

**FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE**

**Stay Hungry**

It is hard to believe that we are already in the second half of the semester and Thanksgiving is right around the corner. Although not all has been normal, we are functioning at a high level and remain in school with few restrictions. We continue to look toward the future and remain optimistic for the rest of the school year. As we move forward it is important that all of us remain hungry for achievement, success, and satisfaction in all that we do.

As we head into the final few months of 2021, I would like to share some words from Jon Gordon that motivate me. I wish everyone "hunger" as they work toward their goals.

**BE HUNGRY**

- Follow your passion, continuously improve, and continue to dream.
- Seek out new ideas, new strategies and new ways to push yourself out of your comfort zone.
- Invest time, energy, sweat and dedication to be your best.
- Be willing to pay the price that greatness requires. Don't be average. Strive to be great.
- Become the hardest worker you know.
- Love the process and you'll love what the process produces.
- Decide to leave a legacy. Even at a young age it's important to think about what legacy you want to leave because knowing how you want to be remembered helps you decide how to live today.
- Don't focus on where you've been. Focus on where you are and where you are going.
- Make your life and work a quest for excellence. Every day ask how I can be better today than I was yesterday?
- Make your next work your best work.

-Jon Gordon

Jerry Green  
Superintendent  
Fort Calhoun Community Schools



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**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 then applicants are taken on a first-come, first-serve basis. According to State law, all applicants must be notified one way or the other by April 1st.



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**VETERANS DAY PROGRAM**  
**November 11, 2021 10:00 AM**  
**Fort Calhoun High School New Gym**

The program this year will be open to all who would like to attend. Visitors must follow the mask mandate that is in place at the time of the program. For all who would still like to participate but not attend, it will be streamed live free of charge. Go to our website, [fortcalhounschoools.org](http://fortcalhounschoools.org), click on FC Live, and follow the instructions.



There will be a luncheon after the program for each veteran and a guest. Contact the high school office at 402-468-5591 to let us know if you will be staying for lunch.

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**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.



Andrew Christensen  
Assistant Principal/Athletic Director

It's been a great fall so far and we are looking forward to more great moments as a few of our fall seasons continue.

The Pioneer softball season came to an end in early October. The Pioneers beat Syracuse in the first round of subdistrict play but then fell to the #1 seed. The Pioneers improved each week and did a great job competing all season. Katie Barta was named 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All NCC, while Samantha Brewer, Addie Benoit, Maddie Reed, Anna Taylor, and Kaylee Taylor were named Honorable Mention All NCC.

The Pioneer Volleyball team will compete in subdistrict play on October 25<sup>th</sup> against West Point Beemer at North Bend Central. The Pioneers are a young group that continue to work hard and work together. We wish them the best of luck in subdistricts!

The Pioneer Football team is currently sitting at 6-2 with a home game against Logan View SS on Friday, October 22. A win against 4-4 LVSS will put the Pioneers in the State Playoffs. A senior heavy, experienced, and well coached team is ready to make some noise in the state playoffs.

The Pioneer Cross Country team qualified both girls and boys teams to the state meet. The district meet was held at the historic Fort Atkinson where the Pioneers improved on their times and made our school and community proud. The boys were District Champions! We look forward to seeing the results of the state meet on October 22. Best of luck at State!

Winter Physical Form Information: I want to remind parents of students who plan to participate in athletics this winter in grades 7-12 need to submit their physical to the main HS office. The sports physical must take place after May 1, 2021 to qualify them for the 2021-2022 school year. The specific line we are looking for is "the athlete is cleared without restrictions to participate in athletics." Any student that has a 2021 fall Sports Physical does not need a new physical form for winter activities.

Winter Sport Start Dates:

- High School Basketball and Wrestling- Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>
- Junior High Boys Basketball- Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup>
- Junior High Girls Basketball- Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup>
- Junior High Wrestling- Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup>

Pioneer Fans: 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

**GO PIONEERS!!!**

## Elementary News

Mr. PJ Mallette

Interim Elementary Principal

I can't believe November is already here. The school year is moving fast! We continue to see a lot of student growth, and challenges along the way. I encourage you to take the time to celebrate with your student the growth they've demonstrated throughout first quarter. Also take time to develop a goal with your student to challenge them moving forward whether that be academic or socially. These can be special moments with your student.

On the flip side take time to recognize a teacher that is doing outstanding work to help develop your student. This can continue to build your relationship with us educators as we continue this journey! We have all kinds of possibilities ahead of us, but we must slow down, and take time to open those doors of possibilities!

Lastly, Fort Calhoun is a special place and that is because of our community and our staff within our buildings.

Let's keep working together and as always thank you for your support!

## NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS



- 11/2 Jr-Sr High Choir Concert
- 11/8 Conference Vocal Music @ Fort Calhoun School Board Meeting 7:00 PM
- 11/11 Veteran's Day Program 10:00 AM
- 11/17-19 All State Music-Band and Choir
- 11/24 Early Dismissal
- 11/25 Happy Thanksgiving
- 11/25-28 Thanksgiving Vacation  
NO SCHOOL



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.



**MR. NICK WEMHOFF**  
Principal

October 20th was National Unity Day. On Unity Day people come together — in schools, communities and online — to send one message of support, hope and unity to show that we are united against bullying and united for kindness, acceptance and inclusion. As a school we focus on creating an environment where students feel welcomed as a member of the FORT family. It is my hope that all students feel that they have a trusted classmate and trusted adult in our school that they can go to when needed.

Students today live in a world where change happens at an incredible pace. As adults we all know that growing up is hard. Change is inevitable, but our students are prepared and resilient. The road to success is not an easy one, but success is possible for those who seek it. At the FORT, it is my hope that no student fights their battles alone. At the FORT we lean on one another during hard times, pick someone up when they are down, be a friend in a moment of weakness.

At the FORT, we stand together...**UNITED.**



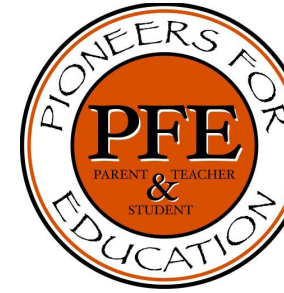
*“ Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much”.-Helen Keller*

U - 7th Grade  
N - 8th Grade  
I - 9th Grade  
T - 10th Grade  
E - 11th Grade  
D - 12th Grade  
Staff are the exclamation point and spaced within the classes.

*Photo taken by drone on October 20, 2021 of all the students and staff at Fort Calhoun Jr-Sr High School*

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

**PFE News**



Greetings from Pioneers for Education! October brought back one of our favorite events, Mornings with Mom! We were so excited to be able to host all our amazing Moms, Grandmas, and Dads that attended. We served 50 dozen donuts and just as many smiles! We would like to thank Fort Calhoun Elementary for working with us to make it happen! Looking forward to the return of more events like this.

Reminder that Pioneer Pride Spirit Fridays are every Friday all school year long. The class that has the most students wearing their Pioneer Gear gets to have our beloved Pioneer cutout visit their classroom for the week and treats! Help your kiddos remember their orange and black on Fridays!! Our Membership Drive wrapped up last month. However, you can still become a member and get involved. You can find information on becoming a PFE member 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!

The next Pioneers for Education meeting will be held Monday, November 15th at 6:30pm. We look forward to seeing everyone there!  
Your Officer Team,  
Brad Earley- President; Matt Reichert- Vice President; Shannon Pokorski- Treasurer; Joey Iwen- Secretary; Nicole Duros- Communication Coordinator

Both the Boys and Girls Cross Country Teams qualified for State in Kearney. The **Boys Team** was **District Champion** and the Girls Team came in 3rd. **Eli Olberding** was **District Champion** and won the **1st Place Medal**. Other medalists are **Jacob Rupp** - 3rd, **Lance Olberding** - 4th, **Johnathan Schwarte** - 15th. Medalists for the Girls are **Bria Bench** - 5th, and **Dala Drowne** - 12th. Other team members are **Gage Nixon, Lawson Tjardes, Travis Skelton, Tessa Skelton, Kaitlyn Thalman, Harley Schwarte, and Xinzhi Huang.**



The **Boys Cross Country Team** is the **C-1 State Champion!!!** Medals earned are **Jacob-3rd, Ely-4th, Lance-5th.** **Congratulations!**

In Softball, **Katie Barta** was named 2nd Team All Conference and **Samantha Brewer, Addie Benoit, Maddie Reed, Anna Taylor** and **Kaylee Taylor** earned all Conference Honorable Mention.

The **Fort Calhoun Marching Band** earned a Superior Rating and trophy at the NSBA State Marching Contest.

**MEAL BENEFIT APPLICATIONS**

*Because of the COVID pandemic and schools' situations nationwide, the USDA extended the waivers to schools to furnish free meals to all school age children through the 2021-22 school year. Fort Calhoun Community Schools, under the direction of the Nebraska Child Nutrition Program, will provide free first 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 EBT, scholarship, carryover meals, fee waiver, SCHIP, and or grant opportunities for families and students who would qualify for meal benefits. If you feel this would be a benefit, 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.**



**Making a Difference with Every Meal**