



Homecoming King and Queen: Dillon Dierks and Ellie Lienemann
Homecoming Prince and Princess: Bode Bench and Rianna Wells
Homecoming Court: Isaac Blizzard, Harry Schmitt, Maddie Hurt, Hannah Fitzgerald

WELCOME TO FORT CALHOUN

Our community is growing and we want to be prepared. We are counting students in our District to determine future needs.

Residents: Please help us with our child count by reporting your children up to 18 years old. If you have not already notified us through the census or there has been a change in your household, call the District office at 402-468-5591 with your information.

COMMUNITY WEIGHT ROOM USE



The high school weight room is available for use by District patrons. A fob is issued for a fee of \$50.00 which renews each June 1st. If you have any questions contact Mr. Andrew Christensen at 402-468-5591.

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



OPTION ENROLLMENT 2020

The Option Enrollment application period for the 2021-22 school year is now open through March 15, 2021. Forms are available on our website or at the school offices. The School Board sets class size and program parameters in February/March and according to State law, those accepted must be notified one way or the other by April 1st.



HAPPENINGS

10/10	Marching Band Competition @ Fort Calhoun 2:30 PM
10/14	Picture Retakes
10/17	Marching Band Contest TBD
10/23	End of First Quarter State Cross Country
10-28-29	Parent Teacher Conferences Early Dismissals
10/30	NO SCHOOL - Fall Break
10/31	Halloween



The Fort Dispatch

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FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Adjust Your Lens

In today's world it is sometimes hard to find the positive. You can, just adjust your lens. I know over the last several months there have been than a handful of struggles for me. Those struggles can consume your time and your mind; it is important not to stay in that situation. How do you do that? Adjust your lens. We become so involved that we lose track of everything else going on around us. Step back and look at the big picture, negativity happens but your willingness to get stuck in it is a choice. Positive items are happening all around us, we just need to adjust our lens and refocus. Notice the weather, notice the Fall, notice the leaves changing colors and decide to control the things we can control. Do something fun, even if it is just for an hour to break that negative train of thought. Call on old friend or better yet go visit (with social distancing) an old friend. Be grateful for what you have instead of angry about what you don't. Reach out and help someone, volunteer; giving your time to benefit others is an extremely generous and positive way to adjust your lens. So the choice is yours. Times are different right now and can be challenging. Accept the challenge and adjust your lens to make you make it through in a safe and positive manner.

Jerry Green
Superintendent
Fort Calhoun Community Schools

COMMUNITY FACILITIES REOPEN

Fort Calhoun Community Schools opened the high school gyms, fitness center, and Community Building on Tuesday, September 8th to youth sports and fitness center members. Check the link on our website for more information.



Elementary News
Your Principal: Drew R. Wagner
Engaging + Learning + Achieving = Productive PIONEERS!

Date: 10-1-20
To: Parents and Patrons
From: Fort Calhoun Elementary
Reason: Construction Building Project Update

Dear Parents and Patrons,

Greetings! We continue to take pride in our communication from school to home. This letter is to provide information regarding our current building construction project. The remodel and addition include: new gymnasium that includes bathrooms, new vestibule on the north west of the building, additional multipurpose space and the remodel of the existing gymnasium that will transform into our pre-school program.

How many of you observed the precast walls for our new gymnasium go up? It was an exciting process. As construction continues we wanted to provide the layout of the new space with additional animated pictures of the additions on the next page.

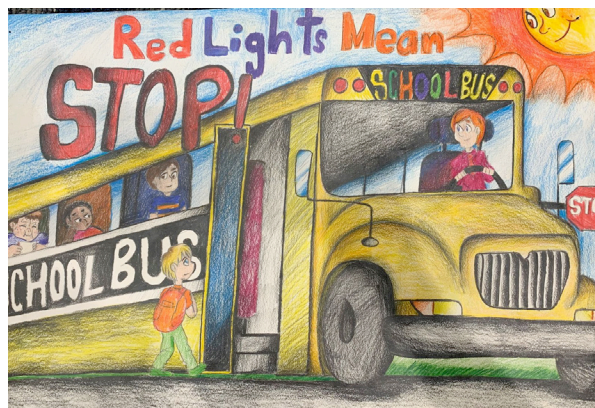
Furthermore, we anticipate this construction to last the rest of the school year. Additionally, we also anticipate Adams Street and sidewalks to be closed the rest of this school year. Majority of the construction will happen outside and not interrupt the learning environment. If there are any changes that will impact any routine business we will ensure to communicate appropriately.

If you have any questions please contact Mr. Green, the elementary office or myself. Thank you for your patience, flexibility and positive mindset as we go through this building project together.

It's a great day to be a PIONEER!

Respectfully,

Drew R. Wagner
Elementary Principal



*National School Bus Safety Week
October 19-23*

Andrew Christensen
Assistant Principal/AD

As we hit the midway point of fall activities it's time to plan for winter activities. Please know we are dependent upon the NSAA, Three Rivers Health Department, and the NDE to establish our winter plans. Information continues to come and change, and we will communicate through the fall and winter seasons. Our coaches are going above and beyond to provide a safe environment for our students in the weight room, skill development, and practices.

Winter Physical Information: I want to remind parents of students who plan to participate in athletics this winter in grades 7-12 that sports physicals will be different. All 7th graders must have a regular physical but also need to have a sports physical. When you get your regular physical, request the sports physical at the same time. All incoming freshmen also need to have a sports physical. If your student is new to Fort Calhoun Schools, they will need a sports physical as well. If you are going into grades 8, 10-12 and participated in activities last year, you do not need a sports physical. The sports physical must take place after May 1st to qualify them for the 2020-2021 school year. Return a copy of the physical to the high school office when completed. The specific line we are looking for is "the athlete is cleared without restrictions to participate in athletics." Any student that has a 2020 fall Sports Physical does not need a new physical form for winter activities.

Winter Sport Start Dates:

- High School Basketball and Wrestling- Monday, November 16th
- Junior High Boys Basketball- Monday, October 26th
- Junior High Girls Basketball- Monday, January 18th
- Junior High Wrestling- Monday, January 11th

Due to potential restrictions at our activities this year, we are being proactive to provide options for fans to support our Pioneers. A live streaming system will be offered through nfhsnetwork.com. A camera has been installed in our competition gym and football field. With a subscription, fans will have access to watch live activities at Fort Calhoun High School. A portion of the subscription comes back to Fort Calhoun Schools.

- Monthly Subscription- \$10.99
- Annual Subscription- \$69.99

For all Covid-19 guidance for home and away activities, please refer to our school website. Go to fortcalhounschool.org – Pioneer Pride – Covid Resources- Click on the desired sport. Information is updated on a daily basis.

Good luck to all of the coaches and students as they gear up for fall district and state competitions. Watching our student athletes compete in fall activities has been outstanding. Let's finish strong and go Pioneers!

Mr. Christensen



Visit our website at
www.fortcalhounschools.org

MR. NICK WEMHOFF
Principal

I believe it is worth the time to recognize how awesome the students and teachers have been during this time of COVID. In my time as an educator, this is the hardest challenge I have ever been faced with. The ability and willingness of our students and staff to do what they need to in order to keep our doors open has been amazing. Students have been wearing masks and sanitizing hands on a daily basis without (for the most part) lots of complaining. They have been understanding of the situation and have done their part.

Our teachers have done nothing but go above and beyond for our students. They have changed their teaching style to allow for more social distancing, they are cleaning and sanitizing between class periods, they are putting in long hours of planning, and they are taking on extra responsibilities that do not come in a normal year. The best part is they have done all this with open minds and positive attitudes. They are putting in a lot of extra time in order to provide your student, both in school and remote, the best education they can provide.

As this year rolls on, I ask parents that you continue to support our staff and students. They are all working hard to make this year as positive as it can be. They are going the extra mile, they are following the rules they are given, and they are doing it all to the best of their ability. It is hard living in the middle of this pandemic; and some day, this too shall pass. I truly appreciate the efforts of all our students and staff! Thank you!

"Anyone who does anything to help a child in his life is a hero to me." – Fred Rogers



Pioneers for Education (PFE) is the parent, teacher and student organization for Fort Calhoun Schools. As our mission statement explains, we are committed to working together with parents, teachers, and students to provide fun and educational opportunities for both the High School and Elementary School. The PFE gives back to both the high school and elementary school by financially supporting many activities like Post Prom, PFE Senior Scholarship, Teacher Appreciation Week, Donuts with Dad/Mornings with Mom, and many others. We also sponsor many fun and educational events like the Summer Learning Activity Program and the One School, One Book Reading Program with accompanying Spring Carnival. We are able to do all of this because of your help financially, when you join PFE, and by the hard work of all of our volunteers!

We hope you will consider joining PFE this year and support our kids and school. We are looking forward to another great year here at the Fort!

For more information or for sign up forms go to the school website, look under Community Organizations and scroll down to Pioneers for Education.

There Such a Thing as Free Lunch

Because of the COVID pandemic and schools' situations nationwide, the USDA has extended the waivers to schools to furnish free meals to all school age children until December 31, 2020 or until the funding is exhausted. Fort Calhoun Community Schools, under the direction of the Nebraska Child Nutrition Program, will provide free school lunch to all students K-12 whether in person or remote learners under this program.

Letters were sent to all households explaining the program. Let us know if you have questions.

