CASS KICKSTART TO CAREERS

NEWS YOU CAN USE

OCTOBER 2026. Vol 14.

A message from our President—

Our Cassopolis students are back in the classroom this fall, and working hard on their learning and saving for their future. We now have 2 classes of savers in Squires Middle School, 6th and 7th graders, as well as Transitional Kindergarten through 5th grade at Sam Adams Elementary. We are making plans to expand Cass Kickstart into Ross Beatty High School in another year and a half.

New Cass Kickstart board member candidates are being sought to help with accounting, marketing and fundraising tasks. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, and have expertise in these areas, please contact one of our board members.

We have secured some funding from our CEDAM statewide organization in Michigan this fall. We plan to use the funds to pilot a financial literacy project, to pay annual software license costs, accounting support and updating our Cass Kickstart to Careers logo.

Please consider contributing to Cass Kickstart as the year comes to a close. Our local school children benefit greatly from your continued support.

Margie Yarger, Board President

2026 / 27 School Year Start

On August 19, Cass Kickstart volunteers were on hand to greet new and returning students and families to Sam Adams Elementary as well as Squires Middle School.

As in the past we have offered up to a $5 match for deposits made to the student accounts that evening. Thirty-seven students deposited a total of $527 that evening and were matched with an additional $185 by Cass Kickstart to Careers.

Here is McKenna McCoy, our very first depositor for the 2026 / 27 school year placing the

"representative" first coin on our Sam Adams piggy bank.

Financial Literacy Pilot

Cass Kickstart to Careers has been discussing the need for a Financial Literacy program for the students and their families for some time now. **It is finally going to become reality!** The FDIC Money Smart Program has been selected to be used as the

curriculum. In this initial year, the Financial Literacy program will be provided to all 4th through 7th grade students. Three sessions for each grade are being planned for this school year, December, February and April.

Each session will be approximately 1 hour in length and focus on topics such as Needs Versus Wants, Setting Goals, Saving, Career and Job Opportunities, and Savings Options. These sessions are being planned to take place prior to First Thursday Deposit Days to determine if this heightened awareness can increase deposit participation.

We also plan to host two parent / family events.

Funding for the coordinator functions, presenter stipends, and program materials and supplies are being provided by a grant award through CEDAM (Community Economic Development Association of Michigan) and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity.

Cass Kickstart Board Members

Becky Ellis	**574-596-6689**
Morgan First	**574-575-8498**
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

We are Proud to Partner with….

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