

Fort Calhoun Community Schools
Box 430
Fort Calhoun, Nebraska 68023

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



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 by returning your Student Profiles.

POLICY 3053-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 32 No 1

Fort Calhoun Community Schools

Back to School 2022

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT’S OFFICE

Welcome Back to School

On August 11th we will welcome back over 800 students to Fort Calhoun Community Schools. The first day of school is an exciting time for most students, some just don’t like to admit it, but they like it. The staff is always anticipating the first day with students because it brings so much energy into the building. They get to meet their new students and begin the educational process. No matter where you are in your educational journey it is always the mission of the Fort Calhoun Community Schools to *Foster learning in an inspiring, caring, and safe 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.*

We will post our updated return to school plan on the school website, and I will send it out to parents via email as soon as I am able to meet with the return to school team members. It will be minute in comparison to anything we have had in the past. Just a few points to clarify how we will be moving forward. Expect something official before August 11th.

Regarding school meals, school districts have been notified that the USDA does not have the authority to extend waivers that allow no-cost meals to all students. Considering this, Fort Calhoun students will pay for school meals. To alleviate some of the financial hardship this may cause, a waiver was put in place that allows schools to use the benefits that were on file from the 2019-20 school year to grant a 30-day carryover of the benefits from that time. This will allow families extra time to file meal applications for 2022-23.

Enjoy the rest of summer break as we get geared up for the start of school. We look forward to a positive and successful year with our students, staff, and community.

Thank you to all the staff who have worked so hard this summer to prepare for the new school year.

Sincerely,

Jerry Green
Superintendent
Fort Calhoun Community Schools



The mission of the Fort Calhoun Schools is to:
Foster learning in an inspiring, caring and safe 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.

Mr. Nick Wemhoff
Secondary Principal

I want to welcome you all to the 2022-2023 school year! The sights and sounds of school areinfectious; 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. I am going to approach this a little differently this year. 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. In the event that you run into someone having 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 that 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. I hope you are challenged academically, compelled to grasp the concept of time management by being involved in many school activities, 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. May this year be your best year yet! 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.

Thank you for your help with this.



Welcome Back Pioneers and families! We are excited for the new school year! First, we would like to welcome our newest officers Chris Roberts and Jami Biodrowski. Thank you for donating your time and talents to PFE. We also have to give a huge Thank You to our outgoing officers, Brad Earley and Joey Iwen, for their years of dedication to our school community! The entire PFE officer team has been working hard to plan and prepare for the new school year. We look forward to another great year working with the amazing staff of Fort Calhoun Community Schools.

- 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 22nd at 6:30pm in the High School Library. For future meetings we are trying to determine if a different meeting time would accommodate more members. Please reach out if you have any input or ideas that would benefit meeting attendance. 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,Matt Reichert- PresidentChris Roberts- Vice PresidentShannon Pokorski- TreasurerJami Biodrowski- SecretaryNicole Duros- Communication Coordinator



The Nebraska Coaches Association has partnered with the National Football Foundation to present the first ever Team Academic Excellence Awards. Fort Calhoun's Football Team was awarded the Class C-1 Academic Excellence Award for their combined GPA. **Great Accomplishment!!**

The *Omaha World Herald's* All Nebraska Baseball Team named **Ty Hallberg, Declyn Otte** and **Sam Genoways** as Honorable Mention.

Head Cross Country Coach, **Kyle McMahan**, was recognized for being the Coach of the Class C-1 State Championship team.

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

Rev 6/2010

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.

FOOD SERVICE 2022-23



School districts have been notified that the USDA does not have the authority to extend waivers that allow no-cost meals to all students. In light of this, Fort Calhoun students will pay for school meals. To alleviate some of the financial hardship this may cause, a waiver was put in place that allows schools to use the benefits that were on file from the 2019-20 school year to grant a 30 day carry-over of the benefits from that time. This will allow families extra time to file meal applications for 2022-23.

If you have already received notification of 2022-23 benefits granted through direct certification, your student(s) will begin receiving them on the first day of school. If you have not, we urge you to complete the necessary paperwork immediately if you believe you qualify. Forms can be found on the school website under “Food Service”. Students will have to pay for meals until such time this is received. School board policy states “The district’s policy on charged meals is: “If a student has no funds available to pay for a meal, the student will be permitted to charge up to five meals. Thereafter, if a student has no funds available to pay for a meal, no food will be provided.” If you have any questions, please contact the District Office at 402-468-5591.

PRICES FOR 22-23*

ELEMENTARY K-6

Student Breakfast	1.75
Adult Breakfast	2.50
Student Lunch	2.50
Second Lunch	2.55
Milk	0.50
Reduced Breakfast	.30**
Reduced Lunch	.40**
Adult Lunch	4.00

SECONDARY 7-12

Student Breakfast	2.25
Adult Breakfast	2.50
Student Lunch	2.90
Second Lunch	2.90
Milk	0.50
Reduced Breakfast	.30**
Reduced Lunch	.40**
Adult Lunch	4.00

* Same as 2021-22

** Required by Federal Legislation

Lunch benefit information will be sent home the first day of school. Please make sure your children have money in their account for meals. **Carryover benefits will run for 30 days until 9/22/22. If no application or information has been received by that date, students will be charged full price for meals beginning on 9/23/22. Benefits are not retroactive.** e-Funds and benefit information is also available on our website, www.fortcalhounschoools.org. Paying for student meals and expenses online through e-funds is available.

OPTION ENROLLMENT 2023-24

The Option Enrollment application period for the 2023-24 school year is open September 1, 2022 through March 15, 2023. Forms are available on our website or at the school offices. The School Board sets class size and program parameters in February/March According to State law, and all applicants must be notified one way or the other by April 1st. **Applicants are taken on a first-come, first-serve basis.**



The goal of the Foundation is to promote the advancement of education and recognize excellence in the Fort Calhoun Community. Information is available on the schools’ website under Community Organizations, Fort Calhoun Community Schools Foundation.

ELEMENTARY NEWS
MR. WAGNER

Welcome back! This letter always brings me joy and anxiety, joy that everyone is coming back soon and anxiety that everyone is coming back soon. Those two emotions, with many others, keep me motivated to be the best. As you know, to be the best, you must possess a mindset of greatness and put in the hard work. That effort mandates not just hard work, it mandates MORE! We are coming upon a crucial year. This upcoming school year is going to bring more hidden challenges and priorities than we even know. I would suggest that this is a pivotal year that will determine our future success. Rest assure, we are up for the challenge!

Stop! Pivot time. As I self-reflect and gather feedback from years past, I find myself thinking about the challenges we have overcome. A few of those challenges will linger every year. We must remember, as those challenges come and go, the priority is always keeping students and staff safe. That is always a driving force and may not be a written goal but it is embedded in our practice each year. All of our decisions are based off of safety and what is best for students. There will be more communications with you as we continue to run safety drills m this coming year and ensure this is a transparent process.

As we pivot into a critical year, here are some other challenges we will be facing: Transitioning to a three-classroom layout for each grade level; ensuring resources are in place to maximize students’ potential; monitoring and providing student resources are important through this transition. What is equally as important is your support and trust. That support, during this transition, is necessary to our success. Here is my request as your elementary principal: TRUST US! We need your trust. When we have this trust, this will only help your student be their best! Not only trust us, but be an advocate to your student to show that trust. I will ensure, if you provide us that trust and advocacy, it will be one more step to securing each student’s maximal potential. That support and trust can look different in many ways. It could be listening and asking questions to show your student that you are supportive to the teacher. It could also look like, when a situation comes up, you take the time to listen to the school. Get the facts before jumping to an emotional outcome. We all have our own lens we look through, which isn’t the only view. Take time to listen to all sides of the situation. I understand you need to feel like you are standing up for your child. However, the school needs to stand up for ALL students, not just one. These are just a few examples of showing support to our teachers, staff, and school. We must put 100% confidence in the school. This investment is key to the roles we play to the future of our students’ education. ALL IN!

The challenges we have overcome have made us even stronger. Let’s not let the challenges that are coming diminish the progress we have accomplished. I hope this letter positively frames the crisis the educational world is in without being overbearing. I know that if we don’t all come together and start rallying around each other, the future is going to be difficult. There is no better time than NOW!



We look forward to the 2022-23 school year. It will be a monumental year! Thank you for taking the time to internalize this message. We appreciate it! Go PIONEERS



The Elementary supply list is on the website, www.fortcalhounschoools.org, under Schools, then Elementary. Secondary students should get supply information from their individual classes.

Parents/Guardians/Visitors in the Building

Parents/guardians/visitors may volunteer in the classroom setting with proper approval and proper documents with background checks filled out appropriately. We are no allowing parents/guardians/visitors to eat in the lunchroom. This task of monitoring foot traffic during the school day is purposeful to limit unknown visits.

WELCOME BACK NIGHT - To Kickoff the 2022-23 School Year

August 10th 6-7PM 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.

MR. JAMIE SCHLEIFER
Assistant Principal/AD

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 8, 2022, without a sports physical. The sports physical must take place after May 1, 2022, to qualify them for the 2022-2023 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 8th - First high school practice
Cross Country, Football, Softball, Volleyball

Monday, August 22nd- First junior high practice
Cross Country, Football, Volleyball
Team meeting dates and times will be announced at school during the first week.

A live-streaming system will be offered through www.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 to be joining Fort Calhoun this year and look forward to getting to know our students as they begin to 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. Schleifer



Students K-12
Each Adult
Family Pass (Immediate Family)



\$50.00
\$70.00
\$150.00

Individual Admission Prices – Varsity Home Contests
\$5.00 Students K-12
\$7.00 Adults

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

***FORT CALHOUN SEASON PASSES DO NOT INCLUDE ADMISSION TO ANY CONFERENCE, DISTRICT OR STATE CONTEST HELD AT FORT CALHOUN OR THAT FORT CALHOUN MIGHT HOST.



Individual Admission Prices - JV and Lower
\$4.00 Students K-12
\$5.00 Adults





The mission of Teammates is to positively impact the world by inspiring youth to reach their full potential through mentoring. But how can we ensure we are living up to this important mission?

While a Teammates mentor is not meant to be a tutor, to fix absenteeism, or to correct behavior, we have found that the mentoring relationship has an indirect effect on the grades, attendance, and behavior of students. In our chapter's 2021 annual survey we found that 87% of mentees state that having a mentor makes them excited to go to school. But don't take my word for it; listen to the words of one recent mentee (I got permission from this mentee to use this. "Without my mentor I don't think I would have made it through without any trouble and may not have even passed my classes. My mentor really helped me put my life on track when I felt like giving up."

By simply showing up week after week, mentors build on a sense of hope in their mentee. Our 2021 annual survey also found that 91% of mentees reported higher levels of hope because of their mentor. This hopefulness manifests itself in greater confidence and positive feelings about the future. One student put it this way "A mentor can make you feel hopeful when all else seems to go wrong." Another student noted, "My Teammate teaches me that there is hope in my future and he believes in me."

I am proud of our chapter and the difference that we have made in the lives of some of the youth in our community and I hope that we can keep our chapter going strong for a very long time. But to do this, we need mentors. Please consider becoming a mentor. It only takes 30 minutes per week to make an impact. If you have questions about becoming a mentor, please contact me or go to Teammates.org and click on the Mentoring Tab to learn more.

Thank you, Fort Calhoun Administrators and Staff for your continued support.

Teri Zavadil
402-237-9558



Happenings

- 8/1-3
8/3-5
8/8
8/11
8/31
9/5
9/12
9/16
9/16-17
9/26

High School Band Camp
New Student Registration & Schedule Changes
School Board Meeting
School Starts - Early Out-No Meals
Band at State Fair
Labor Day - No School
Band at Septemberfest
School Board Meeting
Skills USA Hog Roast
Homecoming Festivities
No School



SKILLS USA HOG ROAST
SEPTEMBER 16, 2022
4:30-7:00 PM

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE
FROM ANY
SKILLS USA MEMBER