



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Could You Imagine...

I would like to take a minute to tell all our parents and fans how much we appreciate your support. Parenting is a lot like teaching and coaching. We both have the best intentions in mind and do our very best for our children, students, and teams. Never would we do something that would cause intentional harm or distrust. All three jobs are extremely difficult, and many times require the positive support of others, the whole “it takes a village” concept. It is that very concept that allows our programs and children to grow in a positive manner. When they see and hear positive interaction, positive support between parents, teachers and coaches, wow, what a great life lesson. Make no mistake, I realize that not all is wonderful, but can’t we take that and teach another great lesson? Take care of adult issues behind closed doors and don’t air dirty laundry in public. I love a passionate positive fan, one that supports all the athletes, the cheerleaders, and coaches. Could you imagine the positive energy being distributed by the fans and cheerleaders to a team as they stood in unison chanting loudly, GO BIG C, GO BIG C, GO BIG C.

We recently received an email from that state about the shortage of officials, umpires, and referees. This is not just a Nebraska problem but one that is impacting sports all over the nation. Games are being moved to nights they wouldn’t normally play because they can’t find officials. The emailed explained that COVID has had some impact, but the reality is that officials are tired of all the negativity from coaches, players, and fans. Let’s be part of the solution and not part of the problem. We need more positivity in the world. I love to attend competition where players give their best effort, coaches work their hearts out and the fans cheer for great plays and support all players, coaches, and officials. I understand not every call is going to bring us joy and celebration, but it doesn’t have to bring negativity or rude and unnecessary ridicule. Rise above and be the positive example as we chant loudly, GO BIG C.

Thank you to all our positive, supportive fans who cheer on the great student athletes and coaches at Fort Calhoun.

Jerry Green  
Superintendent  
Fort Calhoun Community Schools



WELCOME TO FORT CALHOUN

Our community is growing and we want 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.



HAPPENINGS

- 10/8FCYSO Night @ Football vs DC West
- 10/11School Board Meeting  
Columbus Day
- 10/13Picture Retakes
- 10/18-22Elementary Book Fair
- 10/20-21Parent Teacher Conferences
- 10/22End of First Quarter  
**NO SCHOOL**
- 10/23State Marching Band - Lincoln
- 10/31 Happy Halloween

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 yearly each June 1st. If you have any questions contact Mr. Andrew Christensen at 402-468-5591.

OPTION ENROLLMENT 2022-23

The Option Enrollment application period for the 2022-23 school year is now open through March 15, 2022. 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 the other by April 1st. Applicants are taken on a first-come, first-serve basis.



## FORT CALHOUN JR-SR HIGH SCHOOL RECEIVES NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON HONORS

Five Nebraska schools have been named as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2021. The U.S. Department of Education recognized the five Nebraska schools for overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. **Fort Calhoun Jr-Sr High School, Fort Calhoun Community Schools in Fort Calhoun** is one of the five named for this honor. **Congratulations!!!**

“This year’s honorees demonstrates what is possible when committed educators and school leaders create vibrant, welcoming, and affirming school cultures where rich teaching and learning can flourish,” said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. “I commend all our Blue Ribbon honorees for working to keep students healthy and safe while meeting their academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs.”

“The five Nebraska honorees are examples to us all of what can be achieved with hard work and determination,” said Nebraska Commissioner of Education Matthew Blomstedt. “These schools demonstrate what it takes to serve all students and work towards closing achievement gaps to ensure equitable opportunity to succeed and to be college, career, and civic ready.”

Lux Middle School, Lincoln Public School District in Lincoln, Carl A Swanson Elementary School, Westside Community School District in Omaha, Sagewood Elementary School, Elkhorn Public School District in Elkhorn, and St. Robert Bellarmine School, Archdiocese of Omaha Catholic Schools in Omaha are the other four schools to receive this honor.



HOMECOMING ROYALTY 2021

King & Queen: Jayce Douchev and Payton Pohlad  
Prince & Princess: Clint Dierks and Tessa Skelton

## Elementary News

Mr. PJ Mallette  
Interim Elementary Principal

School is in full swing and we are nearing the end of the first quarter. Exciting! For those who don’t know, Mr. Wagner is in full swing with his deployment and is no longer working as the elementary principal. I will be the point of contact as interim principal from here until the end of the school year. My email is [pjmallette@ftcpioneers.org](mailto:pjmallette@ftcpioneers.org), please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns. I’m thrilled to work in a new capacity this year and am looking forward to conquering challenges as they come while continuing to have high expectations for all involved in this educational journey we are on. 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, we will continue with our Fall Newsletter which will be coming soon! The Fall Newsletter is a great communication tool that will include a lot of information about what is going on within our building. Stay tuned.

This year has already been full of challenges and we know there will be more to come. STAY POSITIVE! Please keep in mind that no matter how large or small the challenge is, we all want what is best for kids! Sometimes we may agree to disagree and that is okay.

Finally, I came across this quote and thought it was impactful so I wanted to share as we begin our new partnership. “Behind you are the challenges you’ve met. Before you lies new possibilities. Today you choose the direction of your life.”



### 2021 National School Bus Safety Week: October 18-22, 2021

School bus transportation plays a critical role in the education of our nation’s students, and is the direct link between a neighborhood and the classroom. More than 25 million children ride the yellow bus every school day, and National School Bus Safety Week serves as a reminder for students, parents, teachers, and the community to keep school bus safety in the forefront.

Here are tips to keep our children safe at the bus stop. Make sure children leave home on time so they can arrive at the bus stop before it is due, ideally at least five minutes early. Running after or in front of a bus is dangerous. Walk young children to the bus stop or encourage children to walk in groups. There is safety in numbers; groups are easier for drivers to see. Have children wait in a location where the driver can see them while driving down the street/road. If you meet your child at the bus stop after school, wait on the side where the child will be dropped off, not across the street. Children can be so excited to see you after school that they dash across the street and forget the safety rules.

National School Bus Safety Week is an excellent way for parents, students, teachers and school staff, motorists, school bus operators, school administrators, and communities to join forces and address the importance of school bus safety as school districts throughout the country observe School Bus Safety Week.

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



**MR. NICK WEMHOFF**  
**Principal**

We started offering tutoring for students last month and I am proud to say that we have students who are utilizing this educational opportunity. As a reminder, we offer tutoring for students in grades 7-12 in the core subject areas: English, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Teachers have created a schedule indicating days and times they will be available for tutoring. The tutoring schedule is posted in each of the core classes. Tutoring is not offered for each subject each day, so please make sure your child is checking the schedule for when tutoring is available.

It is our goal to see our students succeed. The tutoring schedule is subject to change based on the teacher's availability making communicating with teachers an important part of the process. Here are the current days for tutoring in October:

English - October 5, 12, 19, 26  
Math - October 6, 7, 13, 14, 18, 19, 27, 28  
Science - October 6, 7, 13, 14, 18, 19, 26, 27  
Social Studies - October 4, 11, 18, 25

*"The capacity to learn is a gift; the ability to learn is a skill; the willingness to learn is a choice."*  
**Brian Herbert**

**Nondiscrimination Policy 3053**

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.



*PFE News*

Greetings from Pioneers for Education! September was an exciting month for us! Our annual Walk-a-Thon took place on September 17th. It was a great day celebrating all the hard work everyone put into fundraising this year. We were able to raise an impressive \$17,309.87 through donations collected by students, sponsorships, and the Coin Drive.

A huge thank you to everyone that donated and all the volunteers that help make this event possible! Way to go Pioneers! We kept that Pioneer Spirit going strong right into the Homecoming Parade. The Officer Team had a blast waving and throwing candy to everyone along the route. Our Membership Drive will be wrapping up this month. You can find information on becoming a PFE member in Thursday Folders, on our PFE Facebook Page, on the school website, or by contacting us directly at [pioneersforeducation@gmail.com](mailto:pioneersforeducation@gmail.com). Come have fun with us! There is nothing better than helping plan events that create lasting memories and huge smiles. The next Pioneers for Education meeting will be held Monday, October 18th at 6:30pm. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

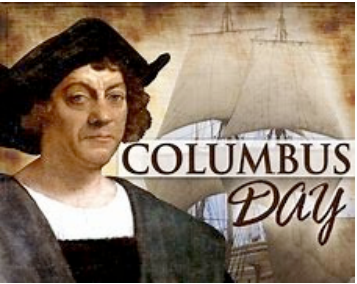
The PFE would like to share our love to Mr. Wagner and his family. You will all be in our hearts during this journey. Mr. Wagner thank you for everything you do for our children every day, and thank you for your service to our Country! We can not wait to have you back in the halls handing out high-fives to our growing pioneers!

Your Officer Team, Brad Earley- President, Matt Reichert- Vice President, Shannon Pokorski- Treasurer, Joey Iwen- Secretary, Nicole Duros- Communication Coordinator



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 updating your Student Profile or calling your child's respective schools.

**October 11, 2021**



*"Columbus sailed the ocean blue  
in Fourteen hundred ninety-two"*

***There Is Such a Thing as Free Lunch***

*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 through the 2021-22 school year and beyond. Fort Calhoun Community Schools, under the direction of the Nebraska Child Nutrition Program, will provide free school meals to all students K-12. Letters were sent to all households explaining the program at the beginning of the school year. Let us know if you have questions.*

*Even though first meals are free, there are scholarship and or grant opportunities for families and students who would qualify for meal benefits. If you feel this would benefit you, we urge you to complete the "Free and Reduced-Priced Meal Application" that was sent home with each student at the beginning of the year. It is also available on our website under Food Services.*