



**Our Why:** We believe every learner can change the world; therefore, we will provide a world class education.

**Our Values:** Northern Cass will commit to purposefully build trust, develop authentic relationships, and engage in innovative practices which will empower learners to be choice ready.

**Our Collective Commitment:** We are dedicated and passionate about teaching and learning, self-reflection, acknowledging greatness, and service to the Northern Cass community. We are driven towards continuous improvement.

Families,

Update 9/1/23

Please read for updates related to Northern Cass:

1. **Northern Cass After School Program Information:** Please click on the link ([Expectations and More](#)) to review information about our after school program. It includes dates, expectations, and costs (**last week in memo**).
2. **Backpack Program:** Sign-up is open for the Backpack Program. The Backpack Program provides a free bag of kid-friendly foods for your child to take home and eat over the weekend. The backpacks are distributed weekly through the school year. If you are in need of this program, please fill out this online form [here](#). We value your privacy, participation is confidential. If you have questions, please contact Amber Lockhart or Markie Taubert.
3. **Seeking Experts:** Are you an 'expert' in any of the following areas? Our middle school studios are looking for experts who can share their expertise and experiences. If you are interested in learning more or helping work with our educators and learners, please contact me at [Cory.Steiner@northerncassschool.com](mailto:Cory.Steiner@northerncassschool.com).
  - a. Camping & Outdoor Survival Skills (taught by Britt Breiland)
  - b. Cursive Writing & Letter Writing (taught by Sue McPherson)
  - c. Computer Coding (taught by Nate Myers)
  - d. Inquiry & Research (taught by Dalton Schnabel)
  - e. Reading Fluency & Comprehension (taught by Leila Samuelson)
  - f. Art Styles & Mediums (taught by Lyndsey Swanson)
  - g. Fantasy Football Math (taught by Kelli Trudeau & Shawn Smalley)
  - h. Invasion Games such as flag football etc (taught by Mason Rice)
4. **Parent Portal:** We have added a [Jaguar Parent Portal](#) under Parents on the school website. This page is full of resources and information for parents and caregivers. Take a look!
5. **Research Study Looking for Volunteers:** Child development researchers at NDSU are looking for families to help them with their research! They have a variety of opportunities for children between 2 and 18 years old. The studies involve games and/or surveys, and families will receive money or gifts for participating. Some studies require just one 15-minute game, while others may ask for more or longer visits, depending on the age of the children and the interest of their families. These studies will help researchers understand how children learn, interact, and develop relationships, as well as what makes some children more likely to have mental health problems. If you are interested, go to the following website Participant Opportunities: [More Information](#).
6. **Babysitting Class:** There will be a babysitting clinic for young people 11-14 years old. Instructors from Sanford who teach [B.L.A.S.T](#) babysitting classes will be the instructors ([Form to Sign-Up](#)).
7. **Attendance Matters!** Please review the links below regarding our new attendance policy so you are aware of the changes. Elementary and secondary have different policies which you can find in each handbook under the 'parents' tab on the Northern Cass website. Although we are a personalized competency-based learning (PCBL) district, attendance still matters in order for a learner to grow as a whole person. We need your help in making attendance a priority.
  - a. **Attendance Codes** ([Codes](#))
  - b. **Attendance FAQ Sheet** ([Frequently Asked Questions](#))
  - c. **Attendance Letter** ([Letter](#))
  - d. **To learn more about attendance changes, click [here](#)**

8. **Northern Cass Open Positions.** The following positions are open. You can email Dr. Cory Steiner at [Cory.Steiner@northerncassschool.com](mailto:Cory.Steiner@northerncassschool.com) if interested **(last week)**..
- Paraprofessional Substitutes
  - Teacher Substitutes (can get a sub license by taking an on-line course (only 10 hours)
  - Bus Drivers for Routes and Activities
9. **Updated 23-24 School Calendar:** Please [click here](#) for the updated calendar **(last week)**.
10. **Checklist for your Athlete:** [click here](#) for more information **(last week)**.
11. **Exciting News Regarding Bank Cards:** Bell Bank has been a continued supporter of the custom card donation program. If you would like to order one of those cards, click the following link: [Bell Bank Jaguar Cards](#)
12. **Cereal Box Dominos Donations for the Jaguar Wellness Pantry:** The Jaguar Wellness Pantry, Northern Cass Student Council and Peer Leaders are joining forces for a 2nd Cereal Box Domino Challenge. Collections will be taken through September 25. Learners are asked to collect cereal donations for the pantry. Together, they will build a cereal box domino chain for the September Greatness Celebration - and then they will knock it down! The goal is to collect 750 full-size boxes of cereal. Donations can be dropped in donation boxes by the front and east gym doors.
13. **New Jaguar Gear:** 20% of your purchase will go to the Northern Cass Wellness Pantry! [Northern Cass Storefront](#)
14. **Resource for Parents:** [Back to School Coaching Flyer](#)
15. **Auditorium Seat Link:** For those of you that have been having difficulty signing up to sponsor a seat for the auditorium, we have corrected the error and the new link is accessible [HERE](#)
16. **Northern Cass Inquiry and/or Complaint Form:** As Northern Cass continues to expand opportunities for communication, please consider utilizing the Inquiry Form (under the Quick Links tab on the website) for questions/concerns you have about the district. Please click on the [Inquiry and/or Complaint Form](#).
17. **Maintenance Request Online Form:** Now available on our website under Quick Links, we have an online maintenance request form to help educators and learners report maintenance needs on the school property: [Maintenance Request](#)
18. **The Jaguar Wellness Pantry and Lunch Repack is Open!** If your child or family is in need - contact us at [pantry@northerncassschool.com](mailto:pantry@northerncassschool.com).
19. **Parent Guidance:** Welcome back to school! As a district/organization, we invite you to share our monthly mental health newsletters with families you serve. Feel free to copy and paste or edit this messaging to meet your needs. The September flyer is ready at [September Update](#) ! Check out the [ParentGuidance.org](#) resources where you can access free courses led by licensed therapists on more than 50 topics. Check out the course titled, [How to Develop Self-Compassion](#), by Dr. Paul Parkin. To access the course, login by creating or using your username and password to ParentGuidance.org.

Only those willing  
to help solve a problem,  
even in a small way,  
are allowed  
to complain about  
or point to problems  
in the first place.

@simonsinek

Dr. Cory Steiner, Superintendent for Northern Cass School District