



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

The **Boys Cross Country Team** is District Champion and the **Girls Cross Country Team** placed 3rd at Districts, so both teams have qualified for State.



WELCOME TO FORT CALHOUN

Our community is growing and 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.

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 another by April 1st.



The Fort Dispatch

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Fort Calhoun Community Schools

November 2020

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Something Besides COVID

It seems like we are constantly dealing with COVID-19 and the issues that come with the pandemic. You remember the pandemic; we are in the midst of a worldwide crisis. Well I am tired of COVID, I cannot ignore it but I would like to celebrate and share with you some exciting items happening at the school.

The four-room addition at the elementary is finished and we are educating young ladies and gentlemen in those classrooms. Mr. Wagner has posted a YouTube video showing you the newly finished project. You will also notice that there is great progress being made on the new gym addition project. This area will include along with the gym a conference room, storage, restrooms and allows for the reconstruction of the old gym into two new pre-school rooms. The new gym area is scheduled to be finished in the spring and the pre-school rooms in the summer.

A positive to come from COVID is that the USDA along with the Families First Coronavirus Response Act has extended the Summer Food Service Program. What does this mean for our students? Students will be able to receive a free breakfast and lunch through the end of the school year (any extras or seconds will cost). The extension ensures that meals are reaching students in a time when jobs have been lost and families may be struggling.

Maybe our greatest celebration is the fact that we are still in school. Most schools across the state have worked diligently to make sure that students are able to learn in an environment that is clean and safe. There is no substitute for having students in the building learning from our great staff. We were also able to participate in activities, which was not the case for every school in the state. The marching band was also able to perform by the end of the season. This is great news because when we started that was not going to be the case. As we enter into the second half of our semester I am excited to be in school and to have students and staff in the building working hard. Yes it is different, but it is happening and we will continue to strive to do our very best in a difficult time.

We appreciate the support of our community as we move forward.

Jerry Green
Superintendent



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.



HAPPENINGS

11/3 Jr-Sr High Choir Concert
11/9 Conference Vocal Clinic
11/11 Veterans Day
11/16 PFE Meeting
11/19-21 All State Music
11/25 Early Dismissal
11/26 HAPPY THANKSGIVING
11/26-27 Thanksgiving Break **NO SCHOOL**

Elementary News

Your Principal: Drew R. Wagner

Engaging + Learning + Achieving = Productive PIONEERS!

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Hello Pioneer Nation! We wanted to take the time to communicate our action plan about Parent/Teacher conferences. As we know this year has been full of change. With that being said, our plan with conferences will be a virtual approach. Each classroom teacher has sent home a student packet to review with you during a Zoom conference. We will continue to use SignUp.com to sign up for your conference.

This platform will let you sign up with your teacher on a first come first serve basis. Please click <https://signup.com/go/kYSDnwU>. Once you are on the website please click on your classroom teacher to sign up for your conference. Additionally, your teacher has sent you a Zoom link with your designated time. And your classroom teacher will notify you if they are requesting your student to be present in the conference. Lastly, another option may include an email to your teacher if you prefer not to set up a Zoom conference. If you do not have access to the internet please contact our office. We hope this process goes smoothly and this is a one time event.

We will continue to monitor the status of conferences in February to determine if we will go back to in-person conferences. Thank you for your support during this time. If you have any questions please let us know. Have a positive day! PIONEER STRONG!

*October 28/29 is Parent/Teacher conferences. Both days we will dismiss at 1:15pm. October 30 is no school.

REMINDERS

October 30: No School

November 26 and 27: No School

Construction update

The construction for the new gymnasium/early childhood addition is making progress on a weekly basis. The plan continues to have the space enclosed before Thanksgiving break. The transition of getting into the new gymnasium is anticipated to happen in March. Once that happens the construction will move into the existing gymnasium to start the remodel for our preschool program. The construction team looks forward to staying on track and hoping for cooperative weather. Thank you for your continued support! Stay positive!

Visit our website at
www.fortcalhounschoools.org

Andrew Christensen
Assistant Principal/AD

Congratulations to our fall activity participants. It was an exciting fall season and we are proud of your hard work and dedication.

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 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. Be looking for specific Covid Protocols from each individual winter program.

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, 11, or 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 Activity 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
- One Act Competition- Monday, November 23rd
- Fall Choir Concert- Tuesday, November 3rd

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 fortcalhounschoools.org – Pioneer Pride – Covid Resources- Click on the desired sport. Information is updated on a daily basis.

Good luck to all of coaches and students as they gear up for winter activities. Best of luck this winter and Go Pioneers!

Mr. Christensen

COMMUNITY FACILITIES REOPEN

Fort Calhoun Community Schools high school gyms, fitness center, and Community Building are now open to youth sports and fitness center members. Check the link on our website for more information.



MR. NICK WEMHOFF
Principal

I find myself reflecting on this school year and the many things that I am thankful for as the Thanksgiving Holiday draws near. Yes, this year has had its challenges, but it has also had its positive moments. I want to share with you five things that I am thankful for during this pandemic-filled school year:

- 1) Our students are in the building. Education is more than just learning core curriculum. Education is about teaching our students how to socially interact with one another, how to be somewhere on time, and how to be accountable and responsible for not only themselves but for others. Skills such as these are learned and practiced every day in schools.
- 2) The resilience of our students and staff. The school routines we once knew as normal are not how we function today. Social distancing, masks, temperature checks, lunchroom procedures, classroom activities, and the list of new norms go on and on. Our students and staff have done what we asked them to do which has allowed us to remain in the school building.
- 3) The support of our parents and community. None of us have experienced a pandemic before, and subsequently, there is no “play book” for how to navigate it. The parent and community support of our efforts has gone a long ways in giving me confidence while making decisions that are in the best interest of our students.
- 4) The office staff’s at both the HS and Elementary. In my 16 years in education, I have never seen office staff work so hard to make sure that all our students are safe in the building. Their efforts during this pandemic have been critical to us keeping our doors open. They are doing an excellent job!
- 5) The health and safety of our students, staff, parents, and community. There is no doubt that people have been affected by the pandemic, either by contracting covid-19 themselves or by knowing someone who has. The fact that you are reading this article today is a blessing.

Be safe, take precautions, and stay healthy!

Nothing is more difficult, and therefore more precious, than to be able to decide.

- Napoleon Bonaparte

TITLE IX INFORMATION

Fort Calhoun Community Schools Board of Education passed Policy 3057 at their August 10, 2020 meeting addressing all areas of discrimination. This policy can be found on the schools’ website fortcalhounschoools.org. Go to “About, Board of Education, Policies” and scroll down to Policy 3057-Title IX.



***There Is Such a Thing as Free Lunch
(and Free Breakfast)***

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 the end of the school year. Fort Calhoun Community Schools, under the direction of the Nebraska Child Nutrition Program, will provide free school breakfast and lunch to all students K-12 whether in person or remote learners under this program through May 20, 2021 which is our last day of school.

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



Greetings from Pioneers for Education. We’re so happy that the school year is off to a great start and that we’ve made it through the first quarter!

In early October, the Walk-a-Thon fundraiser began. Each week, families and friends donated funds for the big walk on November 6th. Washington County Bank and MCH Health System along with PFE held a coin drive for the Walk-a-Thon the last week of October. Over 800 dollars in change was collected! PFE is thankful we were able to work with Mr Wagner to come up with a great plan and go forward with having the walk during a time of restrictions. A huge THANK YOU to our walk team: Chris Roberts, Shannon Pokorski, Teresa Dowling, Dara Waters, Amber Tichenor, and Michelle Dill.

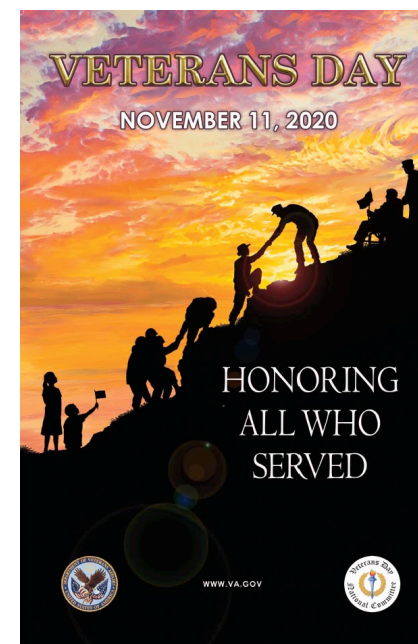
Spirit Fridays are back! Students are encouraged to wear orange and black every Friday. Each week the top classroom at the elementary receives a special treat from Pioneers for Education and gets the traveling Pioneer for their classroom the following week.

We have a lofty goal of 40 percent of families and staff having PFE memberships for 2020/21. PFE cannot run without members contributing financially and contributing by volunteering. Your membership gives you the ability to vote on important decisions and get more involved in your student’s school. You can sign up at anytime, just email pioneersforeducation@gmail.com for a form or locate a form on the school’s website under the Pioneers for Education tab.

THANK YOU to our many corporate sponsors who have sponsored PFE for the 2020/21 school year. We appreciate you and all you are doing for the community!

The Officers have been meeting each month. We hope you’ll tune in either online or in person for our next meeting, November 16th at 6:30!

PFE Officers:: President- Sarah Tinkham; Vice President- Brad Earley; Treasurer- Shannon Pokorski
Secretary- Joey Iwen; Communication Coordinator- Ronee Christensen



**VETERANS DAY PROGRAM
November 11, 2020 10:00 AM**

The program this year will be limited to attendance by students and staff. For all of our Veterans and their families who would still like to participate, it will be streamed live free of charge. Go to our website, fortcalhounschoools.org, click on FC Live, and follow the instructions.