



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 8/25/23

Please read for updates related to Northern Cass:

1. **The 2023 Night to Unite:** This event will be held in Gardner at the city park. It will be held on September 6, 2023 from 5:30-7:30 PM. There is no cost. It is open to all Gardner & Grandin residents and surrounding community members. Many areas of our Law Enforcement Agencies and First Responders will be in attendance to showcase the equipment and tools necessary to do their jobs. This is a family event intended to bring Law Enforcement, First Responders, and the general public together. Bring the kids and come enjoy some dinner/supper.
2. **Seeking Parents for Bus Tracking Software Interview:** If you are willing, Razor Technologies (who we purchased our bus tracking software from) is seeking a parent to interview about what you like about the ability to 'track' the bus route. If you are willing to participate in the interview, please email Cory.Steiner@northerncassschool.com.
3. **Northern Cass After School Information:** Please click on the link ([Expectations and More](#)) to review information about our after school program. It includes dates, expectations, and costs.
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. **Cross Country--It's not too late to join!** Learners/athletes grades 7-12th practice most mornings before school with most of their races on Saturday mornings. Learners/athletes grade 4-6th practice Monday, Tuesday, Thursday at the Northern Cass Track from 3:45-5 PM starting 8/24/23. Racing approximately once a week. If you are interested in learning more, please check out the Northern Cass Cross Country website [here](#) or through the Northern Cass Athletics website.
6. **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](#)**
7. **Northern Cass Open Positions.** The following positions are open. You can email Dr. Cory Steiner at Cory.Steiner@northerncassschool.com if interested.
 - a. Paraprofessional Substitutes
 - b. Teacher Substitutes (can get a sub license by taking an on-line course (only 10 hours)
 - c. Bus Drivers for Routes and Activities
8. **Updated 23-24 School Calendar:** Please [click here](#) for the updated calendar.
9. **Checklist for your Athlete:** [click here](#) for more information
10. **Ticket Taker Information:** If you are interested in signing up to take tickets, please go to the following links (**only need 8/31 covered for volleyball**)
 - a. [Volleyball](#)

- 11. Exciting News Regarding Bank Cards:** Northern Cass School has recently partnered with **Gate City Bank** to offer School Spirit Cards. With every card ordered, Northern Cass will receive \$10 which will support learners. The cards can be ordered at the following link: [Gate City Bank Jaguar Cards](#). **Bell Bank** has been a continued supporter of the custom card donation program as well - those cards can be ordered at 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.
- 19. Parent Course: How to Develop Self Compassion:** [Free Course Link](#)
- 20. 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 [August Mental Health Newsletter \(English\)](#) [\(Spanish\)](#) emphasizes the importance of parents' mental health and outlines steps for healthy coping strategies. As a caregiver to children, it is important that you take the time to care for yourself as well!
- 21. Parent Resources:** 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.

Some Ideas for Self-Reflection

Michael Sorrell, President of Paul Quinn College (Dallas, Texas) spoke to educators from Northern Cass, Central Cass, Valley City, Maple Valley, and Mapleton on Monday, August 21st. He shared some thought-provoking ideas.

1. In education, it is our job to do the following for our learners:
 - a. Dream of a better world.
 - b. Love the learners we have.
 - c. Fight for the learners we have.
 - d. Win for the learners we have.
2. Nothing great happens from a place of comfort.
3. Your stumble does not have to be a fall.
4. Being tired does not mean you are weak, it simply means you are tired.

Dr. Cory Steiner, Superintendent for Northern Cass School District