



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. **Yass Prize Announcement:** On Wednesday, December 14th, Northern Cass was selected as one of the 8 finalists for the Yass Prize. Northern Cass will receive \$500,000 for their innovative approach to education. Northern Cass was recognized in the 'transformative' category. Out of 2,700 applicants, Northern Cass was one of 9 recognized! [Announcement Link](#)
2. **Important Open Position:** Northern Cass is looking for a full-time bus driver for the remainder of the school 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.
3. **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](#)
4. **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) 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.**
5. **Move It!** Make a new year's resolution to get moving with our Family Engagement Team. Saturday, January 7, 10:00 am-Noon, we will be hosting a variety of activities at Move It! This is a free, fun filled event for the entire family. Help us plan by signing up for some of the options. [Move It!](#)
6. **Post Prom @ Culvers:** Wednesday, January 4 from 5 pm – 8 pm post prom will be working at Culver's on 13th Avenue, Fargo, to raise money for the Post Prom event on April 15. This event is intended to provide a fun, safe atmosphere for learners to attend after the dance.
7. **Full Service Community School Task Force BEGINS!**
 - a. Community representatives came together (12/9 and 12/22) 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 and be on the lookout for a survey.
8. **ACT Test Prep:** Have you heard? This year, college admissions test scores hit a 30-year low. 42% of recent high school grads didn't meet vital college readiness benchmarks. Northern Cass is partnering with ZAPS® Strategy Seminar to provide live, online ACT test preparation classes. See the link for more information. [ZAPS ACT Test Prep](#)
9. **December Career Fair THANKS!** Thank you to the 30+ businesses and agencies who came to Northern Cass on December 7 for our Winter Career Fair. All learners in levels 9-12 had the opportunity to visit with them and learn about potential careers they may want to pursue. [Career Fair Video](#)
10. **Winter Activity Ticket Takers:** The sign up for Girls and Boys Basketball ticket taking is now available. We still have spots open. You must be 18 or older to take tickets. Please sign up [here](#).

11. **Acalympics** competed this past week. Varsity finished in third place; JV in second place. Varsity team members include Jordan L, Nolan S, Jana R, Kasey T, Jace S, and Seskia A. JV team members are James W, Maleah P, Maren M, Iris R, Nora S, and Grayson M. Congratulations!
12. **Wellness Pantry Personal Care Item Requests:** 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.
13. **Wellness Pantry Food Requests: Juice boxes, individual cracker packs,** fruit snacks, granola or breakfast bars, squeeze applesauce, canned chicken, pasta sauce. *Please, no items with peanuts.
14. **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.
15. **The Jaguar Wellness Pantry and Lunch Repack is Open!** If your child or family is in need - contact us at pantry@northerncassschool.com.
16. **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](#)
17. **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”
18. **January Mental Health Newsletter:** Starting a new year is always a time of reflection and creating new goals. As you consider your new year resolutions, keep in mind your mental health and the importance of maintaining balance in your life. Balancing busy family schedules, never-ending household duties, work life, and your personal life can be challenging. Time is something we cannot change, but what we choose to do with our time is up to us. The [January Mental Health Newsletter](#) shares ideas on how to create and maintain balance in your life as you remind yourself of the importance of prioritizing, scheduling, and saying NO to create healthy boundaries. Focus on your mental health this year! January is a great time to start implementing changes that will create a healthy and happy year for you and your family.



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