

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Regular Meeting

October 7, 2025

For Immediate Release

NGPS Vision

Northern Gateway Public Schools strives to be the place where students realize their value, discover their talents, and imagine a future where their contribution matters.

Percy Baxter Middle School (PBS) Cultural Exchange Program

NGPS Superintendent Kevin Bird shared highlights from Percy Baxter Middle School's 2025 Cultural Exchange experience, which saw Grade 8 students travel to Ontario and later host Ontario students here at home. Facilitated through the Canadian Sports and Friendship Exchange Program (CSFEP), the initiative is designed to build meaningful connections, broaden students' perspectives, and deepen their understanding of Canada's diverse regions. Students took part in a variety of enriching activities and formed lasting friendships with their peers from another province. The school hopes to continue the program this year, with support once again expected from the funding organization and through local fundraising efforts.

The Board motioned to approve in principle the Cultural Exchange Program for Percy Baxter for May and June 2026. Motion carried.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

In classrooms, gymnasiums and community spaces across the Division, students explore Indigenous teachings, connect with the land, and reflect on the truths of our shared history. Through conversation, assemblies, art, special guests, and initiatives like Orange Shirt Day, we honour the children, survivors, families, and communities affected by residential schools. We are grateful to the Elders, knowledge keepers and community partners who help guide this work. Together, we continue to listen, to learn, and to grow - in the spirit of reconciliation.



Valleyview New School Update

The official Valleyview K-12 replacement school sign has been installed on the build site! School Community members are encouraged to join an upcoming advisory council on outdoor spaces. Follow our new school journey online via our [Construction Diary](#).

\$500K raised for cancer research and the Terry Fox Foundation

Since becoming a school division, NGPS students, staff, families, and communities have raised an astounding \$500,000 — half a million dollars — for cancer research through the Terry Fox Foundation. Terry Fox embodied the very best of Canada: courage, humility, determination, and perseverance. From a young age, he inspired not just our nation, but the world. Today, we run, cheer, and celebrate his legacy, turning every step into meaningful support for cancer research! It's an incredible achievement and a milestone our entire NGPS community can be proud of.

Labour Action Update

As of October 6, Alberta teachers are on strike and all NGPS schools are closed to students until further notice. School buses do not run during a strike.

We know this is a challenging time for many, and we appreciate your support as we move through this provincial process together. We will continue to communicate updates as new information becomes available on ngps.ca and on social media. You can reach the Division Office any time via email at learn@ngps.ca or by phone at 780.778.2800. There is also an emergency after-hours line: 780.706.8222.

The Government of Alberta is providing support during a strike by offering [funding for families and learning materials for at-home use](#).

Alumni Spotlight – Mai Pham

Former Hilltop Jr/Sr High student, social media influencer, and entrepreneur Mai Pham visited Hilltop High on October 1st where she spoke to students about hard work, opportunity and following your dreams. The day ended with Mai generously presenting Hilltop sports teams with her self-designed Alchemai brand (@alchemai) sweatsuits. Thank you for sharing your story, inspiration and success with students Mai!





Spotlight on CALM

Career and Life Management (CALM) is a required, three-credit course for high school graduation in Alberta. It serves as the essential course for health literacy at the senior high school level and is designed to help students make informed and thoughtful decisions and choices in all areas of their lives.

CALM is organized around three main outcomes: Personal Choices – emotional, mental, physical health and wellness; Career and Life Choices – self-awareness, goals, planning, post-secondary options; and, Resource Choices – financial decision-making, personal resources, values.

[Learn More!](#)

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for **October 30, 2025, at the Division Office in Whitecourt**, commencing at **10:00 a.m with the Organizational Meeting**, followed by the **Regular Meeting**. Members of the public are invited to attend.

