

Fort Calhoun Elementary

"Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it."

-Marian Wright Edelman



Fort Calhoun Community Schools

Gateway to the Past. Pioneers of the Future



MESSAGE FROM MR. WAGNER

TIME TO PIVOT!

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

Welcome New Family/Staff Members!

Ronny Zeringue
-1st Grade-

Taylor Coulter
-2nd Grade-

Ellen Rice
-Fifth Grade-

Mindy Otte
-Special Education-

Brooke Smithberg
-Food Service-

Reminders!

*AUGUST 11: FIRST
DAY OF SCHOOL;
11:15AM DISMISSAL

SCHOOL GOALS

EFFECTIVELY
IMPLEMENT A NEW
ENGLISH LANGUAGE
ARTS PROGRAM

SUSTAIN OUR NEWLY
ADOPTED SOCIAL
EMOTIONAL LEARNING
PROGRAM

ACHIEVE ACADEMIC
PROGRESS FOR ALL
STUDENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

- August 10: Back To School Night; 6-7pm
- August 11: First day of school (K-6); 11:15am dismissal
- August 15: First day of preschool
- September 13: 5th/6th grade Parent Band Meeting
- September 16: Homecoming Parade
- September 21: Picture Day
- September 23: Walk-a-thon
- October 14-20: Book Fair
- October 19 & 20: Parent/Teacher Conferences
- October 21: No School
- November 2: Picture Re-take
- November 15: Thanksgiving Feast
- November 23: Early dismissal; 1:15pm
- November 24 & 25: No school
- December 13: Winter Music program
- December 22-30; January 2-4: No School
- Happy New Year-2023!
- January 4: Teacher In-service day
- January 5: School Resumes
- February 15 & 16: Parent/Teacher Conferences; 1:15pm dismissal both days
- February 17: No School
- March 8: Talent Show
- March 9 & 10: No School
- March 17: Malcolm Band Contest
- April 13: Spring Music program
- April 7 & 10: No School
- May 4: Field Day
- May 17: Last day of school
- May 18: Staff In-service day
- *All dates are subject to change!

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!

PI  **NEER**
STRONG



Lunch Program Information

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 carryover of the benefits from that time. This will allow families extra time to file meal applications for 2022-23. Thank you!

Parents/Guardians/Visitors in the building

As we evaluated this topic for the 2022-23 school year the main focus we considered was safety and sanitation. After much discussion, we have decided to open the building back up to parents/guardians/visitors at a limited capacity. Parents/guardians/visitors may volunteer in the classroom setting with proper approval and proper documents with background checks filled out appropriately. We are not allowing parents/guardians/visitors to eat in the lunchroom. This task of attempting to monitor the foot traffic during the school day is very purposeful to limit unknown visits. We truly appreciate your support with this decision. We will re-evaluate this process each year. Thank you!

Handbook Updates

At this time we would like to update you on any changes/updates to the elementary handbook that you should be aware of. Please remember the Parent/Student Handbook is intended to provide communication guidelines for a transparent process and of course keeping our environment safe for all.

*Pg. 7. Attendance. The change here was consolidating all topics relating to attendance (Ex. Absences, attendance policy, tardiness) under one heading.

*Pg. 18. Behavior Goals. The change here was updating these goals to our current PBIS behavior goals.

*Pg. 25. Daily schedule. The change here was updating the daily schedule to match the changes to the master schedule.

*Pg. 49. Visitors. The change here was updating the process to volunteer in the school. Proper background paperwork needs to be filled out before volunteering at the school.

Preschool Program Information

The first day of preschool will be Monday, August 15. Morning preschool class is from 8:00-11:15am and afternoon preschool class is from 11:50-3:05pm. Before school begins, you will need to bring a copy of your child's birth certificate and current immunization records. The first tuition payment is due on or before August 1st. Tuition payments are due on the 20th of each month beginning in September. The monthly tuition rate at this time is \$140. We look forward to seeing you soon. Thank you for choosing us!

Daily Schedule

- 7:30am: Supervision is available in front of the building
- 7:45am: Students are admitted into the building
- 8:00am: School day begins
- 8:05am: Students are considered tardy
- 10:10-10:40am: Kindergarten Recess
- 10:45-11:15am: Kindergarten Lunch/1st & 2nd Recess
- 11:20-11:50am: 1st & 2nd Lunch/3rd & 4th Recess
- 11:55-12:25pm: 3rd & 4th Lunch/5th & 6th Recess
- 12:30-1:00pm: 5th & 6th Lunch
- 3:00pm: Dismissal (Monday-Thursday)
- **School is dismissed at 1:15pm on Friday's

You're INVITED: BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT!

When: AUGUST 10; 6-7PM

Where: FORT CALHOUN ELEMENTARY

Why: Kick off the 2022-23 School year

What to bring: YOUR SCHOOL SUPPLIES and A POSITIVE ATTITUDE

Who is all going to be there: STAFF,
PARENTS/GUARDIANS, PRINCIPAL, AND
ESPECIALLY STUDENTS.

***This is a great night to introduce yourself to your new teacher. Please come by and visit.**

Summary map of pick-up/drop-off

*This map is a quick summary of the traffic flow for pick up and drop off. Please be patient. We are looking to get back to our normal routine this year with this process.

*Preschool families.

- Morning Session: Drop-Off. Please utilize 10th Street to park. Pick-Up. Please feel free to utilize Adams Street.
- Afternoon Session: Drop-Off. Please feel free to utilize Adams Street. Pick-Up. Please utilize 10th Street to park.

*K-2nd Grade. The pick-up/drop-off will be the same as the following years. If you prefer to have your older child (3rd-6th grade) come upstairs to get picked up in the K-2nd pick up lane please contact the office and classroom teacher. Thank you!

*3rd-6th Grade. Pick-up/drop-off. Please utilize Adams Street ONLY! This traffic should not interfere with the bus lane. Cars may queue behind the bus lane for pick up. Once the buses have left the bus lane the traffic may flow forward to pick-up your student. Mrs. Hodson's class and Mrs. Szlachetka's class may be picked up in the upstairs drop-off and pick-up lane.

****IMPORTANT.** Please follow the rules and procedures to keep everyone safe! Thank you!

