

# Fort Calhoun Elementary

*“Even the darkest night will end and the sun will rise again.”*

**Victor Hugo**

Engaging + Learning + Achieving = Productive PIONEERS!



## MESSAGE FROM MR. WAGNER

### THIS IS OUR OPPORTUNITY TO SHINE TOGETHER!

Greetings! I sure hope this letter finds you in a state of happiness to freeze in time to embed into this upcoming school year. As we know the unknown of this upcoming school year is going to be one of the hardest, maybe the hardest, school year you will be a part of. You are going to need those frozen moments in time to get you to your “happy place.” I believe that every family will need a plan to ensure they are staying healthy (mental and physical). With that in mind please start creating a plan of your own. Meanwhile, I have no doubt in my mind this school year is going to be one for the ages. As we creep into the school year we want to be very transparent with our focus (goals). The goals are identified on the first page; safety (mental and physical health), team approach, and eliminate learning gaps. These challenges are quite vast in the nature of our current

**SAFETY (MENTAL  
AND PHYSICAL  
HEALTH)**

**TEAM  
APPROACH**

**ELIMINATE  
LEARNING GAPS**

## Welcome New Family/Staff Members!

Jane Prieksat

-Para-Professional-

Miranda Weingaertner

-First Grade-

Sydney Schulenberg

-Second Grade-

Max Smith

-Sixth Grade-

Lacey Sears

-Special Education-

Ruth Altstadt

-Kitchen Aide-

## Reminders!

\*August 20: First day of school;  
11:15am dismissal

\*All school related events/activities are cancelled until further notice.

environment. This is achievable when we collaborate (shine) together.

What does being safe look like? Feel like? Being safe has always been our #1 priority and in fact I feel it comes natural to our culture. During this time of the unknown it is going to be even more of a priority. The questions that surround safety all go back to our operations on a daily basis. It is not just the documents the district creates or the school creates, great framework to follow, but more importantly it is in the daily grind of a school day. The staff is ready to take this on and ensure students are being safe in a whole student concept approach (mental, physical, and emotionally). All of our planning and brainstorming will come to action and implementation to ensure students/staff/families are staying healthy within our environment. We continue to ask for your support during this challenging time and follow the policies/protocols that have been created to keep us all safe. Thank you!



Our final two goals with taking on a team approach and eliminating learning gaps must happen simultaneously, not just at each grade level, but with all stakeholders (families, students, other professionals). When taking on such a substantial goal to close the learning gap for each student after such a lingering time away is going to be challenging if we aren't willing to take the team approach. We are going to work our tails off, remotely or in-person, to allow the learning gap to shorten. We are excited and equipped to provide students the opportunity to be successful for the future.

As I close out my welcome to one of the most unpredictable years in education I would like to provide some possible insight to contribute to a successful year.

Here we go: Stay positive (Be curious before critical), Follow policies and procedures the school has established (agree to disagree is a life skill), Communicate, Practice social distancing, Have your student practice wearing a mask for a period of time, and lastly be the support system your student and school needs during this pandemic.

*Knock, Knock...whose there...the future...the future who? The future that thanks you for being that shining light each student, staff, and family needed during a dark time.* Kind of goofy or just down right confusing, you decide! We are going to shine! I will end with this quote by Victor Hugo, "Even the darkest night will end and the sun will rise again." PIONEER STRONG! Let's make this year better than the last!

Thank you for your time. See you all soon...=)!

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The construction for the second/third grade addition is almost complete. The plan continues to be that we will gain occupancy on August 7th. Construction will still be a moving piece to the puzzle next school year. With the completion of this part of the construction we move into the new gym/preschool addition. That will impact us with the closure of Adams Street the entire school year. Please see the map labeled "Adams Street Closure" for more details. The downstairs pickup and drop off will occur on 10th Street. The bus pickup and drop off will occur on Monroe Street toward 12th Street. Safety monitors will be present to ensure safety. Thank you!



# Back To School Night is CANCELLED!

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Unfortunately, we will not be hosting a traditional Back To School Night due to COVID-19 restrictions. We will be providing a virtual component to ease students/families into an unknown school year. Each classroom teacher will create a video to post on our website and/or other digital platforms to reach all families. We know this will not replace this event, but we felt the need to provide some sort of introduction to our school/classroom. We will be sending more information out soon on the location and time these videos will be posted. Thank you!



## Communication Platforms

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The school strives to ensure there is adequate communication during every school year, but particularly this school year. There are several different avenues the school will communicate with you. Please see below.

\*District's website, District's Facebook page, Elementary twitter account, School messenger (Email, text and phone call), Newsletters, Seesaw, Canvas, Staff email, Thursday folders (digital), and the good ole fashion marquee...=).

To assist us with this process please ensure your contact information is current in powerschool. If

any of your information changes please contact the office. Lastly, we will be using each of these platforms to communicate with you throughout the school year.

## Highlighted guidelines surrounding this school year

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\*Further discussion of the guidelines will be attached to this letter labeled "Fort Calhoun Community Schools District Reopening Plan" (Ex. lunchroom procedures, playground equipment usage).

\*Please take time to read the districts "Return to School Plan." Additionally, please take time to read the elementary's "Remote Learning Plan." Both of these documents were communicated to all families by Mr. Green, our superintendent. They are also located on our website. Pay special attention to the mask wearing policy and visitors/parents entering the building.

\*Visitors/Parents entering the building. At this time we are not allowing parents/visitors to enter the building to limit the amount of contact/exposure. Please call the office for pick ups or messages. If you do come to the building you will be asked to wait in the foyer area to speak with our secretary, Mrs. Weaver, through our intercom system. We will further assist you with your need.

\*Water fountain (Hydration Stations). Students will have access to the water fountain. The fountain will be shut off but the water bottle filler will be functional.

\*Mask wearing policy. Students/Staff will be wearing mask when: entering/exiting the building, social distancing can not be met, administration/teacher discretion, transitioning to a different area of the building and riding in a school bus/van.

\*Entering/Exiting the building. Students will be assigned an entrance/exit to come into the building. Please see more details below labeled "Door Assignments."

\*We appreciate your cooperation during this time of uncertainty. Thank you for keeping us all safe during this historic time.

## Anticipated day in the life of a student

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\*Happy new school year! Your student will enter the building at their assigned location (See Door Assignments) with a staff member greeting them with a smile on their face, which we might not be able to see. Before entering the building your student will put their mask on, have their temperature taken and get a squirt of hand sanitizer. Your student will then report to their classroom where their classroom teacher is waiting for them. (If your student comes before 7:45am they will report to the front of the building). Once your student is in the classroom the teacher will provide them further directions for the day. We will have our typical morning instruction. Furthermore, the day is going along and if your student has to use the restroom, the student will mask up and then proceed to the restroom. Before entering the classroom your student will wash their hands, get a squirt of hand sanitizer and then proceed back to their desk. If at any point we can not accomplish social distancing the teacher will provide direction on mask wearing in the classrooms. Students will get breaks throughout the day. It's time for recess and lunch! Yeah! During recess students will stay with their classroom in a designated area outside with staff supervision in a structured environment. Once your student transitions back to the building they will get a squirt of hand sanitizer. After recess we will continue to lunch. Students from K-2nd grade will have their lunches delivered to them from our kitchen staff. Students from 3rd-6th grade will walk to get their lunches in the kitchen area. (You may bring your lunch if you prefer, but there will be no microwaves or refrigeration available.) Students will be wearing a mask while in transition in the hallway. All lunches will be held in classrooms. Students will then proceed with their afternoon instruction. During dismissal students will be released strategically through their assigned exit. Your student will wear a mask while exiting the building. Remember each day will be unique and bring its own challenges. Stay Positive!

\*All specials classes (Physical Education/Health, Music, Guidance, and Library) will occur according to the regular scheduled times but may be in a different location and may be adapted to ensure safety for all.

\*If you have further questions on specific items please take the time to look at the districts reopening plans. This document will be an attachment that is enclosed with this letter.

## Handbook Updates

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At this time we would like to update you on any changes/updates to the elementary handbook that you should be aware of. Please remember the Parent/Student Handbook is intended to provide communication guidelines for a transparent process and of course keeping our environment safe for all.

\*Pg. 18 (Eighteen). Behavior Goals. The change here is changing our goals to reflect our adoption of Positive Behavior Invention and Support (PBIS).

\*Pg. 11 (Eleven). Lunch price increased \$.05 to \$2.55.

\*There will be some policy adoption attending to the COVID-19 guidelines.

## Preschool Program Information

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We are currently working on the final plan with our Preschool program. Our hope is to get a draft plan to you as soon as we can. We do anticipate holding both morning and afternoon sessions. The anticipated date for the first day of preschool will be Monday, August 24. Before school begins, please bring a copy of your child's birth certificate and current immunization records. Tuition payments are due on the 20th of each month beginning in September. The tuition payments are \$140/month. We look forward to seeing you soon. Thank you for choosing the FORT!

\*Please keep in mind the reason for the delay are guidelines related to COVID-19 that may continually change week to week. Thank you! Be in touch!

## Front of the school drop off/ pick up Map

\*Front of the building drop off/ pick up. Please note the change for this year due to construction is bus drop off/pick up will be on Monroe St.



## pick up Map

\*Back of the building drop off/pick up. Please note the change for this year due to construction. Adams Street is closed until further notice. All drop off/pick up will occur on 10th Street.

## Door Assignments

## Summary Map

\*This map is a quick summary of all the changes due to the construction.

## Back of the school drop off/



## Pictures of the new construction

\*Preschool: Enter at the Preschool entrance off Monroe Street.

\*Kindergarten: Enter at the entrance on the side of the building off Monroe Street. Take the preschool sidewalk and walk by the preschool entrance to enter the building.

\*1st grade: Enter in the front of the building.

\*2nd grade: Enter in the new addition entrance that faces the playground.

\*3rd grade: Enter from the back doors off of 10th.

\*4th grade: Enter from the back doors off of 10th.

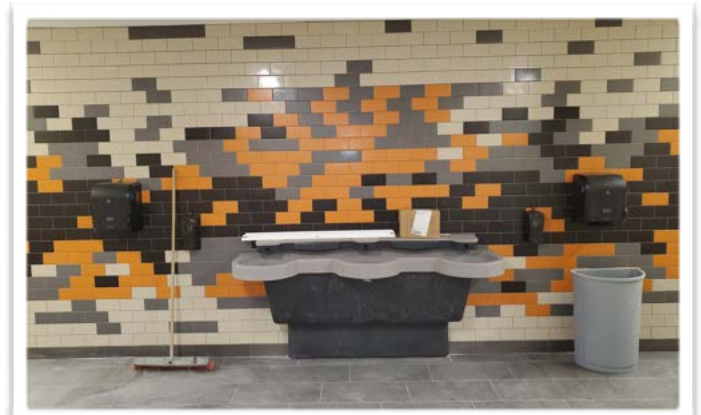
\*5th grade: Enter from 10th Street by 6th grade classrooms.

\*6th grade: Enter from 10th Street by 6th grade classrooms.

\*There will be a staff member at each entrance. Each entrance will also be labeled appropriately. Please keep in mind enter and exit points are the same.

Always End the  
Day With a  
Positive Thought.  
No Matter How Hard  
Things Were,  
Tomorrow's a Fresh  
Opportunity to Make  
it Better.

**Bathroom**



**Outside of the new addition**



**A view in one of the classrooms**

