



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,

Please read for updates related to Northern Cass:

1. **Important Open Position:** Northern Cass is looking for a full-time bus driver for the remainder of the year and beyond. There is a signing and retention bonus. You are guaranteed \$26/hour (minimum of two hours in the a.m. and p.m.). This is a great opportunity for anyone who loves Northern Cass and its learners. Please contact Dr. Cory Steiner if interested.
2. **Pick-Up After School:** Now that the weather has officially changed, we ask for families who are picking up their child at the end of the day to come into the entryway (by the east gym) starting on Monday, December 5th to get their learner/s. It will help us keep learners safe and warm with the cold temperatures.
3. **Busing Issue:** With the loss of a bus driver, Northern Cass is in a difficult position. I want everyone to be aware changes to routes **may** have to be made if we can't find a full-time driver. We will do everything we can to avoid this but a lack of workforce is creating significant issues with our routes.
4. **Full Service Community School Task Force BEGINS!**
 - a. Community representatives are coming together with Creating Community Consulting LLC to develop a plan for a Community Health and Wellness Center in Northern Cass! We will be working with community members in the planning process to ensure the center is collectively informed and focused on serving the six communities in Northern Cass. Community involvement is a key step in fostering ownership to create a center that meets the current needs and provides incredible health impact as we move forward. We will explore and brainstorm how a Health and Wellness Center would best be utilized in Northern Cass County while keeping in mind the unique values and needs of your community. We will use local data and will support direct outreach through surveys and listening sessions to gain input. We will then create actionable goals based on the input of the community so that we can have a clear path to move forward with measurable results.
5. **Safety Plan for Suicide Prevention:** Fargo Cass Public Health has partnered with the 4 6 3 Foundation and Fargo Police Department to create a video on creating a safety plan for suicide prevention. Please take two minutes to watch this video and share it with others. [Safety Plan Video](#)
6. **We have new requests for personal care items in the Wellness Pantry:** We need personal care items - shampoo, bar soap, deodorant, tampons (not pads), toothpaste, dish soap. Donations may be dropped off at school in the Wellness Pantry collection boxes located near the entrances.
7. **Dual Credit Flag Fundraiser:** To help our learners be Choice Ready at graduation, we offer a wide range of Dual Credit courses. To keep the cost low and make Dual Credit accessible to all learners, we raise funds to help cover expenses. Your purchase of these Jaguar Fan Flags will help build that fund. Two flag versions are available for purchase online. The store closes December 5, and flags may be available by Christmas. [Jaguar Flag Order Form](#)
8. **Winter Activity Ticket Takers:** The sign up for Girls and Boys Basketball ticket taking is now available. You must be 18 or older to take tickets. Please sign up [here](#).
9. **ALEKS:** Have you heard your learner (or their educators) talk about ALEKS? Would you like to learn more about what it is? Mr. Johnson will help outline the program for you. [ALEKS](#)

10. **Calling All Local Businesses:** We are hosting a Career Fair in December for Levels 9-12. You are invited to come showcase your career, job, internship, and shadow opportunities. [Winter Career Fair](#)

11. **Board Education: What do I need to know about negotiations?**

A. Traditionally, Northern Cass Public School negotiates with the union representing the Northern Cass educators, the Northern Cass Education Association (NCEA), every other year just after the legislative session ends. In 2021, Brad Bjerke, Susie Carlson, and Sean Jalbert, were the negotiation team for the Northern Cass School Board. A two-year agreement was reached so we will negotiate with our teachers again in April/May of 2023. If during negotiations the school board and educators cannot reach an agreement, impasse can be declared. If this happens a three-member fact finding commission, appointed by the Governor, comes in to make a recommendation on how to move forward. This recommendation is non-binding. In other words, the school board can issue contracts based on their last best offer to the teachers if they choose not to accept the fact-finding commission's recommendations.

12. **Winter Gear Available:** Winter gear is available through the Jaguar Wellness Pantry. If you have learners in need of coats, hats, mittens, snow pants or boots, they are available in the music practice room hallway, sizes for all ages and all free of charge. Thank you to all who donated to the cause! We have enough shoes, clothes or winter coats right now. We can still take snow pants, boots and gloves.

13. **The Jaguar Wellness Pantry and Lunch Repack is Open!** If your child or family is in need - contact us at pantry@notherncassschool.com.

14. **Parent Guidance:** This is a link to the new YouTube channel where you will find mental health experts featured in Parent Guidance Playbooks sharing how parents can use the animations as conversation starters with teens. We will release two new Parent Guidance Playbooks every week. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_gaCf4JlCk72lPylygKC8Q

I personally spent 5 years working with mental health experts to produce the "My Life Is Worth Living" resources. They are available at no cost. I encourage you to share them with your staff and students.

A. This is a link to our YouTube channel where "My Life Is Worth Living" is available at no cost to students 24 hours a day. <https://www.youtube.com/c/MyLifeIsWorthLiving/featured>

B. This is a link to the printable extension lessons for "My Life Is Worth Living" <https://mylifeisworthliving.org/lessons/>

14. December Mental Health Newsletter: The holidays are approaching and with that comes holiday stress, especially for those who are grieving the "year of firsts." The [December Mental Health Newsletter](#) focuses on coping with holiday grief if you are experiencing the holidays for the first time since losing a loved one, moving to a new location, or facing new challenges from this past year. If you are grieving, your child is probably grieving as well. Learn how to help your child with grief and loss during the holidays, learn how practicing mindfulness can be used as a coping strategy or learn 6 steps to manage holiday stress with children.

Dr. Cory J. Steiner
Superintendent for Northern Cass School District

Giving can be as simple
as saying
"thank you" to someone
and meaning it.

We should all give
a little more.

@simonsinek