



The supply list for Grades PK-6 is on the website, www.fortcalhounschoools.org, under Schools, then Elementary. Secondary students should get supply information from their individual classes.

Policy of Nondiscrimination

The School District does not discriminate on the basis of prohibited factors in employment and educational programs/activities. The School District affirmatively strives to provide equal opportunity for all as required by: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 - prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin: Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, or national origin: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 - prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender: Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA) as amended - prohibits discrimination on the basis of age with respect to individuals who are at least 40: The Equal Pay Act of 1963 as amended - prohibits gender discrimination in payment of wages to women and men performing substantially equal work in the same establishment: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 - prohibits discrimination against the disabled: Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) - prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in employment, public service, public accommodations and telecommunications: The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) - requires covered employers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to “eligible” employees for certain family and medical reasons: The Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions: The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) – provides job protections and reemployment rights to military reservists and National Guard members called to active duty: The Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act (FEPA) – prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy), disability, marital status, and retaliation: Nebraska Age Discrimination in Employment Act (Age Act) – prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of age for those individuals who are over 40 years of age: The Equal Pay Act of Nebraska – prohibits discriminatory wage practices based on sex: The Nebraska Equal Opportunity in Education Act – prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex (including pregnancy) by any educational institution: Veterans Preference Law (Neb. Rev. Stat §§ 48-225 to 48-231) - stipulates categorical preferences for employment for military veterans and for the spouses of disabled veterans. Additional School Board policies prohibit harassment and/or discrimination against students, employees, or patrons on the basis of sex, race, color, ethnic or national origin, religion, marital status, disability, age, pregnancy, and any other legally prohibited basis. Retaliation for engaging in a protected activity is also prohibited. Any person who believes she or he has been discriminated against, denied a benefit, or excluded from participation in any district education program or activity may file a complaint using the district’s complaint procedures.

Inquiries regarding compliance with any of the laws referred to in this policy may be directed to the superintendent or to the district’s Title IX and/or Section 504/ADA Coordinator.

Fort Calhoun Community Schools use an automated system to notify families of emergencies or weather-related closings by call, text or e-mail. Make sure all your contact numbers are up-to-date by calling your child’s respective schools and let us know your preferred way of notification.



Volume 30 No 1Fort Calhoun Community SchoolsBack to School 2020

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT’S OFFICE

Welcome Back to School in a Time of Great Challenges and Opportunity.

Not what you expected as we start the school year, me either. Certainly we are faced with a challenging task when we think of starting school during a pandemic. As we know, time waits for no one and we must forge ahead and provide our students with an education. Providing a safe environment for all students and staff is our highest priority, providing our students with a high level and viable education is our greatest task. A task we do not take lightly, one that we have chosen to be our life's work. The teachers, support staff and administration are up for the challenge. We have worked hard to put together a plan that I believe gives our students their greatest chance at success in an incredibly difficult time.

Where is the opportunity in our current situation? I believe our opportunity is in our attitude, how we behave and support each other in a time of crisis; an opportunity to model character that supports each other, supports the plan and supports the system. It is an opportunity to teach perseverance, sacrifice and understanding. Preparing for the new school year has been challenging. Many people have spent their personal time working together to develop a Return to School Plan. This has never been done before, there is not a perfect plan and no one has all the answers. Decisions are being made based on the information available at that specific moment and it is ever changing. In order for us to be successful, we all need to embrace the challenge and support each other. Negativity only weakens the system. Please understand there is no way for us to satisfy all as we make decisions for the upcoming school year. We understand your varied concerns about health and safety, the importance of being in school, remote learning, daycare, and parents needing to work along with all of the other unknowns associated with the pandemic.

As we welcome students back to school I would like to thank you for your support as we work to provide a positive and safe environment for all students and staff.

Jerry Green
Superintendent
Fort Calhoun Community Schools

Visit our newly revamped website at www.fortcalhounschoools.org



Mr. Nick Wemhoff
Secondary Principal

Parents and students – with the new year, one thing will be certain, the new year comes with a lot of uncertainty. I ask that as the year progresses and things change, you support what we are doing. Please know that we are making decisions that we feel will put our students’ safety first. In the event that we cannot stay in school... communicate, communicate, and communicate. It will be a priority to let you know what we can, when we can. With that, welcome back to school!

Please visit with your child about the school expectations of wearing a mask when social distancing cannot be maintained. This is not just about protecting you and your family, but about protecting all our students, staff and families. We will require masks anytime social distancing cannot be maintained as guided by the CDC and Three Rivers Health Department. Teachers reserve the right to require students to wear masks in their classroom at any time as protection to themselves. Even though there will be times that students may not be required to wear masks, we highly encourage them to wear them for their own protection. A large determining factor, as of today, is whether your child is wearing a mask or not when in contact with the individual who tested positive. A mask being worn can and will significantly impact whether your child stays in school or cannot stay in school and for how long.

Please know that things change on a regular basis and that what you see before you can change at any given moment based on what is happening with COVID-19. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Together, we can make this a great year!

Jr-Sr High School
Pick Up/Drop Off Reminder

All students should be dropped off in the west parking lot and enter through the front doors.

Picking up students has a few more details. Picking up students during the school day should always be done in the west parking lot as they exit the front doors from the office. Please call when you arrive and the office will release the students as there are no visitors to the buildings at this time.

At the end of the school day all students who are being picked up will exit the South Doors to the south parking lot. This requires two very important pieces of information. 1. Pull all the way up in the pickup lane so cars don’t get stacked up and 2. If vehicles do get backed up PLEASE pull into a parking space so vehicles are not stopped on Lincoln St. Students can easily walk out to your vehicle. We have had complaints about traffic being stopped on Lincoln St. There is plenty of room in the parking lot for all the vehicles.

Thank you for your help with this.

Chrome Books are the 1:1 Device at the
Jr/Sr High School

Chrome Books will be distributed to students in the first few days of school. Information regarding the Chrome Books is in the Student/Parent Handbook posted on our website. For students and parents/guardians, the information is provided to help everyone understand the expectations and the responsibility of care and use related to receiving a Chrome Book.

The replacement costs for lost, stolen or destroyed
Chrome book: **\$260.00 full including charger; \$220.00 without need for charger; \$125.00 full screen; \$75.00 cracked screen; \$40.00 charger replacement.**

FOOD SERVICE
PRICES 2020-21

ELEMENTARY K-6

Student Breakfast	1.75
Adult Breakfast	2.50
Student Lunch	2.55
Seconds (2nd Entrée)	2.00
Second Lunch	2.55
Milk	0.50
Reduced Breakfast	.30*
Reduced Lunch	.40*
Adult Lunch	4.00

SECONDARY 7-12

Student Breakfast	2.25
Adult Breakfast	2.50
Student Lunch	2.90
Seconds (2nd Entrée)	2.25
Second Lunch	2.90
Milk	0.50
Reduced Breakfast	.30*
Reduced Lunch	.40*
Adult Lunch	4.00

* Required by Federal Legislation



Lunch benefit information will be sent home the first day of school. Please make sure your children have money in their account for meals. **Carryover benefits will run for 30 days until 10/1/20. If no application or information has been received by that date, students will be charged full price for meals beginning on 10/2/20. Benefits are not retroactive.** e-Funds and benefit information is also available on our website, www.fortcalhoun-schools.org. Paying for student meals and expenses online through e-funds is one way to follow WHO guidelines for “non-contact payments”.



Hey everyone, PFE misses you! We hope this finds you well and ready to tackle the new school year. Here’s an update on what has been going on within Pioneers for Education over the summer.

May was busy behind the scenes for Pioneers for Education! We were happy to assist the school with the necessary funds to help cover the cost of personalized signs for every 2020 graduating senior. PFE was also able to put extra funds toward the cost of summer bridge books this year, so that all who wanted a book were able to access one through placing an order with the elementary school. The school administrators requested assistance covering the cost of playground relocation and resurfacing and PFE was able to help with a large portion of the cost on that project as well. PFE provided cholarships for three 2020 graduates. Congratulations to Kennedy Bradburn, Sophia Irvine, and Kaden Therkildsen! Teacher Appreciation week happened the first week of May. PFE provided staff at all buildings with a token of our gratitude, and we arranged for gifts from families to be delivered to the classrooms for staff to pick up. The sidewalks were chalked as well! Many thanks to Joey Iwen for heading this event again, and for all the hard work during a year that made it challenging. We appreciate all who volunteered their time to help!

There are several new officers to welcome. Brad Earley is the new Vice President, Joey Iwen is the Secretary, and Shannon Pokorski is the new treasurer. Sarah Tinkham has moved positions and is now the PFE President. Ronee Christensen remains in the role of Communication Coordinator. We’d like to thank our outgoing officers for their hard work and dedication over the last 2 years. Denise Work, Michelle Dill, and Natalie Cummings, your time spent serving your school community is much appreciated!

Typically in our letter, we like to highlight the activities we are planning for the near future. Unfortunately due to COVID19 and following the guidelines that we have been given, there isn’t much to report. We have been and will continue to have our officer and public meetings. We will keep everyone posted on when those will be, and how to attend. Please be patient as we navigate alongside the school on what activities PFE will be able to provide for students and families this school year. We assure you we are in contact with school administrators, we are following their lead, and we will do as much as we can with the given circumstances.

Look for information to come home soon regarding our membership drive. This year will be one of the most important years to become a member and support PFE!

If you have any questions for us, please contact pioneersforeducation@gmail.com.

Summary of the School Immunization Rules and Regulations

Student Age Group	Required Vaccines
Ages 2 through 5 years enrolled in a school based program not licensed as a child care provider	4 doses of DTaP, DTP, or DT vaccine 3 doses of Polio vaccine 3 doses of Hib vaccine or 1 dose of Hib given at or after 15 months of age 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine 1 dose of MMR or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age 1 dose of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. 4 doses of pneumococcal or 1 dose of pneumococcal given on or after 15 months of age
Students entering school (Kindergarten or 1 st Grade depending on the school district's entering grade)	3 doses of DTaP, DTP, DT, or Td vaccine, one given on or after the 4 th birthday 3 doses of Polio vaccine 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine or 2 doses of adolescent vaccine if student is 11-15 years of age 2 doses of MMR or MMRV vaccine, given on or after 12 months of age and separated by at least one month 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. If the child has had varicella disease, they do not need any varicella shots.
Students entering 7 th grade	Must be current with the above vaccinations AND receive 1 dose of Tdap (contain Pertussis booster)
Students transferring from outside the state at any grade	Must be immunized appropriately according to the grade entered.



MR. ANDREW CHRISTENSEN
Assistant Principal/AD

As we get geared up for fall activities, please know we are dependent upon the NSAA, Three Rivers Health Department, and the NDE to establish our fall plans. Information continues to come and change, and we will communicate through the fall season. Our plans for junior high and high school activities will be released soon. Our coaches are going above and beyond to provide a safe environment for our students in the weight room, skill development, and practices. Fall high school activities will start on August 10th and junior high school activities will kickoff on August 24th. I want to remind parents of students who plan to participate in athletics next year 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.”

Activity passes will be available at the Fall Sports Kickoff on August 21st.
Passes are also available at activities and in the high school main office.
Elementary Student- \$20
Junior High/High School Student- \$30
Single Adult- \$50
Family Pass- \$110 (This includes: Mom, Dad, Children)

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
I'm excited for the new school year and look forward to having students fill our facilities again. This will be a unique school year to say the least. Our purpose is to create the safest environment possible for our students and athletes as we return to school. Let's keep an open mind, be prepared for change, and continue to grow this school year.

SEASON
ACTIVITY PASSES 2020-21***
Prices remain the same as 2019-20

Elementary Students K-6	\$20.00
Jr-Sr High 7-12	\$30.00
Each Adult	\$50.00
Family Pass (Immediate Family)	\$110.00

Individual Admission Prices – Varsity Home Contests
\$4.00 Students K-12
\$5.00 Adults

Individual Admission Prices – JV and Lower
\$2.00 Students K-12
\$3.00 Adults

Golden Age Conference Passes are available **FREE OF CHARGE** to any patron over 60 who requests one.

*****FORT CALHOUN SEASON PASSES DO NOT INCLUDE ADMISSION TO ANY CONFERENCE, DISTRICT OR STATE CONTEST HELD AT FORT CALHOUN OR THAT FORT CALHOUN MIGHT HOST.**



The mission of the Fort Calhoun Athletic Booster Club is to build and encourage school spirit, as well as positive partnerships among the student athletes, coaches, their families, the Fort Calhoun Community Schools and the Fort Calhoun community itself. These partnerships and teamwork are essential for:

- Improvement of the athletic programs.
- Promotion of sportsmanship and leadership.
- Setting high expectations and inspiring achievement at high levels.
- Assistance in the improvement of athletic equipment and facilities.

Visit the Booster Club tab on the schools' website for information about membership, apparel and activities to help support Fort Calhoun Student athletes.

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

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 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 also 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!

It's a great day to be a PIONEER!

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!

REMINDERS

- *First day of school is Thursday, August 20 with an 11:15am dismissal.
- *First day of preschool is Monday, August 24.



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!