

Save the date
GRADUATION

JUNE 4, 2022

More information to come in the new year!

November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Week 10 Rock Climbing Cluster	2 One Stroke at at Time Art Cluster MAG-World War Women	3	4 Limitless-Axe Throwing	5 Telus-World of Science	6
7	8 Week 11 Rock Climbing Cluster	9 Tentative Samaritan's Purse Tour	10 Tentative-Virtual Program	11 Remembrance Day Office Closed	12 Teachers Unavailable	13
14	15 Week 12 Rock Climbing Cluster	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 Week 13 Rock Climbing Cluster	23	24 Tentative-Medalta	25	26 Teachers Unavailable	27
28	29 Week 14	30 Limitless Operation Christmas Child				
<p>Important Reminders This calendar is subject to change. For the most up to date information, go to the NorthStar Academy calendar page. https://nsaschool.ghsd75.ca/calendar</p>						
		Activity Days	Clusters	Limitless		

