

CASS KICKSTART TO CAREERS

NEWS YOU CAN USE



JULY, 2023. Vol 2.

A message from our President—

Summer activities are in full swing, while we at Cass Kickstart are busy planning for fall. With the incoming Kindergarten class, we will now be supporting K-4 this school year. It's hard to believe that Cass Kickstart is 5 years old already! Incoming Kindergarten students will be receiving a Welcome Bag with information about their participation in the program along with other goodies. As always, a \$25 savings account will be opened in each student's name at Circle Federal Credit Union in September. Plans are also underway for financial literacy training for students and families and additional ways to motivate students and families to plan and save for future education beyond high school.

Margie Yarger, Board President

“Let's Finish Strong” Incentive



Thirty-seven students qualified for our “Let's Finish Strong” Incentive by making a deposit to their account in each of the three months – March, April

and May. Those qualified were entered into a drawing at the end of May assembly. A colorful giant spinner was created and the winning students were called down to the floor to accept their prizes – just like a TV game show. Pictured are Penelope Ryan (Kindergarten), Ranger Nolan (1st Grade), Thomas Gustafson (2nd Grade), and Torin Wiley (3rd Grade) along with Kickstart Board members Morgan First, Ruth Andrews and Alisha McCoy. Winners received a stuffed pig and a \$100 WalMart gift certificate. Keep up the Good Work Savers!!

Another School Year Comes to a Close

Another school year has come to a close and our student accounts continue to grow!

Collectively as of June 30 our students accounts totalled **\$20,917**:

3rd Grade: \$8,221
2nd Grade \$3,699
1st Grade \$4,309
Kindergarten \$4,688

The Kindergarten class out-paced all others with March being the month with the highest participation with 26 of the 62 students depositing or 42%. 1st & 2nd grades both had months with 39% participation and 23% participation in September was the highest month for 3rd grade.

Preparing for 2023 - 24

We at Cass Kickstart are busy preparing for our 5th cohort of incoming Kindergarten students. Welcome Bags will be sent home with items including a Circle Federal Credit Union piggy bank, and Southwestern Michigan College sponsored refrigerator magnet reminding families of First Thursday Deposit Days.



Carmen Peake, Cass Kickstart committee member shared that we will also be including a bookmark and pencil from new partner, Cass District Library. The Welcome Bags also include program information for the families, stickers and a gold coin.

Local Businesses Supporting Cass Kickstart

Midwest Energy and Communication contacted



Cass Kickstart board member Becky Moore and suggested they and other local businesses might wish to display their support of the program with a door decal. Midwest Energy graphic designer Morgan Adams designed the decal and provided them at no cost to Cass Kickstart to

Careers. You should see them displayed throughout the community soon.

Diamond Lake Association Support

The Diamond Lake Association works with lake residents to build up the community, oversee lake health, and ensure a thriving and healthy lake for years to come. They sponsor and host several fun family events on and around the lake in the summer months. These community engagement events are funded through direct contributions and profits are shared with community programs such as Cass Kickstart. One of those events is the Cardboard Boat Regatta to be held September 2 at the Diamond Lake Yacht Club. 60 teams of children will be racing their cardboard boats for fun and prizes. Cass Kickstart will be hosting.

Cass Kickstart Board Members

Ruth Andrews	269-519-4589
Morgan First	574-575-8498
Annabelle Harris	574-215-0723
Alisha McCoy	269-363-8358
Becky Moore	269-377-4379
Felomina Patton	312-402-1928
Carmen Peake	574-206-3484
Jim Ward	614-419-3381
Donna Warren	269-635-1464
Margie Yarger	269-445-3940

**Monthly Board Meetings 2nd Monday 5pm
Cass District Library**

Programming Support Needs –

- ❖ Source for color copies (500-1,000 per year)

We are Proud to Partner with....

**Cass District Library
Cassopolis Public Schools
Circle Federal Credit Union
Southwestern Michigan College
Village of Cassopolis**