



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. **If you want your learner to go outside by themselves to your vehicle, you will need to email Dr. Steiner providing permission so he can notify the educators who assist with dismissal.**
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 came together (12/9) with Creating Community Consulting LLC to develop a plan for a Community Health and Wellness Center in Northern Cass! We explored and brainstormed how a Health and Wellness Center would best be utilized in Northern Cass County while keeping in mind the unique values and needs of each community. We developed questions to ask and will use local data and listening sessions to gain input. Stay tuned for dates for listening sessions!
5. **Yass Prize Announcement:** On Wednesday, December 14 at 1 pm CST, you'll want to log on and cheer on Northern Cass and the 2022's Yass Prize semifinalists as they gather at [The Yass Prize Semifinalist Summit](#) live from Forbes Media in New York City. That evening the six-innovator finalists will be announced. And, the biggest prize in American education is bigger than ever before! Yass Prize Founder Janine Yass recently announced that the six runners-up award to the \$1 million Yass Prize will be doubled to \$500,000 each. We hope to move on to the next level!
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. **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](#).
8. **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](#)
9. **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.
10. **The Jaguar Wellness Pantry and Lunch Repack is Open!** If your child or family is in need - contact us at pantry@northerncassschool.com.

11. **ParentGuidance.org Course Highlight: Mindfulness.** The holiday season can be beautiful, but it can also be hard on you and your family's mental health. Mindfulness can be helpful. ParentGuidance.org offers free online courses to help you manage your self-care this holiday season. [Mindfulness Course](#)
12. **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. Two new Parent Guidance Playbooks are released each week.
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_gaCf4JlCk72lPylygKC8Q
 - a. YouTube channel link to [“My Life Is Worth Living”](#), available at no cost 24 hours a day.
 - b. This is a link to [printable extension lessons](#) for “My Life Is Worth Living”
13. **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.
14. **New Educators:** This year we welcomed seven new educators to our team. Please help us celebrate their first half of the school year with us! [New Educator Greatness](#)

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