



**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 9/8/23

Please read for updates related to Northern Cass:

1. **Learner Safety and Office Protocols** Northern Cass has 3 new staff working in our office this year. We value the safety of your learners so there may be times we will inconvenience you to ensure we follow our protocols. We ask for your patience as we get to know our learners, families, and educators.
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@northerncassschool](mailto:amber.lockhart@northerncassschool) or [markie.taubert@northerncassschool](mailto:markie.taubert@northerncassschool).
3. **ALEKS in Levels 6-12:** If your 6-12 learner is in a math class, they will be working on math skills through our online math program, ALEKS. Learners are required to reach 85% mastery in their ALEKS course. Below you will find the monthly percentage goals for each learner (i.e.--exceptions are dual credit and Consumer Math).
  - a. [ALEKS Percentage](#)
4. **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)
5. **Family Event:** Looking for a fun family experience? Join the NDSU Department of Animal Sciences on Saturday, Sept 23rd for a free, family-friendly event for all ages! See farm animals up close, learn about animal science, talk to experts in animal-related careers and much MORE! See [flyer](#) for more details.
6. **Think Pink:** The 13th Annual Northern Cass Pink Volleyball Game v Maple River is scheduled for October 10th at Northern Cass. T-shirts are now available for order, \$20 (for youth through adult XL) and \$25 (for 2XL and 3XL). Orders forms can be found [here](#) and are due in the office (with payment) no later than Friday, September 22, 2023.
7. **Elementary Girls' Basketball:** will begin on 9/26 after school. Practices will be M/T/Th/Fri from 3:30-5:15. Practice will not be held on Wednesday. All participants will need basketball shoes and a water bottle. A "Remind App" will be created once we know who is participating. The coaches are Jennifer Mitchell and Abby Husar.
8. **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!
9. **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](#).

- 10. Destination Imagination:** Destination Imagination will be starting soon for the 2023-24 season. Parents and learners (levels 2-12) are invited to attend a one hour informational meeting on Monday, September 18 at 6:30 pm in the Media Center (Library). The DI Program is a fun, hands-on system of learning that fosters learners' creativity, courage, and curiosity through open ended STEAM challenges. If you are unable to attend, but would like more information or to sign up, please contact Stacy Erickson at [stacy.erickson@northerncassschool.com](mailto:stacy.erickson@northerncassschool.com).
- 11. 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](#)).
- 12. 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](#)**
- 13. 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](#)
- 14. 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.
- 15. New Jaguar Gear:** 20% of your purchase will go to the Northern Cass Wellness Pantry! [Northern Cass Storefront](#)
- 16. Resource for Parents:** [Back to School Coaching Flyer](#)
- 17. 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](#)
- 18. 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](#).
- 19. 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](#)
- 20. 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).
- 21. 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.

‘THE SELFISH FEAR CHANGE. THE SELFLESS LEAD IT.’

@simonsinek