



**Fort Calhoun Community Schools were among the top 12% of schools in all the State to earn a rating of Excellent on their AQuESTT results. Thank you to all who made this possible.**

Homecoming Royalty was crowned at the big Pep Rally on the Friday of Homecoming Week. **Maggie Theisen** and **Adam Bannister** are Queen and King, and **Kennedy Bradburn** and **Kyle Therkildsen** are Princess and Prince. Congratulations.

The Girls Cross Country Team are District Runners Up and have qualified for the State Meet. They are **Morgan Miller, Savannah Lukasiewicz, Tessa Skelton, Dala Drowne, Katie Barta, and Kelsie Premer**. For the Boys Team, **Ely Olberding** and **Lance Olberding** both medaled and qualified for State. The **Girls Team** ran well and earned 9th Place Overall.. Congrats all!!

**Kinsley Wimer** was selected 1st Team All Capitol Conference in Softball. **Kennedy Bradburn** was selected second team All Conference.

Fort Calhoun Community 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 by calling your child’s respective schools.**



October was a busy month for the PFE.

- PFE and Mr. High Horse kicked off the second session of Art After School the first week of October, for the 5th and 6th grade students. Look for registration for the 3rd and 4th sessions in the coming months. The first two sessions sold out quickly so make sure to register right away to ensure a spot!
- Something new was added this year, a PFE entry in the Homecoming parade! A float was planned, and over 20 students made signs for the parade. The parade was cancelled, but the signs were displayed at another event. Thanks to all who made signs and helped plan.

• On October 18th, we served over 575 donuts at the Morning with Mom event. The decorations from the homecoming parade float were displayed, and the giant donut photo booth was a hit. Many thanks to Cortney Raether and to all who volunteered their time. Dads can look forward to enjoying a donut with their student coming in March.

• PFE Membership has grown this year. We are just shy of our goal of 40% of families being members. Families can join anytime throughout the year. Contact [pioneersforeducation@gmail.com](mailto:pioneersforeducation@gmail.com) for more information on how to become a member.

Please attend our next meeting November 18th at 6:30pm, in the High School Library.

Lastly, we’d like to say thank you to our Corporate sponsors. PFE couldn’t do the work we do, without all of you.

|                           |                        |                                    |
|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Abe’s Trash               | MCH Ft Calhoun Clinic  |                                    |
| Able Transport            | Mancuso Dental         |                                    |
| AP Plumbing               | Northwest Feed         | 2019–2020 Officers:                |
| Autumn Pointe             | Nuttleman Construction | Denise Work – President            |
| Big Green Tomato          | Rock Hard Concrete     | Sarah Tinkham – Vice President     |
| The Copper Fox            | The Rustic             | Natalie Cummings – Secretary       |
| Countryside Animal Clinic | Seal-Rite Insulation   | Michelle Dill – Treasurer          |
| Diapers 2 Diplomas        | Shear Attraction       | Ronee Christensen – Communications |
| Exterior Remodel & Design | Simone’s Suds          | Coordinator                        |
| Florence Food Mart        | Steiner Dental         |                                    |
| Fort Bar                  | Taylor Quik Pik        |                                    |
| Geiger Built Homes        | Washington County Bank |                                    |
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| Iwen Exposures            | Zig Drywall            |                                    |
| Longhorn                  | 3BD Trucking           |                                    |



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**FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT’S OFFICE**

**“Do You Know What They’re Up To”**

When I was a kid growing up in St. Edward Nebraska not only did my parents know what and where I was, the whole community did. So if you screwed up there was a chance that not only would you be in trouble with your parents, you might just get struck by a neighbor for being a bonehead. Life was simpler and we didn’t have cell phones let alone smart phones. We didn’t have computers and there sure the heck wasn’t a TV in my room. Life was simpler; bullying stopped as soon as you walked into your house (OK, so not quite, I had five brothers and a sister). My have times changed!

Technology when monitored is such a great tool for student learning. Students literally have the world at their fingertips and that is very awesome and very scary at the same time. The key to technology being awesome is that it is monitored and limited on a daily basis. The old saying that nothing good happens after 10:00 is still very true if your child is allowed to have technology in their rooms and unsupervised past 10:00. Sexting, cyber-bullying and other inappropriate online activity is usually happening behind closed bedroom doors and well after an appropriate bedtime.

Time magazine reports that over 73% of students have a smart phone and of those kids surveyed 1 out of 4 admit having been part of a sexting situation. Sexting is the sending, receiving, or forwarding of explicit messages, photographs, or images of oneself, primarily between mobile phones of oneself to others. According to another source the numbers of students sexting is much higher, closer to the 70% mark. Both estimates are scary and parents need to be aware of the possibilities.

Cyber-bullying is also at an all time high 35% of students ages 12-17 having reported being cyber-bullied this past year doubling the number reported the previous year. Cyber bullying is a form of bullying or harassment using electronic devices like cell phones, computers or tablets. The uptick in the number of students reporting cyber bullying has been linked to students never being away from their device of choice. Both sexting and cyber bullying have been linked to the increased rise in suicides.

So parents you have a lot to be concerned with if you are not monitoring your child’s social media exposure. Here may be some safeguards that can help you better monitor this situation:

1. Limit electronic usage at home: never at the table, never behind closed doors or after bedtime. Create an electronic dock somewhere in you house where all devices need to be located past bedtime.
2. Limit the hours of screen time your students have on a daily basis.
3. No student under the age of sixteen needs a smart phone; you can still buy flip phones for safety usage.
4. Check your kid’s electronic device on a weekly basis and upon demand if you are concerned about an issue.
5. Have honest discussions with your students regarding these issues and the implication they can have on their lives for years to come.

It is our hope as a school district to help you in this cause. We are in the process of planning a second semester parent workshop which will deal with not only online concerns but also Mental Health issues that our students are faced with in this ever-changing world in which we live. Parents need to be armed with this latest information and trends that could possibly put their student in tough situations. So the next time you hear that saying, “it is none of your business” understand that it is most certainly your business, and in fact your duty as a parent to monitor their behaviors online and anywhere else.

Good Luck and God Bless,  
Dr. Johnson

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 has 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. Anybody want that job?

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.



Fort Calhoun's Skills USA Chapter will be hosting their annual Veteran's Day Program November 11, 2019 10:00 AM in the high school main gym. All veterans are invited to come as is the public. There will be a luncheon for the veterans and a guest after the program. Please call the high school at 402-468-5591 to RSVP for the luncheon.

MR. NICK WEMHOFF  
Assistant Principal/AD

Winter sports season is right around the corner. Junior High Boys Basketball started this week and High School Girls and Boys Basketball and Wrestling practices begin Monday November 18<sup>th</sup>. I want to remind all athletes going out for sports that they must have a current and updated (must have been completed after May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019) sports physical on file here at the high school. 7<sup>th</sup> graders were required to have a physical done in order to attend Junior High so they should have all completed their physical already. Junior High Girls Basketball and Junior High Wrestling starts after Winter Break, please make sure you have gotten your physical done for those sports as well.

Meetings for joining these sports have already begun. If you are interested in joining, please make sure you find the coach so you can get all of the appropriate information. All sports have a page on the school website and you may be able to find information there as well. Junior High pages are inside the High School page for that individual sport. And as always, if you have any questions, feel free to contact the High School office.

"The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather in a lack of will."  
-Vince Lombardi



|          |   |
|----------|---|
| 11/5     | JR-SR High Choir Concert                              |
| 11/11    | Veterans Day Program 10:00 AM<br>School Board Meeting |
| 11/12    | Conference Vocal Clinic                               |
| 11/18    | 1st Day of HS Winter Sports Practices                 |
| 11/21-23 | All State Band and Choir                              |
| 11/27    | Early Dismissal                                       |
| 11/28    | <b>HAPPY THANKSGIVING</b>                             |
| 11/28-29 | Thanksgiving Break <b>NO SCHOOL</b>                   |

FORT CALHOUN ELEMENTARY

ENGAGING + LEARNING + ACHIEVING =PRODUCTIVE PIONEERS!

- Happy Fall Y'all! Thank you for being a Pioneer! The pride of being a pioneer is priceless. We hope you all feel the same way as we continue our journey together.
- There continues to be a plethora of events happening at the elementary in the month of October. Homecoming events to Fire Department visit to Morning with Mom to Parent/Teacher Conferences to Career Readiness Day. Those are just a few of the many events that occurred. I would like to elaborate on Parent/Teacher Conferences and Deputy Greg, our new School Resource Officer. As usual if you have questions/feedback on either of these topics or other topics around the school please let someone know so we can attend to them appropriately.
- We piloted a new platform for parents/guardians to sign up for P/T Conferences this year. Most of you are aware of this new platform by now. The new platform is called Signup.com. and has been efficient up to this point in many ways from saving time to friendly reminders to parents as the conference was getting closer. Our plan is to use this same platform for the Spring conferences. If you have any questions on this please contact the elementary office. We are always striving to make processes, like this one, run as smooth as possible for your convenience.
- Did you get a chance to meet our new School Resource Officer during conferences? If you missed him don't worry, Deputy Greg Byelick is around and ready to keep our environment safe. Deputy Greg is new to our District this year and is fitting right in. He has introduced himself to each classroom and continues to build relationships each day with our students, staff and community. He also recently discussed "Safety Tips" with each classroom, when students are out and about during Halloween. Deputy Greg will continue to visit classrooms formally and informally. If you haven't met him please take time to introduce yourself to him. He is here to help!
- As I wrap up this communication, we want to thank our fabulous PFE for another successful Walk-a-thon (September 20) and Morning with Mom (October 18). Another way our PFE continues to support our positive school culture and build relationships. Thank you!
- Keep smiling! Each day brings new endeavors. Remember to be a problem solver not a problem sharer! We appreciate your support!

Drew R. Wagner  
Your Elementary Principal

- Upcoming Events
- November 8: Little Pioneer Playgroup (Preschool Activity)
  - November 19: Health Screens
  - November 21: Thanksgiving Feast
  - November 27: Early Dismissal; 1:15pm
  - November 28 & 29: No School



For all the latest going on at "The Fort" visit our website at [www.fortcalhounschoools.org](http://www.fortcalhounschoools.org)