



The Class C-1 District 3 2020 All District Football Team has been announced. **Dillon Dierks, Justin Myer, Clint Dierks,** and **Zane Schwarz** were named to the 1st Team. **Tristan Fuhrman, Jayce**

**Douchey, Jake Seina** and **Ty Hallberg** received Honorable Mention. Congrats on all your hard work!

### ***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.*



## Happenings

- 12/6 Community Drama One Act Play\*
  - 12/13 Jr-Sr High School Christmas Band Concert\*
  - 12/14 School Board Meeting
  - 12/17 Jr-Sr High School Christmas Vocal Concert\*
  - 12/22 End of 2nd Quarter/End of 1st Semester Early Dismissal
  - 12/22-26 NSAA Moratorium - No Activities
  - 12/23/20-1/4/21 Winter Break - No School
  - 12/25 Merry Christmas - Happy Holidays
  - 12/29-30 & 1/2 Boys/Girls Basketball Holiday Tourney\*
  - 1/1/21 HAPPY NEW YEAR
  - 1/5/21 School Resumes
- \*Restricted Admittance to be announced and activities in the new gym will be streamed free of charge on [nfhsnetwork.com](http://nfhsnetwork.com)

Visit our website at  
[www.fortcalhounschoools.org](http://www.fortcalhounschoools.org)



# The Fort Dispatch

Volume 30 No 4

Fort Calhoun Community Schools

December 2020

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

### **Reflection and Choices**

As we enter into the last stretch of first semester and as we enter the holiday seasons it seems fitting that we reflect back on this very different and difficult year. Hopefully we can be grateful for what we have. On March 11th we ended our school year. We were forced to remote learn, and school as we knew it has not been the same. As we entered summer the hope was this pandemic would run its course and we would have a normal start to the Fall. We soon found out that there would be nothing normal about the start of school. Many people worked hard to put together a plan so we could have in-person school. The next big question was whether or not we would be able to have activities. When the largest school district in the state canceled all activities it caused quite a stir but we were able to follow the guidelines set out by the NSAA and move forward with activities, although limitations were put in place.

More questions now surround school as we find ourselves in the midst of a spike and the holiday season. I don't have answers on what the rest of the school year will look like; we literally take it one day at a time. What I do know is that I am thankful for all the people who have worked so hard to keep us in school and to keep most of our activities going. It has not been a small feat. I am grateful for what we have been able to accomplish, hopeful for what is to come and ready to do whatever it takes to keep it going.

Over the next month, please take the time to reflect on what you have, don't spend a minute on what you don't; it takes all your energy and hope. Recognize the good, find the joy and be the best version of yourself. You deserve it and so do the people you surround yourself with. Be good to yourself and others. Choose Positivity.

Jerry Green  
Superintendent  
Fort Calhoun Community 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, all applicants must be notified one way or another by April 1st.

## 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.



### 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.



## Seasons Greetings



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

Greetings Pioneer Nation! The events/activities around the building may be limited, but we continue to stay busy with keeping our students safe, work as a team, attempt to eliminate learning gaps and prepare for what the future may hold. This has been a very stressful time in education for us. Trying to maintain a consistent environment during an inconsistent time impacts the entire environment for all involved. We are working hard everyday to stay proactive in our approach to keep all safe. I would like to elaborate on a few items of interest as we close out the fall season and head into the winter season.

The first item of interest is safety continues to be our #1 priority. The planning, preparation and implementation each day for our students to be safe and continue learning has been quite the challenge, however we feel the processes we have in place have been successful. We must work together and not create wedges in our relationship as we continue our journey this year. We cannot risk our relationship during this hardship. With that said, please continue to trust our educational process to keep your student safe. I promise you the time, effort and hard work is happening everyday within our school. Thank you for your continued support. Words cannot explain how much we appreciate your support.

Next, our construction project continues to stay on track (Shh...It's actually a head of schedule). If I say it in parenthesis then I won't jinx us. I hope that we continue to stay on track with the projected timeline. We could possibly occupy the new space as early as April. Let's all cross our fingers and hope for the best. We all know how construction can waiver from their timelines fairly quickly. Please continue to follow the elementary twitter account for updated photos of the progress. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

As we continue each day and move forward into unknown territory I want everyone to know we are working hard to ensure the next day is as great as the last. I want to say THANK YOU to my staff! Everyday has been a challenge and inconsistent. If you could see how well staff are functioning as a team during one of the hardest times in education you would be proud. I know I am! Please remember when our team is functioning at that high level that means we are keeping all safe with proactive conversations to brainstorming different ideas to ensure we keep our environment safe and positive.

We hope everyone continues to be safe and stay healthy. Thank you for your support. Have a positive day!

As usual, it's a GREAT day to be a PIONEER!

Your Proud Principal,  
Drew R. Wagner



12/13 Jr-Sr High School Christmas Band Concert\*

12/17 Jr-Sr High School Christmas Vocal Concert\*

\*Restricted Admittance to be announced and activities in the new gym will be streamed free of charge on nfhsnetwork.com

**Andrew Christensen**  
**Assistant Principal/AD**

For all Covid-19 guidance for home and away activities, please refer to our school website. Go to [fortcalhounschoo.org](http://fortcalhounschoo.org) – Pioneer Pride – Covid Resources- Click on the desired sport. Information is updated on a daily basis. You can also find Covid-19 guidance on the school activities twitter- @ftcactivities. Although every school will follow the Nebraska Directed Health Measures, each school will look a little different. For the most updated information, please visit our school website or check our activities twitter page on the day of the activity.

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.

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](http://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. The live stream is only in the new gym. We will play as many games in the new gym as possible, but some games will have to be played in the old gym without the live stream.

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

The current directed health measures will only allow "in house family members" to attend activities. "In house family members" will be put on a pass list for all home games. If a spectator is not on the pass list, that spectator will not be allowed entry into the event. Please be respectful to our Covid-19 guidelines as they are set by state directed health measures at this time. Thank you for your patience and understanding this winter. We want nothing more than a packed gym with family, friends, students, and community support for our programs. We will continue to keep our website and twitter account updated if things change.

Thank you,

Andrew Christensen  
Assistant Principal/AD

\*An addendum to this *Dispatch* includes the most current COVID guidelines for activities - *Spectator Winter COVID Guidelines*



MR. NICK WEMHOFF  
Principal

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 fortcalhounschoos.org. Go to “About, Board of Education, Policies” and scroll down to Policy 3057-Title IX.

Virtual Accreditation-Nebraska Frameworks

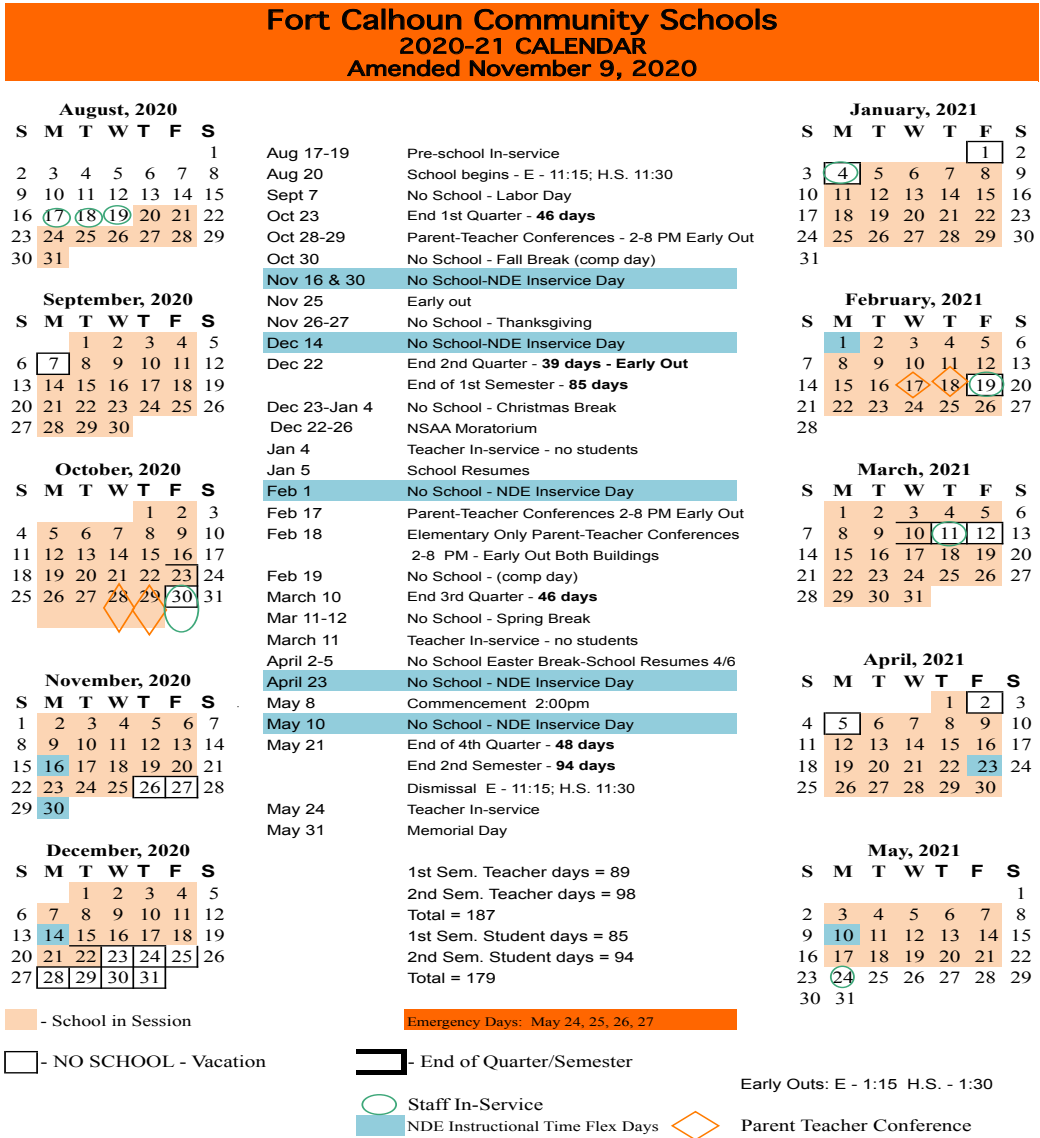
The state of Nebraska mandates each district in the state to be accredited and uphold a certain standard in educating students. The school district strives each year to continually improve our educational process to impact our learning environment. We recently transitioned from an accreditation with Cognia to Nebraska Frameworks. The transitioned happened with the idea of what platform fits our culture the best. Nebraska Frameworks is our state’s accreditation process. We are fortunate to have a virtual accreditation on Wednesday, December 2. A team of Nebraska educators will perform this visit through conversation, interviews and artifacts. Once this process is complete we will share our results through our website under the school improvement tab. Thank you for your continued support during a hard time.

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.

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.



Hello from Pioneers for Education!

On November 6th, PFE was able to host the annual Walk-A-Thon! November 6th was a lovely day for the students to be outside walking with their classrooms and teachers. Over \$6,600 was raised! This was under our goal, but regardless we were amazed and appreciative of the generosity and support during the middle of a pandemic.

PFE held our public meeting via Zoom on November 16th. The PFE officers, administrators, and a few community members attended. Our next public meeting will be held in January. We hope to see you there, either in person or on Zoom. Look for our announcements on our Facebook page and the school website, regarding meeting time and location.

Many thanks to all who are supporting Pioneers for Education through volunteering, Membership commitment, and Corporate Sponsorship. We haven’t been able to host all our typical events this year, but we have been able to do many awesome things behind the scenes such as fulfilling staff requests, providing staff support, and rewarding elementary students for participating in Spirit Fridays.

If you have any questions or ideas for PFE, please reach out to us at [pioneersforeducation@gmail.com](mailto:pioneersforeducation@gmail.com).

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