

## Fort Calhoun Elementary

Fort Calhoun Elementary  
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Fort Calhoun, NE 68023  
Interim Principal: Mr. PJ Mallette  
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As we finish the first quarter, we have time to reflect on what went well and what we can improve on. At Fort Calhoun Elementary, our goal is to make decisions that are best for our students. The way we do that successfully is through the **relationships** we build and the **trust** that we create. In quarter 1, teachers and staff worked hard to create relationships with their students; they worked to create an environment where students can be themselves, learn, and not be afraid to fail the first time. This is the foundational piece for our student's success. As we move into the second quarter, it is time to foster the trust between school and family. Without trust, relationships are harder.

I ask that you trust we are doing what is best for your children, pushing them through the tough times, supporting them through their struggles, and celebrating their successes. We have high expectations at Fort Calhoun, and we want to create an environment that helps your children reach those expectations. That is what makes us, "The Fort." But we can't do this alone. We need your help to create that environment. This is done by a continued partnership that is curious before critical. My hope is we continue to value and respect one another. This makes us operate at a HIGH LEVEL!

As this year progresses and we return to some "normalcy", we will have more opportunities for relationship building. We already have resumed some school field trips, Mornings with Mom, and other school events; in addition, you can look forward to the return of other school programs throughout the year. Below is a list of the important dates for quarter 2:

November 11<sup>th</sup>: Veterans Day Program  
November 16<sup>th</sup>: Thanksgiving Feast  
November 24<sup>th</sup>: Early Dismissal (1:15pm)  
November 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>: No School  
December 14<sup>th</sup>: Winter Music Program  
December 21<sup>st</sup>: Early Out/End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter  
December 22 through January 5<sup>th</sup>: No School

Lastly, I want to thank each and every one of you for your support during this time. That support and trust enhances our environment for students and staff. Trust that we will continue to push forward, conquer challenges, and do what we do best, which is EDUCATE! We appreciate you, take care.

Sincerely,  
PJ Mallette

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



## What's going on in the classrooms?

### Early childhood - Mrs. Royuk and Miss Fleischman

Preschoolers have had a great beginning to the school year! In the month of September, we talked about similarities and differences among friends and practiced how to be a good friend and our families. The preschoolers also visited the Super Bee apple orchard! We learned about different types of apples, compared and taste tested them. We worked on the letters F, A, H, U and D and identified numbers. Preschoolers look forward to learning about fire safety, leaves and pumpkins in October.

### Kindergrarten - Miss Hall, Miss Shupe & Mrs. Leifeld

**Weekly Concepts:** Make New Friends, Get Up and Go!, Use Your Senses, Tools we Use, Shapes All Around, World of Bugs, Rules to Go By, Sounds Around Us, The Places We Go, Time for Work, Meet Your Neighbors, Pitch In

**Essential Questions:** How can we get along with new friends? How do baby animals move? How can your senses help you learn? How do tools help us to explore? What shapes do you see around you? What kind of bugs do you know about? What rules do we follow in different places? What are the different sounds we hear? What places do you go to during the week? What do people use to do their jobs? Who are your neighbors? How can people help to make your community better?

**Vocabulary:** friend, problem, adventure, movement, senses, explore, tool, discover, materials, nature, curious, observe, cooperate, rules, listen, volume, routine, neighborhood, equipment, uniform, cultures, appreciate, community, improve

**High Frequency Words:** I, can, the, we, see, a, like, to, and, go, you, do  
Letter Identification: Aa-Hh, Ii-Rr, Ss-Zz

**Phonics:** m, a, s, p, t, i, n, c, o, d,

**Category words:** names, numbers, days of the week, feeling words, family words, senses, color words, movement words, action words, sound words, jobs, kinds of food, position words

**Comprehension:** key details, sequence words, character setting, events, key details in sequence

#### **Math:**

Numbers 0 to 5  
Compare Numbers 0-5  
Numbers 6-10  
Compare Numbers 6 to 10  
Classify and Count Data  
Understand Addition  
Understand Subtraction

#### **Social Studies:**

Learning and Working Together  
National and State Symbols  
Work Now and Long Ago

#### **Science:**

Pushes and Pulls  
Matter

### 1st grade - Mrs. Spellerberg, Mrs. Weingaertner and Mrs. Jones

#### Reading

The first graders have completed our first unit in reading! The students have learned the short a, short i, and l-blend sounds. They have been doing a great job reading and are finding the key details in their stories.

#### Grammar

The students have been practicing writing sentences. We make sure to have a capital letter, punctuation mark, and a whole idea every time we write. We are beginning to talk about different kinds of sentences. The students will practice writing statements, questions, and exclamatory sentences.

#### Math

The first graders have been digging into addition and subtraction. They have been using different strategies like counting on, counting back, using a number line, doubles, and making a ten to find the sum and difference. We have also been learning how addition and subtraction are related.

#### Science

The first graders have been learning all about sound. We are learning how to describe the different sounds that we hear everyday. We will discover why certain things make the sounds that they do. Lastly, we will explore the many uses of sound and why it is so important!

#### Social Studies

The students have been learning about the rights and responsibilities of citizens. We have also discussed the importance of our leaders and government as well. Soon we will dive into the geography of our community and word.



Engaging + Learning  
+ Achieving  
= Productive  
PIONEERS!

## **2nd grade - Mrs. Hallberg, Miss Schulenberg and Mrs. Hodson**

### Language Arts

- \*Comprehension skill - key Details – Characters, Setting, Plot
- \*Long Vowel vs. Short Vowels
- \*Vocab strategies – finding text evidence, context clues
- \*Nouns, proper nouns, plural and singular nouns

### Math

- \*Working on Number Sense
- \*Basic Addition & Subtraction Strategies and facts
- \*We are starting many different strategies to learn place value when adding two-digit numbers. They look very different than the traditional math strategies that you learned growing up, but they do a good job providing a strategy for each learner.

### Social Studies

- \*Getting to know your family and community

### Science

- \*Types of Matter and their properties
- \*We have really enjoyed getting to know your students so far this year. There is huge jump in responsibility in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, keep up the good work holding your students accountable.
- \*Conferences are coming up in a few weeks, please be on the lookout for the signup link to schedule your conference.
- \*We will be hosting individual classroom “Halloween Parties” at the end of October. Stay tuned for information and how you can help.

## **3rd grade - Mrs. Benoit and Mrs. Szlachetka**

### **“United We Learn”**

#### Math:

- We can multiply numbers using different strategies
- We can memorize my multiplication facts
- We can use multiplication facts to solve division equations

#### Reading:

- 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 retell what we have read
- We can visualize what we read

#### Grammar/Writing:

- We can identify parts of a sentence
- We can combine sentences
- We can write singular and plural nouns
- We can write possessive nouns

#### Social Studies:

- We can tell how geography influences where people live
- We can identify the continents and oceans

#### Science:

- We can discover causes and effects between objects
- We can describe factors that affect magnetic forces



### 4th grade - Mrs. Omer, Mrs. Schleifer and Mrs. Beacom

August and September have been busy days full of new adventures in fourth grade! Students are adjusting well to the classroom routines, procedures, and are working to do their best. Language Arts and Reading is an adventure of investigating our Reading Wonders series through technology. Already we have studied 5 genres: Fairy Tales, Realistic Fiction, Expository Text, narrative Nonfiction and Persuasive Text.

Our marvelous mathematicians are passing timed tests, mastering place value, rounding, comparing and writing numbers in different forms. The students are learning new problem solving techniques, plus reviewing long addition and subtraction skills. We have begun our adventure into multiplication! In Science, we are investigating how motion and energy are related. We are going to put our knowledge to the test and create a plan for a roller coaster. During Social Studies, our Nebraska explorers have learned about the geography of our beautiful state and how we use our resources. Next, we'll discover the first people of Nebraska. Stay tuned for more exciting adventures of the fabulous forth grade Pioneers!

### 5th grade - Miss Carlson and Mrs. Romans

The fifth graders are off to a fabulous start! We have been working hard!

In math we have studied decimal place value, decimal addition & subtraction, and whole number multiplication. Soon we will learn how to multiply and divide whole numbers and decimals. After that, we will move on to studying fractions and learning how to add and subtract them.

In language arts, we have been studying many kinds of nouns and verbs and how to use them correctly in different tenses. We have been reading expository (informational) text as well as realistic fiction. 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 are studying the European explorers who first explored North America. We will be moving on to learn about the settlement of the colonies in America.

We just wrapped up our Science unit on physical & chemical changes. Next we will be studying Earth's systems (the geosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and atmosphere) and how they interact.

The fifth graders have practiced using Google Docs, Google Drive, and Google Slides in the first quarter. We are enjoying having our own chromebooks to access throughout the school day.

A reminder that Lexia Reading and Math IXL are great online resources that can be utilized at school and at home. Your students should know their usernames and passwords to access these programs.

Happy Fall!  
Ms. Carlson & Mrs. Romans

### 6th grade - Mr. Smith, Mrs. Johanek & Mr. Teeter

Sixth Grade is off to a great start. We are settling into the year and getting used to the routines. We are looking forward to seeing all of you at student led conferences. **Please plan for your student to attend conferences with you.**

In Math, we continue to have quizzes after each lesson that are open book and they can ask Mr. Teeter questions about it as long as it isn't late. They can also do retakes to help their score; these need to be done before the topic test. We will be starting a new topic on numerical and algebraic.

In ELA, we also continue to have vocabulary and comprehension quizzes each week. They also have cold read and spelling tests nearly every week. Comprehension and cold reads are openbook (they can look back at the reading). Students need to make sure to study the vocabulary and spelling for the week. Your student is automatically given a retake opportunity for failing scores and can complete it for a passing grade of 70%. The sixth grade has sent out it's first pen pal letters and will plan to send at least one more letter back and forth to our new friends.

In Science we just completed our first topic in science. Your students put in a lot of time and effort in this tough introductory topic. Give them a pat on the back for getting through the topic. In our second topic we will be looking at and discussing how cells are made up and how they function. This will lead into our first hands on big project of the year, where your kids will be in charge of making a model of either a plant or animal cell. This should be a fun experience for your student allowing them to get hands on and show off their creativity in class. More information will be sent out and home to keep you better informed on their progress and the process.



### From the Nurse's Office: Sara Ruma RN

A few friendly reminders to help keep all of our kids happy and healthy this season:

- Children with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher will be sent home, and are required to be fever free, without medication, for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Children must be vomit free for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Children must be diarrhea free for 24 hours before returning to school.

### From the School Counselor:

What a great start to the year! In Guidance, we have started a new social emotional learning curriculum called Second Step. We have recently finished Unit 1 which was all about growth mindset and goal setting and have started on Unit 2 which focuses on emotional management. As usual, the kids have been phenomenal in adopting this new curriculum as we work to make it the best it can be!

Mrs. Adams

### High Ability Learners (HAL)

High Ability Learners (HAL)  
The students that qualified for the HAL program according to our matrices will be working on a variety of projects for the semester. The activities all include collaboration, problem-solving, and critical thinking as the driving forces. We will be working in the areas of Language Arts and/or Mathematics. Be communicating with your child about the projects we do in class to help drive the inquiry and creative thinking even deeper. If you have any questions about the HAL program please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

-Mr. Mike Mallette

#### Problem Solving Process:

- Define
- Prepare
- Try
- Reflect

#### 21st Century Skills:

- Collaboration
- Communication
- Creativity
- Critical Thinking
- Growth Mindset

### Behavior Interventionist (BI)

The goal of this role is to continue collaborating with teachers to best assist and support students. Our focus is always 4 to 1 positive to negative interactions. Research shows that when you ignore negative behaviors and reinforce positive behaviors consistently then that is when you see behaviors improve. Some methods we use to support students are behavior charts, check-ins, goal-setting, rewards, peer models, walk and talks, etc. These methods will not be effective without creating positive relationships with students first! If you have any questions and need to contact me please do not hesitate to do so.

Wow, where has the time gone?! I can't believe how quick the year is going, but I LOVE that we were able to start off in our amazing gym! I know the students have enjoyed getting their sweat on in a top-notch facility!

So far this year we have done our football unit, juggling unit, and Pioneer Fitness Challenge (PFC), along with a few fun fitness weeks sprinkled in between. Our most recent unit, the PFC, is one of the students' favorites. Many students think it's one of the most challenging, but most rewarding ones. In the PFC, students are tested in sit-ups, push-ups, sit & reach, wall-sits, and pacer. Each student has a healthy fitness zone that they are working towards depending on their age and gender. I challenge each student to try his or her best! That goal may be to get into the healthy fitness zone or crush the healthy fitness zone, but either way we are working towards progress. I am so proud of all of them for their efforts and encouragement towards their teammates.

Next up we have our jump-roping unit where we will incorporate the Kid's Heart Challenge (KHC). Normally, we would do this in the winter, but I will be on maternity leave during that time and so we are getting it done earlier. Students will be receiving their packet with information on how to sign up for the KHC either Nov 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> depending on their PE day. I love doing the Kid's Heart Challenge because it's a great opportunity for the students to learn how help others in need. If you have any questions when you received the packet, please don't hesitate to email me.

Lastly, with the cooler temperatures, I know students will start to wear boots. However, please have them bring tennis shoes to PE in order to keep them safe. Thanks for your help with this!

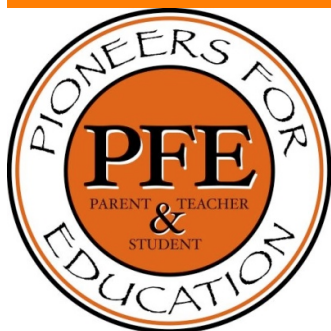
Go Pioneers!!  
Mrs. Rutledge





## 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

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

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

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## **REMINDER**

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

## **Upcoming events:**

November 11<sup>th</sup>: Veterans Day Program  
November 16<sup>th</sup>: Thanksgiving Feast  
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**\*\*All dates are subject to change. Also refer to our district master calendar for all other dates.**



## **Our Mission at Fort Calhoun Schools:**

**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!**