

Fort Calhoun Elementary

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Fort Calhoun, NE 68023

Your Principal: Mr. Drew R. Wagner

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Batter up! In the game of baseball it's not about the score after each inning. It's about the score at the end of the game. I would like to invite you to walk with me through this analogy of what this has looked like this school year. We started in the minor leagues and we transition to the majors with dedication, positivity, and teamwork. Here we go! Play ball!

Spring Training. Getting ready to start a school year with appropriate resources to assist students was a priority. It was not necessarily about the practice that needed to happen. It was about the different preparation we had to accomplish to take on the next level of competition (COVID). We did not know what this year was going to look like, but we trained to take on this challenge and win.

First Inning-Fourth Inning (First and second quarter). The school year started with many changes. Changes that we all wanted to run from and steal the next base hoping that base was a better place to be. Instead we did not steal because we made decisions based off of research, best practice and being safe. We are always trying to protect our team by equipping them with the best helmet and gear to come to the plate and get a hit. These innings are key to a successful start that builds positive momentum into the middle of the year. Success is not given it is earned by a dedicated team of professionals that take their job serious everyday.

Fifth-Ninth Inning (Third and going into fourth quarter). As we entered the third quarter the hope of change came to fruition. That hard work for a positive change started to come together. We started to get a few more runs in and change the momentum of the game. We are finally starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel. All that hard work, positivity, and dedication is paying off. You know what else is paying off, the team's training and growth mindset. Our bats are on fire! The runs are pouring in like a summer thunderstorm. As we swing into the eighth and ninth inning that same mindset will safely get us to the climax of our game. We will end this game (school year) even stronger than we started it. Our resiliency and grit to change will continue to move us to the winner circle.

Get ready for one of the biggest wins in history!!! That is what we do! Then be ready to repeat history with the hard work we have in front of us.

With this analogy aside I wanted to provide a few more updates that are happening around the building.

-Gymnasium Update. The students occupied this new space on Monday, March 15. I wish we had a photograph of each student as they entered the new space. It was priceless!

-Spring Music Concert Update. After researching area schools and seeking feedback we have decided to hold a virtual music concert. Mrs. Geisler and Ms.

Bryan will be creating a virtual concert to post to classroom teachers communication platforms by April 15. Be on the look out for this unique experience.

-Field Day. This event is still in discussion. More to come soon.

Thank you for your support during this time. It truly enhances the learning environment for our students. Let's continue to gain the biggest wins in history as we move forward. We appreciate you!

Your Proud Principal,
Drew R. Wagner

**A
positive
attitude
will get
you
anywhere!**



What's going on in the classrooms?

Early childhood - Mrs. Royuk

This winter the preschoolers have been learning about hibernation, transportation and eating and keeping our bodies healthy. Students made and tested paper airplanes. Then measured to see how far they flew. When talking about our bodies, preschoolers looked at x-rays and created their own skeleton. The preschoolers have also been busy practicing writing their name. We are looking forward to the spring!

Kindergarten - Miss Hall, Miss Shupe & Mrs. Leifeld

Reading:

Weekly Concepts: How Does Your Garden Grow? Trees, Fresh From the Farm, The Four Seasons, What's The Weather? Stormy Weather, Baby Animals, Pet Pals, Animal Habitats, On the Move, My USA, Growing Up, Good Citizens, Our Natural Resources, Problem Solvers, Sort it Out, Protect our Earth

Essential Questions: What do living things need to grow? How do living things change as they grow? What kinds of things grow on a farm? How are the seasons different? What happens in different kinds of weather? How can you stay safe in bad weather? How are some animals alike and how are they different? How do you take care of different kinds of pets? Where do animals live? What can help you go from here to there? What do you know about our country? How can you help out at home? How can you be a good citizen? How can things in Nature be used to make new things? What can happen when we work together? In what ways are things alike? How are they different? What ideas can you suggest to protect the environment?



Vocabulary: require, plant, develop, amazing, fresh, delicious, weather, seasons, predict, temperature, safe, and prepare, appearance, behavior, responsibility, train, habitat, and wild, transportation, vehicle, country, travel, chores, contribute, citizen, respect, natural resources, create, decide, opinion, sort, similar, environment, and protect

High Frequency Words: my, are, he, with, is, little, she, was, for, have, they, of, said, want, here, me, this, what, help, too, play, has, where, look, who, good, come, does

Phonics: h, e, f, r, b, l, initial k and final ck, u, g, w, x, v, j, qu, y, z, long a, long i, long o, long u, long e

Category words: size words, tree parts, fruits and vegetables, seasons, weather words, question words, animal parts, pets, animal homes, vehicles, ordinal numbers, household furniture, farm animals, food made from grain, question words, opposites, names of baby animals

Comprehension: character setting, events, key details in sequence, main topic and key details, key details in sequence, key details, compare and contrast, cause and effect, sequence

Math:

More Addition and Subtraction
Count Numbers to 20
Compose and Decompose Numbers 11-19
Identify and describe shapes
Analyze, compare, and create shapes
Describe and compare measurable attributes

Science

Sunlight
Earth's Weather
Needs of living things
Environments

Social Studies:

Geography of a Neighborhood
Time and Chronology
Learning about the past

**Engaging + Learning
+ Achieving
= Productive
PIONEERS!**

1st grade - Mrs. Spellerberg, Mrs. Rohrich & Mrs. Weingaertner

Reading

The first graders have been reading words with long vowel patterns.

Grammar

Students have been using verbs in the present and past tense.

Math

The first graders have completed units in money and measurement. They are now learning about time to the hour and half hour.

Science

The first graders are learning about weather.

Social Studies

Students are learning about the geography of a community.

2nd grade - Mrs. Hallberg & Miss Schulenberg

Language Arts

- *Comprehension skill – Problem & Solution
- *Silent Letters – Variant Vowels Patterns (ow, ou, oi, oy, au, aw)
- *Vocab strategies – Contractions & Homophones
- *Pronouns & Possessive Pronouns
- *Idioms – “easy as pie,” “it’s raining cats and dogs”

Math

- *Place Value to the thousands
- *3-Digit Addition strategies with Regrouping
- *Subtracting and adding 3-digit numbers with regrouping
- *MEMORIZE FACTS

Social Studies

- *Heroes – Civil Rights, Women’s Rights, Worker’s Rights, etc.

Science

- *Earth’s Water and Land
- *Earth’s Processes – How the Earth Changes Quickly and Slowly

Thank you for attending Parent Teacher Conferences! We thoroughly enjoy these conversations with you about all the progress and wonderful things your students are doing! We are looking forward to these next 3 months as we continue to prepare the kids for the big step up to 3rd grade!

3rd grade - Mrs. Benoit, Mrs. Szlachetka & Mrs. Hodson **“Pioneer Strong”**

3rd Grade state assessment, NSCAS, will be given April 25-28.

3rd Grade Dibels will be given April 26-30

3rd Grade NWEA will be given May 3-7.

Math:

- We can memorize our multiplication and division facts
- We can find equivalent fractions
- We can recognize fractions and their value
- *Check with your child to see if they have memorized the multiplication and division facts.

Reading:

- We can use context clues to understand meanings of words
- We can tell the main idea and details in a reading passage
- We can answer questions about informational texts
- We can make predictions while reading
- We can identify the problem and solution in a story
- We can identify the cause and effect in passages and stories
- We can use text features to help us comprehend a story
- We can understand figurative language to help us comprehend

Grammar:

- We can identify verbs, nouns, adjectives and adverbs

Social Studies:

- We can explain the Westward Movement

Science:

- We can study Life Cycles



4th grade - Mrs. Omer & Mrs. Schleifer

This winter, the fabulous fourth graders studied our state history from 1500-1900. We became experts on the explorers, fur traders and pioneers that traveled West. Spring will bring all the lessons we'll need to wrap up our wonderful state of Nebraska! With Nebraska's birthday on March 1st, we will continue studying what makes our state so unique in the coming months.

Math has included multiplication, division, problem solving and fractions everywhere! In the spring we will begin practicing our time, money and algebra skills. As always, these skills are aligned to the Nebraska state standards. Spiral review helps keep all skills fresh.

Our fourth graders practiced their summarizing, cause/effect, idioms, genre, point of view, Greek and Latin roots, and vocabulary skills in Language Arts. Comparing texts and author's point of view keeps everyone thinking!

Our little scientists have been busy learning about Earth's features. As we wrap up our topics learning all about our planet Earth, we'll finish the year with the different systems of the human body. Looking forward to all the fun we'll have while learning about these important topics!



5th grade - Miss Carlson, Mrs. Romans & Mrs. Beacom

The fifth graders continue to work hard! It is hard to believe we are almost three quarters of the way to sixth grade.

In math we have learned how to multiply and divide whole numbers, fractions, and mixed numbers. Next up, we will study volume, area, perimeter, and customary and metric units of length, weight, and capacity.

In language arts, we have been studying pronouns and how to use them correctly in our writing. We have also learned about independent and dependent clauses and how to combine them to create complex sentences. We have been reading expository (informational) text, realistic fiction, and biographies. Soon we will be studying folklore genres including fairy tales, folktales, fables, legends, and myths. We will also be learning more about figurative language.

In Social Studies, we have been studying about the American Revolution and the events which led up to it. We will soon be learning about our young country.

In Science, the fifth graders are wrapping up the Solar System unit with their models. Next up we will be studying Patterns in Space.

The fifth graders continue to work on various writing projects. Copies of most can be found in their google drives. Most recently, we wrote informational paragraphs about each of the planets to go along with what we are studying in science.

Stay safe! Bring on the nice weather!
Mrs. Beacom, Miss Carlson, & Mrs. Romans

6th grade - Mr. Smith, Mr. Mallette & Mr. Teeter

We had another great experience with Student-Led Conferences with an attendance of 92%, woohoo! Be looking for a survey from Mr. M in regards to your experiences with this style of conferences compared to traditional. We hope this has opened the door for you to have conversations with your student about their learning.

Math is finishing up percentages and will be progressing into area and volume. Please keep encouraging your student to practice multiplying fractions and decimals. Pi Day falls on a Sunday this year, I am planning on having blueberry pie and pizza pie...what will your circular dinner plans be?

ELA we have been continuing to work through our Reading Wonders books. The students have just finished reading historical fiction, and an expository text and dramas in reading. They are now progressing on to free-verse poetry. While we keep working through our reading genre other items being focused on are pronouns, verb tenses, and how they work and agree with each other. In the aspect of writing we are still working on being able to summarize what was read and paraphrasing including their voice. We are looking at another possible essay project in the fourth quarter.

In the world of science, we have wrapped up our time with the Human Body and Cellular studies. Have some conversations with your student in regards to these topics to just review from this past quarter and the entire year. Our next units of study will be over different types of energy. The "BIG" project to come for this quarter will be the creation of a Rube Goldberg Machine. Information about this project will be sent out down the road by Mr. M via email. Keep asking your student about what is happening in science every day to understand the fun, but educational, activities we do!

For social studies, we have transitioned from the kingdoms of Egypt and Kush to the Indus River Valley Civilization and on our way to Ancient China and the Mediterranean region.....we have built up a lot of frequent flyer miles! Here is a quote from an Ancient Chinese philosopher we will be studying, "When you are content to be simply yourself and don't compare or compete, everybody will respect you." -- Lao-Tzu

From the Nurse's Office: Sara Ruma RN and Sara Ruthven RN

March is National Nutrition Month! It's so important to keep our kids healthy so they can give their best everyday.

Try "Live, 5,4,3,2,1 + 10" it is as an easy guide for keeping us healthy:

5 servings of fruits and vegetables- eat a rainbow everyday!

4 glasses of water- choose water, low-fat milk, or 100% juice when you are thirsty instead of sugary drinks.

3 good laughs- share a funny story or joke with a friend. Laughing and giggling adds to your happiness.

2 hours or less of screen time- turn off the TV and step away from the computer. Read a book, play a game or spend time outside.

1 hour of physical activity- move your body at least one hour every day.

10 hours or more of sleep- get plenty of sleep each night to be ready for school and play.

From the School Counselor:

We are currently working on our bullying unit. Grades PK-2nd are focusing on bullying behavior- anything that hurts your body, feelings, things, or scares you. We have been reading books, watching videos, and acting out different situations. The upper grades have focused on different types of bullying. They have sorted out bullies, developed role plays, and created anti bullying commercials. They are working diligently.

Mrs. Adams

High Ability Learners (HAL)

The HAL students are currently working on a variety of projects that are focused on critical thinking, creative thinking, problem-solving, collaborating, and communicating. Students are learning about the science of flight with drones while building drones from scratch, aerospace physicians while 3D printing a rib for astronauts, cartoonists, FBI agents, CSI, and computer programming with code.org and EV3 robots. Students continue to tackle challenges and have breakthroughs along the way. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding our HAL program. **Mr. PJ Mallette**



Behavior Interventionist (BI)

As we continue to focus on 4 to 1 positive to negative feedback with students our goal to help set students up for success is being met in a variety of ways. With that being said I'd like to highlight our behavior flowchart that is our school-wide model for handling behaviors. There are 3 levels to this flowchart. Level 1 is when classroom teachers handle specific behaviors. Teachers ask what are you doing, what should you do, and then have the student model the expected behavior. Level 2 is for repetitive behaviors and a little more severe behaviors. That is when teachers get me involved and we problem-solve through the situation. Level 3 is severe behaviors that go straight to Mr. Wagner. That is a quick outline of the consistent format on how Fort Calhoun Elementary works with behaviors. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding our flowchart. **Mr. PJ Mallette**

Hello sunshine!! With our warm-up and cool-down walks to and from the community building, it's been so nice to have some sunshine along the way. The students have done a fantastic job at adjusting to our new PE routine. Please remind your students to wear tennis shoes to school or bring them to change into when they get to PE. Snow boots make it very hard for students to run and jump safely. I appreciate your help with this!

Recently, we finished up with our jump rope unit. We were able to work with long and short jump ropes, hula hoops, and chinese jump ropes to practice our jump roping skills. The Chinese jump rope is a new activity I learned about a couple years ago. It's like a giant rubber band that goes around the ankles of 2 people. The third person in the middle performs a series of jumps and turns to a pattern. The kids love it and are great at it!

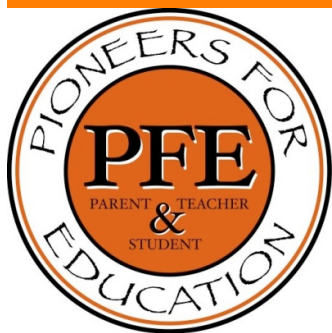
We incorporated the Kid's Heart Challenge into our jump roping unit. WOW, what an awesome year we had with that. It was our best yet! We crushed our goal of \$7,567 with a grand total of \$11,991.33! Not only did we learn about how to keep our hearts healthy, but we were able to help others in need and earn money towards new PE equipment. I am so proud of my kids!

Up next will be our Pioneer Fitness Challenge for grades 4-6. They will get to perform in 5 different challenges: push-ups, sit-ups, sit & reach, wall sits, and the pacer test. Each student will have their own goal to work towards, but ultimately we are learning how to set personal goals, try our best, and encourage our teammates along the way. The kids enjoy this Fitness Challenge and I love to see their efforts as well.

Thanks for all your support!
Mrs. Rutledge

PFE NEWS

Greetings from Pioneers for Education! During this time of social distancing, capacity limits, and cancelling of typical PFE events due to COVID-19, the officer team finds ourselves extra excited about what we can provide! PFE is very happy we were able to work with Mr. HighHorse to provide the Art After School program, for students grade 3-6th. In February, the participating 3rd and 4th graders had their turn learning and creating. They created awesome artwork that was able to be displayed in the Elementary School's achievement cases. The 5th and 6th grade students who registered will be receiving their instruction during the month of March. Thank you to Mr HighHorse and Mrs Rutledge for working with PFE to provide this wonderful program to students! Many thanks to Pioneers for Education President Sarah Tinkham for working hard to get this program up and running again this year.



Unfortunately, PFE officers and school administrators have officially decided PFE will be unable to host the annual Spring Carnival this school year. PFE is brainstorming other options and hoping to be able to plan an end of the school year spring event for families. Stay tuned for information regarding that event.

The Officer team has continued having monthly meetings. During our meetings we've had teachers from the Elementary and High School in attendance making requests, and letting us know exciting things they are planning and hoping for within their classrooms. PFE has been able to help fund a few of these projects and is happy to be able to help make learning even better for students at the Fort.

The next Pioneers for Education meeting will be held Monday, March 15th at 6:30pm. Please show your support and attend the meeting! PFE can be reached at pioneersforeducation@gmail.com.

Your Officer Team,

Sarah Tinkham- President

Brad Earley- Vice President

Shannon Pokorski- Treasurer

Joey Iwen- Secretary

Ronee Christensen- Communication Coordinator

**FORT CALHOUN
ELEMENTARY**

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**WE'RE ON THE
WEB!
VISIT OUR NEW
WEBSITE:**

**[www.fortcalhoun
schools.org](http://www.fortcalhounschools.org)**

REMINDER

All Fridays during the year are early outs. The Elementary will dismiss students at 1:15 pm.

Upcoming events:

April 2-5: No School

April 23: Staff Only Day/No School for Students
Kindergarten Round Up

May 21: Last Day of School 11:15 Dismissal

****All dates are subject to change. Also refer to our district master calendar for all other dates.**



Foster Learning in an inspiring and caring environment, provide

Opportunities For All Students to be successful, instill the attributes of

Respect and Responsibility among staff and students alike, and present students with the

Tools to Succeed in life.

Our Purpose:

Engaging + Learning + Achieving = Productive PIONEERS!