

VETERANS PROGRAM



The annual Veterans Program hosted by our Skills USA Club members and sponsors will be Friday November 10th at 10:00 AM in the high school gym. Everyone is welcome. Veterans are invited to stay for a luncheon afterward. Please RSVP for the luncheon to the high school at 402-468-5591.

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

3.56

A Case for Getting Involved Here at the "FORT" (The Importance of Student Involvement in Extra-Curricular Activities)

I am a big fan of our students here at the "FORT" and one of the biggest reasons would be the GPA I used as a title for this article. The 3.56 is an average GPA of the Fall activity starters and/or band section leaders. That GPA represents students that are not only achieving in the classroom but also on the field of competition. The following numbers are very impressive for the following activities:

- State Champion Runner-ups Girls Cross Country – 3.83 GPA
- State Champion Runner-ups Boys Cross Country – 3.28 GPA
- 14-5 for the season Girls Softball Team starters – 3.681 GPA
- Varsity Senior Football Players – 3.47
- 13-13 for the season Girls Volleyball team – 3.6
- State Band Superior winning Section Leaders – 3.55

The success of these student-athletes/Fine Arts students is astounding.

The fact that these kids are so successful in the classroom can be directly related to the fact that they participate at a high level in our extra-curricular activities. Of the past three graduating classes students who were listed as graduated with Honors, over 94% of them were involved in extra-curricula activities and of that 94% over ¾'s of them were involved in multiple activities. Conversely, those students who were in the bottom ten percent of the classes tended not to be involved in any extra-curricular activities. While these results may seem very extraordinary, they are not; there is plenty of research out there that shows a high correlation between high achievement and involvement in extra-curricular activities.

In an article written by the National Federation of High School Associations they listed the benefits of participation in Co-Curricular activities. They were:

- Better Educational Outcomes
- Enhanced School Engagement and sense of Belonging
- Positive Youth Development/Life Skills
- Healthier Behaviors
- Post High School Positive Results
- Developing Better Citizens
- School and Community Benefits

In another article entitled "10 Reasons Why High School Sports Benefit Students" the author lists the 10 benefits:

- Community Representation
- Fitness
- Improved Academics
- The importance of Persistence, Patience, and Practice

Continued on Page 2



Fort Calhoun Schools use an automated calling system to notify families of emergencies or weather-related closings. Make sure all your contact numbers are up to date at your child's respective schools.

American Education Week 2017 November 13-17



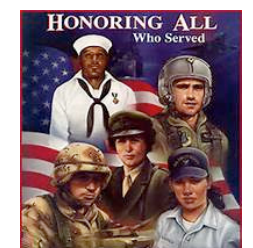
- 11/1 Elementary Health Screens
- 11/7 Jr-Sr High Choir Concert
- 11/8 PFE Meeting
- 11/10 Veterans Program @ HS 10:00 AM
- 11/13 School Board Meeting
- 11/15 Booster Club Meeting
- 11/22 Early Dismissals
- 11/23 THANKSGIVING--No School
- 11/24 No School
- 2/9/18 District Wrestling-EARLY OUT
- Elem -11:15/Jr-Sr High 11:30 --- No Lunch

DISTRICT WRESTLING

Because of our great facilities and the ability to handle the day, the NSAA has awarded Fort Calhoun High School our Class B District Wrestling Tournament. It is

February 9, 2018. There will be early outs at all buildings. The elementary will dismiss at 11:15 AM and the Jr-Sr High at 11:30. Please plan ahead. Buses will run accordingly. Breakfast will be served this day, however there will be no lunches served.

save the date!



MR. NICK WEMHOFF
Assistant Principal/AD

It is my belief that social media was created with the intention of sharing positive messages among family and friends. Social media definitely has cemented its place in the modern world and will be here for a long time to come. I personally use various forms of social media. I use Twitter here at school to share sports scores and highlights. I also use Facebook at home to share pictures of my family with my friends and relatives as well as use it to see what is happening with my family, friends. Facebook has also been a great avenue to reconnect with high school classmates who are all over the US. Social media has created this environment where we can connect with others in such a different way than we were ever able to before and that can be a positive experience.

It is my fear that social media is not always being used as I believe it was intended. I would like to believe that social media is being used as a positive for our students here at the FORT. But I am here to tell you that it is not 100% positive. In my office I talk to students on a regular basis about messages they have posted or messages that were posted about them on social media. In my experience, I am here to tell you that kids can be very mean on social media. It is easy to say something when the other person is not standing right in front of them. This ability to say something without immediate consequences, something as simple as seeing that initial reaction of how a person feels, is creating an environment that is not healthy.

The actions we are taking here at school are focused around teaching our students the importance of using social media appropriately. Everything has a time and place, and most importantly, a standard by which it should operate. Unfortunately, either they don't understand or they are unwilling to recognize the impact they have when they send "non-positive" messages on social media. One of our sayings here in the office is "You can't get in trouble for what you are thinking, but you can get in trouble for what you say or post on social media". I worry about our students' ability to distinguish what thoughts should stay personal versus what is appropriate to put on social media is getting worse.

My hope is that as parents you are involved. Are you aware of your child's social media habits and conduct? Even more importantly, are you are taking the time to have the conversations as needed about those habits? If you are the parent thinking to yourself that your child is not posting or does not have any social media accounts, I am here to tell you that there is a high probability they are or they do. I am not in any way saying that they are one of the students using it inappropriately, but it is very likely they have an account. What I am recently noticing is that not only do many students have an account, many students have secret accounts that they are trying to keep away from parents. Take the time to have the conversation. Get to know who they are on social media. See who they are friends with

on social media. I wish I could say I was surprised with messages that are being sent to people, but I have seen many things and the bar continues to be raised...and not in a good way.

Social media has its place. In the hands of the right people, it has the ability to do great and wonderful things. When used appropriately, it is a powerful tool to create an environment unimaginable. When messages are fueled with positive thoughts, we can build a culture that not only improves our lives every day, but the lives of every person we meet.

The greatest discovery of my generation is that man can alter his life simply by altering his attitude of mind.
- William James

COMMUNITY WEIGHT ROOM USE

The weight room is open for District patrons to use. The cost is \$20.00 per year to be renewed each June 1st. Contact the high school office to sign up.



The Fort Calhoun Booster Club supports all areas of Fort Calhoun Junior High and Senior High School athletics and invites you and family to join for the 2017-2018 school year. The Booster Club at The Fort is to help support and maintain the athletic programs at Fort Calhoun Jr-Sr High School and maintains and improves the athletic equipment and sport facilities at The Fort.

Over the past ten years, the Booster Club and its generous supporters have provided the Pioneers with improvements and support, including bleachers, uniforms, scholarships, facilities, and equipment, new uniforms for every sport, an electronic timing system for our track program, and provided new and additional equipment for all of our sports programs.

This is all done by memberships, and apparel and concession sales. You can find information about the Booster Club and the Membership Sign-Up Form on the school's website (www.fortcalhounschoools.org), under Community Organizations.



-Elementary News-
Your Principal: Drew R. Wagner

Engaging + Learning + Achieving = Productive PIONEERS!

It's beginning to look and feel a lot like Fall. Love this time of year for several different reasons. However, I know you don't want to hear about me; let's elaborate on what is going on at the elementary. Here are a few items to inform you on, up to this point, the building project and anti-bullying activities presented by the Fremont Crisis Center. I also would like to provide a quick update on our state assessment that each student participates in annually. Thank you for taking the time to read about what is happening at the elementary.

The building project is progressing. Each day we are getting closer to the end result. Our hope at this time is that the entire project will be wrapping up around the end of October or early November. It is going to be amazing once this project is in the books! We can't wait for you all to check it out!

Did you know that October is anti-bullying month? We have been focusing on providing students with skills of treating others like we want to be treated. The life skill to be kind to one another is vital for each student. We believe in providing those tools for students to be successful in their daily interaction and in life. We had Stacey Lichtenberg from the Fremont Crisis Center present materials to the students on how to be kind to one another. The students participated in hands-on activities with whole group instruction. These two days were very productive on positive interactions with each other. Remember to be kind to one another and the Golden Rule!

To end our communications, we would like to provide a quick update on state assessment. This is a process that continues to change as state/federal guidelines continue to change. The focus right now throughout the state is preparing students to be College Career Ready (CCR). Each year the state attempts to measure specific goals that fulfill this CCR component. Of course our state standards guide this process and provide a template for success. So let's cut to the chase. Last school year every school around the state, grades 3-6, took a new English Language Art assessment that replaced the old Reading assessment. Within those tests were different components the students were getting assessed on specifically Text Dependent Analysis (TDA). Additionally the students in 5th and 6th grade added a Writing component. These two additions have impacted our direction in programs and instruction. However, this year the state assessment is changing one more time. If we are keeping track the state will have changed the state assessment two different times in three years. With all that said please be patient with this process and understand we are doing our best to stay ahead of the curve with these changes. We will continue to keep you updated as more information is received.

Thank you all for your support and believing in what we do! We appreciate you!

Be thankful, stay positive, and encourage a growth mindset. Take care! Go PIONEERS!

Respectfully,

Drew R. Wagner

***BE CURIOUS BEFORE CRITICAL!**

Upcoming events for the 2017-18 school year:

- November 2: Grossology Assembly presented by the Children's Museum sponsored by PFE
- November 3: Morning with Mom
- November 8: PFE Meeting in the library
- November 14: Thanksgiving Feast
- November 22: Early out; 1:15pm dismissal
- November 23 -24: No School---Happy Thanksgiving

*All dates are subject to change.

**All Fridays during the year are early outs. The Elementary will dismiss students at 1:15pm.

Mr. Jerry Green
Secondary Principal

My Teachers and Staff

As we enter the month of Thanksgiving I just want to take a minute to tell you how much I appreciate our teachers and staff at the secondary building. An average school day is five and a half hours of instructional time with approximately 120 different students, usually in three different subject areas. To prepare for this teachers are given fifty-three minutes of prep time. In order to reach all students and different styles of learners a teacher has to be extremely creative and engaging with different types of instruction. In order to be an affective teacher you have to spend hours outside of the school day to meet the high demands of the classroom. With the pressures of state testing and accountability to standards demands on teachers have increased greatly. With all of that going on you need to keep in mind that 75% of the teachers are club sponsors, class sponsors or NSAA activity sponsors, or coaches, many serving in more than one of those capacities. They are truly committed.

Our secondary school counselor teaches one class during the day and spends the rest of her day wrestling with scheduling, career planning, college planning and the issues of 250 plus teenagers.

Our para-professionals, office personnel, cooks, nurse and custodial personnel are all instrumental in the success of our school. They are the ones behind the scenes that offer the extra help and support that keeps this machine running and most of the time running smoothly. Their time and efforts are greatly appreciated and extremely important to the success of our students and programs.

It has been a great pleasure to work with such a dedicated group of people. Thank you for all that you do.

- Teamwork and Cooperation
- Positive Mentors
- Social Skills
- Leadership Skills
- Time Management
- Success Mindset

I think we can all agree participation in co-curricular activities can be very beneficial to the everyday high school student. As a parent I love the fact that co-curricular activities support the very morals and characteristics that I tried to instill in my children.

Conversely, students who do not participate in co-curricular activities have a greater likelihood of involvement in delinquent behaviors including: failure in school, at-risk behavior including drug and alcohol issues, and struggles with positive self-concept. They are also more likely to commit crimes and lack drive and work ethic. They tend to struggle with social situations and to find positive friends and positive activities.

So at the end of the day what does this information mean to us? Parents, the research screams the positive benefits that co-curricular activities can have on kids. What parent wouldn't want their kids to be happier, healthier, and prepared for life beyond the school doors? What I find most intriguing after researching and writing this article is that our student results mirror the research regarding the positive benefits of co-curricular activities on students.

So parents, I have a couple things I want you to consider. 1. Get your kids outside and away from any kind of screen and encourage an active lifestyle. 2. Require your kids to pursue at least 1 athletic activity and one Fine Arts or club activity. While our kids may not end up superstar athletes, they end up happier, healthier and successful.

Gook Luck and God Bless

Dr. J



Fort Calhoun Community Schools has aligned with Arbor Family Counseling Associates to assist students/parents/families in areas such as communication strategies, wellness, school and work difficulties, parenting, and other areas where help may be needed. Arbor Family contracts with school districts to provide Student Assistance Programs for assessment and counseling services for students and families and also provides training and professional development seminars for educational staff. This service is geared to help parents, teachers and students so they can concentrate on

students' academic achievements. Information about this program is available in the school offices or from the school counselors.

Special Recognition . . .

Shelby Altstadt and **Sadie Finch** have been selected by application process to be JAMBassadors for Joslyn Art Museum. Their volunteering will include working with artists, children, museum visitors and helping with behind-the-scenes tasks.

Nebraska Capital Conference Softball honors have been announced. **First Team and Team Captain-Kloey Appel;** **First Team-Hannah Warner;** **Second Team-Courtney Baxter;** and **Honorable Mention-Zoe King, Julie Klemm and Jordan Wear.**

Both the Girls and Boys Cross Country Teams are District Champions and have earned a berth at the State Tournament. Members of the teams are **Kyla DeLuca, Savannah Lukasiewicz, Avery McKennan, Morgan Miller, Kelsie Premer Taya Skelton, Dylan Blair, Colton Folkers, Ben Hagggar, Jake Hagggar, Nathan Premer and John Wiese.** Medalists are **Taya 1st--District Champ; Avery 4th, Morgan 13th, Colton 4th, Ben 6th, and Jake 7th.** Congratulations! **Both teams also were State Runners-Up at Kearney. Taya is a third time State Champion!** Other medalists are **Avery, Colton, Jake and Ben.** Way to go kids and coaches.

Tessa Skelton placed 10th in the Junior High State Cross Country Meet held at Papillion La Vista South.

The **Fort Calhoun Marching Band** received a Superior Rating at the State Marching Festival. They were one of only a few to achieve this rating.

**Medical Careers Club
Blood Drive**

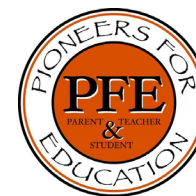
December 6, 2017 10 AM- 4 PM
Fort Calhoun Jr-Sr High School



E-FUNDS MOBILE FRIENDLY WEBSITE

This improved user experience features a website which adapts to the device it is being accessed from (mobile, tablet, laptop) and optimizes the web page while making it easily accessible and effortless to make payments on-the-go!

Implementation of Version 2.0 is easy. To implement this enhanced site, the only requirement is to replace your current EFS parent link(s) with the mobile friendly link. Once replaced, your parents can enjoy the convenience of making payments through a website designed for mobile compatibility! To upgrade, please contact ejones@magicwrighter.com. *Implementation is suggested before January 1, 2018. After January 1, 2018 all website traffic for parent payments will be re-directed to our new mobile friendly site.*



PFE just wrapped up its Fall Walkathon at the Elementary School. Thank you all for your patience with this new fundraiser. Overall it was a huge success and \$14,000 was raised that will go back to the school for future projects, PFE sponsored events, and small scale improvements within the Fort Calhoun school district. A huge THANK YOU to all of our Corporate Sponsors who made it possible to plan and execute this event!!

- PFE purchased orange FC Pioneer Walk-a-thon T-shirts for every student in the elementary school. Please encourage students to wear their Fort Calhoun shirts every Friday for Spirit Day. Classrooms with the highest percentage of students wearing their Spirit gear will win Mr. Calhoun, the cardboard cutout standup Pioneer, in their classroom for the following week. There are quite a few classrooms that Mr. Calhoun hasn't gotten to visit yet, so remind students to wear their Walk-a-thon shirts or other FC gear on Fridays!!

- The elementary students earned themselves a Movie & Popcorn at school due to meeting their walkathon fundraising goal. Movie & Popcorn will be held November 17th for 3rd-6th grade and November 22nd for PK-2nd grades. Great Job!
- PFE is bringing Omaha Children's Museum's *Grossology* to the elementary school on November 2nd for this semester's school assembly. The students really enjoy discovering some of anatomy's most interesting facts in this disgustingly fun adventure!
- Special thank you to Cummings and Sons for sponsoring our Donuts with Dads on October 6th and Florence Food Mart for sponsoring Mornings with Mom. Once again, our local Scooters supplies the parents with much needed coffee and Blair Family Fare provides juice for our students. The students and parents always love this event and we had a great turnout!
- For those of you who are PFE Members and signed up to receive their PFE Member Directory, those will be coming around the end of November. Thank you to all of you for supporting your PFE!! We truly appreciate it and enjoy doing what we can to help our FC Schools!

Please mark your calendar for November 3rd for Morning with Moms and the next PFE meeting: November 8th from 3:15-4:15pm at the Elementary school library.