



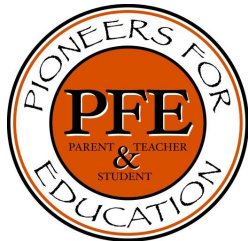
Savanah Lukasiewicz was chosen for the NMEA All State Band.

The 2019 Class C-1 District 2 All District Football Team has been announced. Tyler Strauss, Kaden Therkindsen, Malachi King and Zane Schwarz were selected 1st Team. Honorable Mention honors went to Jayce Douche, Dillon Dierks, Clint Dierks, Grant Halford, Justin Myer and Cole Klabunde.

McKenna Greenwell was named 2nd Team All Conference for Volleyball. Ellie Lienemann received Honorable Mention.

The Fall 2019 NCPA Academic All-State Awards have been announced. Softball - Kennedy Bradburn & Mackenzie Hansen: Girls Cross Country - Kelsie Premer & Tessa Skelton: Boys Cross Country - John McKennan: Volleyball - Rianna Wells: Football - Jayce Douche & Jayden Hunter.

Fort Calhoun Community Schools have begun using a new automated calling system to communicate with families. This system will replace AlertNow previously used for emergencies or weather-related closings. Call your child's respective schools with updated contact information and if you have questions.



Happy Thanksgiving from PFE.

The Elementary Book fair took place the last week of October. PFE was able to provide every classroom in the elementary 50 dollars to put towards the purchase of books. 148 new books are now in the hands of teachers and students at the Fort!

Art After School Session 2 wrapped up at the end of October. The 5th and 6th grade students had their turn having Art instruction with Mr High Horse and Mrs Rutledge. Students learned great techniques, and were able to create amazing take home projects at the end of their session. Many thanks again to Mr High Horse and Mrs Rutledge for partnering with the PFE to bring a great Art program to students. Art After School Sessions 3 and 4 registration will open in December.

PFE held our every other month public meeting on November 18th in the High School Library. Many important items were discussed and voted on. The next meeting will be Monday, January 20th. All are encouraged to attend!

If you have questions or would like to know how you can get involved with PFE, please contact us at pioneersforeducation@gmail.com

Warmest Wishes!  
Your PFE Officers:

Denise Work- President Sarah Tinkham- Vice President  
Natalie Cummings- Secretary Michelle Dill- Treasurer



Taylor Quik Pik, Fort Calhoun has begun a program where a portion of gas purchases on Pump #3 are being donated to the Fort Calhoun Booster Club. Please help us thank them by taking advantage of this opportunity.



American Red Cross  
Together, we can save a life

Medical Careers Club Blood Drive  
December 4, 2019  
High School Gym  
Contact the High School to schedule an appointment.



# The Fort Dispatch

Volume 29 No 4

Fort Calhoun Community Schools

December 2019

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

### "A Time of Thanks"

This morning when I woke up I skipped by daily routine of jumping on the scale to monitor my weight loss because I did not want to spoil the great time I had over the Thanksgiving Holidays. I love Thanksgiving food all the way from stuffing to the turkey and ending with a variety of amazing pies, but even more than the food I love the time with family. Alice and I are blessed with having large families on both sides. Our kids have several cousins their age and as they get older the conversations grow richer. This year will be even more special as my two granddaughters will also be at our gatherings. I hope you take time to enjoy your family during these holiday seasons.

School Cancellation Process: I take canceling school because of weather very seriously as my job is to keep students safe. I will always err on the side of safety. If I am able to I will try to cancel school the night before the bad weather. I usually try to make that call before 9:30 pm. If I cancel the morning of the event I will try to make that call by 5:45am. I always drive the roads and keep in contact with the National Weather Service when I am making the decision to have school or not. This year we were forced to change up our school cancellation software because of the update to our school management system and the fact that the two systems were not compatible. With that being said there will probably be a few hiccups with the system. Our first use of the system was on Tuesday the 26th to cancel afterschool activities. If you had issues with the system please let us know. You are also able to receive email notifications, so let us know if that new function worked as well.

This holiday season is going to be a little more special for my family and I. This year we will celebrate the holidays with our granddaughters for the first time. It will also mark the last time I will celebrate the holiday season as the Superintendent of Schools at the "FORT". After thirty years of serving the District I have decided to move on to something new and different. My family and I have considered this job an honor and I have grown to love the "FORT" and the kids that have graduated from this proud institution. When I started this job my whole goal was to make it one of the best districts in the state and with the help of a great School Board, Administration, and staff we have achieved that goal. Our facilities are beautiful and our test scores are in the top 12% of the State. Mission accomplished! My hope and prayer for this District moving forward is that it will continue to thrive and that the kids here will be loved and supported.

Thanks and God Bless!

Dr. J.



### GUNG HO!

One of my favorite books is by Ken Blanchard and Sheldon Bowles called *Gung Ho!* It is an excellent book that talks about motivating and creating energy in every person in the workplace. The book is based on three principles observed in nature.

1. The Spirit of the Squirrel – Everyone’s job is important, everyone’s job has purpose related to the goal. If the squirrel doesn’t gather food for the winter they will die thus making all work critical to the success of the goal. Understanding your work is worthwhile and gives people self-esteem.

2. The Way of the Beaver – This gives ownership to the workers on how to accomplish the goal. Leadership sets the rules on how the game should be played and who the players should be. The game is then left in the hands of the players to work together to accomplish the goal. Creating high obtainable expectations challenges your people to do their very best.

3. The Gift of the Goose – As a flock of geese fly over you hear honking, this is the geese cheering each other on. Complimenting each other and celebrating successes helps build enthusiasm in the work place. True congratulations cannot be overdone. With everyone cheering everyone on you have created a work place that will achieve great success.

I surely have not given these three principles justice but after reading the book it certainly has inspired a Gung Ho attitude in me. Remember all work is critical; build a strong team and let them execute the work and celebrate all success, small and large.

GUNG HO!!



12/12 Elementary Christmas Concert  
12/15 Jr-Sr High Christmas Band Concert  
12/19 Jr-Sr High Christmas Vocal Concert  
All Concerts are at the High School Gym and are free and open to the public.

It feels like yesterday that school was beginning for the year. As we often say, “Where does the time go”? As we enter into this holiday season, I encourage everyone to take time to slow down and enjoy the moment. The holidays are truly about sharing time with your family and making new memories. When I look at my kids and their enjoyment of the holiday season, I am reminded how lucky I am. This is a time for me to reflect on the blessings that I have. As my wife and I get ready to celebrate Christmas with our families, we will be thinking of our other family; our family at the FORT. From my family to yours, we wish each and every one of you a safe and wonderful holiday season.



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



- 12/4 MCC Blood Drive @ High School
- 12/9 School Board Meeting
- 12/10 Post Prom Dinner During Basketball Games
- 12/12 Elementary Christmas Concert
- 12/15 Jr-Sr High Christmas Band Concert
- 12/16 Board Work Session
- 12/18 Booster Club Meeting
- 12/19 Jr-Sr High Christmas Vocal Concert
- 12/20 End of 2nd Quarter/1st Semester
- 12/21-1/6/20 No School Christmas Break
- 12/22-26 NSAA Moritorium--No School Activities
- 1/1/20 HAPPY NEW YEAR!
- 1/7/20 School Resumes

### *Engaging + Learning + Achieving = Productive PIONEERS!*

How does it feel? I start my dispatch with this question for several reasons. I know how we feel to have such unique and intriguing students. The different ideas each student brings to this school are amazing. I would like to elaborate on three ideas, which show how neat our students really are. I would like to break this into three parts: Unique, Collaborative, and Inspirational.

Fort Calhoun is unique in several different ways—from our approach to learning to our exposure of different activities each student is provided. The students we have are all so unique in this approach. Each student brings their own innovate approach to our system. We welcome that diversity into each classroom. We not only welcome it, it drives our instruction to adapt to each student which then creates a powerful environment for learning. My point is we are doing this together (staff, students, and parents) to create an environment that is not only unique to the state but also unique to each individual need of the students. This is productive because of our students and what they bring naturally to our environment!

Students love talking to each other, it comes naturally and we are making a purpose of that chatter. We do this together because collaboration is the key to our success. Collaboration is a life long skill. The way society is evolving we must be able to communicate with others at a high level. That goes along with our mission to serve students. Students have been very open and receptive to this skill. We not only just talk about it, but when you walk in each classroom it is happening at different levels. We truly think we are building collaborative learners to be successful in the future.

Our students are an inspiration to each other and to us. We observe this on a daily basis. The battle each student takes on just to learn a new concept is inspirational. The majority of students love to be challenged at their level. You know what else is really neat is they don’t stop there; they try to look around and help others. Our students are resilient! Our students are inspirational!

All three concepts that I discussed are life long skills. We truly believe if we aren’t preparing students for life, then we are not doing our job. A BIG THANK YOU to all of the parents/guardians for raising and sculpting these unique individuals. Let them be different/unique. That is who they are! Do not interrupt the natural process that the world needs. So how do you feel? Keep up the great work. We will too!

Thank you all for your continuous support of your child’s education and letting us assist!

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

Upcoming events for December:

- December 2-6: 3rd-6th grade NWEA/K-2nd grade Dibels Assessments
- December 9-13: K-2nd grade NWEA/3rd-6th grade Dibels Assessments
- December 10: Health Rescreens
- December 12: Winter Music Concert

\*All dates are subject to change.

