

Fort Calhoun Community Schools
Box 430
Fort Calhoun, Nebraska 68023

NonProfit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Fort Calhoun, NE 68023
Permit #4



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.



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 and let us know your preferred way of notification.

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.

Volume 31 No 1Fort Calhoun Community SchoolsBack to School 2021

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT’S OFFICE

BACK TO SCHOOL HAS NEVER SOUNDED SO GOOD

As we reflect on the start of school last year, ok, let’s not. As we look forward to start of school this year it is awesome to say it will look and feel like it is supposed to. Smiling faces, high energy and an excitement to see all our friends and teachers. I hear the phrase a “return to normalcy” in many conversations. As a former history teacher I have to take a minute and let you know where that phrase originated. During the 1920 presidential election this was Warren G. Harding’s campaign slogan. It was in reference to return to the way things were before WWI. Love me some history.

As we reference a return to normalcy, it is an exciting time, getting back to school the way we know it. Students, staff and families will again get to experience events like Back to School Night, athletic events without restrictions, providing instruction that doesn’t require six feet of separation, along with many other items. With that being said, let me offer words of caution, COVID isn’t over. We are still bound by federal law, state mandates and health directives. Currently we do not have any state mandates or health directives that require us to use preventative measures. Certainly there are recommendations, which we are aware of and will evaluate as we start our school year. The CDC can still mandate from the federal level so we have to be aware of their actions. Any changes to our plan will be communicated immediately; as for now we are certainly planning on a return to normalcy. Side Note: We will have hand sanitizer located around the buildings and daily cleaning will remain a priority.

One last item to keep in mind, the school food program will again be offering free breakfast and lunch for the upcoming year thanks to the federal government. It is important to remember this only counts for their first breakfast and lunch, not seconds. It also doesn’t apply to milk for cold lunch students or ala carte items at the Jr/Sr High. I would strongly encourage those who qualify for the free and reduce program to fill out the paperwork. The program extends beyond breakfast and lunch and can help differ costs in other areas as well.

In just a few short weeks we will begin school. I am grateful to be in our current situation, as we know it can be very different. Back to school never sounded so good. I am looking forward to seeing everyone during the upcoming year and have high expectations for Fort Calhoun Community Schools.

See you soon.

Jerry Green, Superintendent
Fort Calhoun Community Schools



Mr. Nick Wemhoff
Secondary Principal

I want to welcome you all back to school for the 2021-2022 school year! The sights and sounds of school are infectious; laughter between friends, the “silence” and the “buzz” of an engaged classroom, the excitement as students enter the lunch room, and the sounds of Fall sports in full swing - shoes squeaking, bats ringing, pads thumping, and people cheering. These, among the many other sights and sounds of school, are what I have come to love and cherish about the job I get to do every day.

I hope each and every one of you are as excited as I am to start the new year. A new school year brings with it a world of possibilities. The ability to build upon successes you have already begun, the opportunity to right the wrong with a fresh start, and the freedom to move your life in the direction you want to go. I am optimistic that each of you will find some part of school that is, or will be, relevant to your current passion and purpose in life.

This is usually the time we start to talk about setting goals for yourself and thinking about how you want your year to go. However this year, I am going to approach this a little differently. Rather than talking about you setting your own goals (which you should), here are some of my wishes for you this year.

May your smiles be big and your friendships be plentiful. Smiling is contagious and easy, so please, share it often. Thus, in the likely event that anyone should have a bad day, share your smile and offer the gift of friendship. The older you get, the more you realize that friendship is the currency which makes life fulfilling.

May you understand that success is not attainable without failure. It is through failure that you have the ability to learn what it means to be successful. It is my hope that you are challenged academically, compelled to grasp the concept of time management, and pushed long enough and hard enough to find out that everyone, even you, has a second wind.

May you realize the importance of action. Denzel Washington once said, “words without action are just words”. It is one thing to say you are going to do something, it is another to actually do what you said you were going to do. Leadership, responsibility, loyalty, courageousness, willpower, and optimism all require action, some more than others. One thing is for certain, success will not come to those who wait.

I cannot wait to see you all back soon. Until then, enjoy what you have left of your summer!

“The best way to predict your future is to create it.” Abraham Lincoln

Jr-Sr High School Pick Up/Drop Off

All students should be dropped off in the west parking lot and enter through the front doors. Be considerate of our buses as this is also the bus drop-off area.

Picking up students during the school day should always be done in the west parking lot as they exit from the office. Students may meet you in the parking lot.

At the end of the school day **all students** who are being picked up will **exit the south doors to the south parking lot**.
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, pull into a parking space so vehicles are not stopped on Lincoln Street as we have had complaints about traffic being stopped on the street. There is plenty of room in the parking lot for all the vehicles. After practices parents should park in the west lot not on the drive. This lot has traffic and the front drive is a bus lane
and an emergency area which should not be used.

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 price including charger; \$220.00 without need for charger; \$125.00 full screen; \$75.00 cracked screen; \$40.00 charger replacement.

Welcome Back Pioneers and families!



The PFE officer team is looking forward to this school year with excitement and hope in our hearts. We are working with the amazing staff of Fort Calhoun Community Schools to bring back many of the events that students and families enjoy. Stay tuned for updates as more details become available.

PFE will be at Back to School Night!

Please stop by and see us. Membership forms will be available and we will be happy to answer any questions. Pioneers For Education (PFE) is a parent, teacher, and community driven organization. Each member’s level of involvement is up to them, every level helps move us forward. We have found that when new voices and veteran voices come together the conversation and ideas flow. That is when PFE is the most effective and creates the greatest good for our students!

The annual Walk-a-Thon fundraiser will be kicking off soon. Keep an eye out for more details. The first Pioneers For Education Meeting will be Monday, August 23rd at 6:30pm in the High School Library. PFE can be reached at pioneersforeducation@gmail.com. Follow Pioneers For Education on Facebook for fun updates, pictures of events, and other exciting news.

It’s going to be a great school year!

Your Officer Team,
Brad Early- President; Shannon Pokorski- Treasurer;
Joey Iwen- Secretary; Nicole Duros- Communication Coordinator

SCHOOL DISTRICT CENSUS

We are growing and to be prepared we continually maintain a census of all our residents to determine future needs.

Please help us with our child count by reporting your children up to 18 years old. If you have not already notified us or there has been a change in your household, call the District office at 402-468-5591 with your information. If you have new neighbors pass this on to them. We would like to hear from you whether you have school-age children or not so we may keep everyone up-to-date with District information.

FORT CALHOUN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
DISTRICT CENSUS RECORD

Resident: Last _____ First _____ Mailing Address: _____ Zip _____

Spouse _____ Residence Address: (if different) _____

Occupation _____ County _____ Phone # _____

He/She _____

Other Adults Living at Same Address _____

Date _____ For Office Use Only _____ Census ID # _____

| NAME OF CHILD/SOC. SEC. # (Birth to 21 Years) | ID # | SEX M F | DATE OF BIRTH MM/DD/YY | PLACE OF BIRTH CITY/STATE |
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Rev 6/2010

FOOD SERVICE
2021-22

The USDA is allowing School Food Associations to operate in the same manner as 2020-21. All schools will provide **FREE** meals to all students grades K-12



in 2021-22. Please remember that it is only the first meal

that is free. Any milk, a la carte, seconds or second meals are charged at the regular rate. These prices remain the same as 2020-21 and are found on the schools’ website under “School” and “Food Service”. We also ask that if you think you qualify for meal benefits to fill out the application in the same area of the website and submit it to your school’s principal. This information can be used for additional benefits for the schools, students and families. The schools will prepare all meals using the Federal meal patterns which emphasize a renewed focus on providing nutritious meals to best support students’ learning.

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. |

Source: Nebraska Immunization Program, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. For additional information, call 402-471-6423.

MR. ANDREW CHRISTENSEN
Assistant Principal/AD

Pioneers,

I hope you're all having a great summer and looking forward to the upcoming school year.

Sports physicals need to be completed and turned into the main office for all incoming 7-12 athletes before athletes may participate and compete. Athletes will not be able to participate in any activities starting August 9, 2021 without a sports physical. The sports physical must take place after May 1 2021 to qualify them for the 2021-2022 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."

Parental Consent Forms must also be turned into the main office before any athlete may participate in their activity. Parental Consent Forms can be found on the first page of the Fort Calhoun Activities Handbook. Coaches from each activity will hand all athletes the handbook before the first day of practice. Signed forms can be returned to your coach or main office.

Monday, August 9th- First high school practice
• Cross Country, Football, Softball, Volleyball

Monday, August 23rd- First junior high practice
• Cross Country, Football, Volleyball

Activity passes will be available at the Fall Sports Kickoff on August 20st. Prices remain the same as 2020-21. 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)

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

A live streaming system will be offered through nfhsnetwork.com again this year. 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. Our purpose is to create the safest environment possible for our students and athletes as we return to school. Let's have a great year!

Mr. Christensen

PIONEER FOUNDATION IS ON THE MOVE

The new Pioneer Foundation has been busy setting up, getting organized and serving our community. One of the first orders of business is revamping the Alumni Association. An "Alumni Homecoming Weekend" is coming in September in conjunction with Homecoming and will take place September 24-26. Information is on the schools' website, fortcalhounschools.org under "Community Organizations". Activities planned are a golf tournament, barbeque, Corn hole tournament, sand volleyball tournament, Knights of Columbus pancake feed, school tours and health screenings. Contact information is also available on the schools' website and their Facebook page.

Pioneer Foundation Golf Tournament

Date: September 25, 2021

Check in time: High Noon

Start time: 1pm

Location: River Wilds Golf Course
Blair, NE



All proceeds will be donated to the Fort Calhoun Community Schools Foundation, but more importantly, this is gonna be one heckuva good time!

Sign up on fortcalhounschools.org under "Community Organizations"

You may also sign up for the Alumni Association at the same location

ELEMENTARY NEWS MR. WAGNER, MR. MALLETT

UNITED WE LEARN!

Celebrate! The welcome back letter to school is here! With that said, I understand the question the majority of us are thinking, "Where did the summer go?" As usual the summer finds us in a state of euphoria. I believe that is why it goes by so fast. As the days officially get shorter the joyful sounds of the school year start knocking on the door. Traditionally, when someone or metaphorically is knocking on the door we open the door with a greeting. Officially this is me knocking on the door to each and every one of you. I sure hope everyone opens the door with a polite greeting and smile...=). Welcome to the 2021-22 school year!

There are two important themes I am going to carry over from last year in my welcome back message. No, it's not temp checks or lunch in the classrooms. Actually it is team approach and opportunities. Life is full of opportunity. Speaking of knocking on the door. I must admit the knocks were loud and interrupting, but the opportunities that were behind those knocks intentionally encouraged personal/team growth. At the time of the metaphorical knocks we found ourselves in an internal battle to do what is best for our students. Honestly, that internal struggle was very challenging to ensure our team was coming together during a time of chaos. However, those knocks on the door are not going away. We all have heard the good old saying, when opportunity knocks you listen and open the door. We don't know what is behind that door. What we do know is we are going to work harder and smarter with learning from our experiences. Remember opportunity continues to be a life long learners journey. My staff is a role model of this statement. My hopes, as your leader (near or far), we take the time to absorb these opportunities TOGETHER! Positive or negative...No matter what! I know our school theme this coming year is United We Learn. When we are united we will prosper together. The fact of the matter is if we don't work together this year we will not prosper or maximize our environment for students or our environment. It's time to maximize our talents and continue to work hard. The opportunities for US to succeed depend on our trust and positive outlook! Do we want to be GREAT OR OUTSTANDING? We decide that outcome together. I look forward to seeing you all soon.

-A message from your interim principal, PJ Mallette:

Greetings! I hope you all are having a great summer! As we are gearing up for the 2021-22 school year, I wanted to reach out and tell those who don't know me, a little bit about myself. As most of you know, I will be the interim principal for this school year starting in September. I have been at Fort Calhoun for the past eight years in a variety of roles, most recently I have held the positions of HAL (High- ability learners) Coordinator and Behavioral Interventionist. I'm thrilled to work in a new capacity this year while looking at the school from a different lens. My intention is to support students, staff, and families during this interim period. Our focus is student success and I want to ensure that by building relationships with families and creating a two-way street of communication. With that being said, I want to personally welcome everyone to the 2021-22 school year! I look forward to seeing you at Back to School Night.

COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS

The school strives to ensure there is adequate communication during every school year. There are several different avenues the school will communicate with you. Please see below.

*District's website, District's Facebook page, Elementary twitter account, School messenger (Email, text and phone call), Newsletters, Seesaw, Canvas, Staff email, Thursday folders (digital), and the good old fashion marquee...=).

To assist us with this process please ensure your contact information is current in powerschool. If any of your information changes please contact the office. Lastly, we will be using each of these platforms to communicate with you throughout the school year.

--Morning drop off areas were outlined in the Back to School Letter. Just be mindful there will be a staff member on duty at each entrance, and at 7:30 in front of the building. Also during inclement/cold weather students will come into the building as soon as they are dropped off.

--First day of preschool is Monday August 16th. Morning Session: 8:00 - 11:15 AM; Afternoon Session: 11:50AM to 3:05 PM. Tuition payments are due the 20th of the month beginning in September.

WELCOME BACK NIGHT - To Kickoff the 2021-22 School Year

August 11th 5-7PM Fort Calhoun Elementary

Bring: School Supplies and a Positive Attitude

For Staff, Parents/Guardians, Principal and Especially Students

Come introduce yourself to your new teacher. We look forward to showing off our new building.