

**Elementary News**  
**Your Principal: Drew R. Wagner**

***Engaging + Learning + Achieving = Productive PIONEERS!***

We are in the full swing of things around here! The students are getting into a routine and ready to become problem solvers. Here are a few items going on at the elementary this past month; Homecoming parade, Walk-a-thon (School Fundraiser), Field trips, and opportunities daily for students to become successful PIONEERS. Big shout out to my staff. There are working hard for your students every day. Please take time to thank them for the work they do. It goes a long way!

The Homecoming parade was an awesome event again this year. This event gets students so excited about being a pioneer. Each year the pride you see around the community is amazing. Thank you to all who make this happen. Nice job!

We ended September with our annual walk around the community. It was nice to get back to the “normal” way of running this event. We even reached our monetary goal this year. That turned into several students throwing pies at Mr. PJ Mallette and myself. The students were ecstatic. The turnout for this event is getting better and we hope to get back to the total masses coming out to support this walk each year. Thank you all for your partnership in your child’s education. Big shout out to Chris Roberts and our PFE with their help on making this event a hit. Nice job!

Lastly, when providing students with skills to be successful for the future this may not always look how we predict and looks like a mess at times. Please keep in mind the focus is still on creating productive pioneers and maintaining a safe environment. We must continue to create students that are resilient, hardworking, and know how to work with others. Life is hard! Do we need to remind students about that daily, NO! We do need to remind them that what is important is how you act when adversity happens in their lives. Our partnership is essential, and we must work together. Our future depends on it!

Thank you all for your support and believing in what we do! We appreciate you!

Be thankful, stay positive, and encourage a growth mindset. Take care! Go PIONEERS!

Respectfully,  
Drew R. Wagner

**Upcoming events:**

**October 14:** Morning with Mom sponsored by our PFE

**October 14-20:** Book Fair in the Library

**October 19 & 20:** Parent/Teacher conference-Early out; 1:15pm dismissal

**October 21:** No School

**November 2:** Picture Retakes

**November 3:** Fall Music Concert

\*All dates are subject to change.



The Option Enrollment application period for the 2023-24 school year is now open 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 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.



# The Fort Dispatch

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## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

**It will be what you make of it.**

I get to hear a lot about what we are (not) doing right at school and make no mistake I understand we can always make improvements. But here is my thought process; it will be what you make of it. Challenges, difficulties, and sometimes bad calls are going to happen. You can complain, place blame and point fingers but the simple fact is it probably won't do much good. What can we make of these situations? First, let's determine the severity of the situation. Is it life and death; is it life-altering, will it change my path five or ten years down the road? What is my responsibility for the situation? Do I have all the information? What to make of it, ask good questions, ask in a responsible adult manner, seek clarification, be curious before critical, and offer a possible solution. Consider the action and not the attitude or emotion. Step outside the picture and look at the situation from outside. What does it look like from there?

This is not directed at any one person or any one issue. It is directed at the thought that we can all take a more positive approach to everything. We can work together for resolution, keeping in mind that we may not agree, and some things are just not possible. An equal effort to do what is best for all is what is best for all. In my opinion we have a great school with great families and great things happening but anytime you have over 800 students and all their parents, challenges will surface.

Please make sure that we all appreciate how hard our students, teachers, coaches, sponsors, and parents work as we watch our children grow. Surround them with positive thoughts and actions, positive people, and lessons that will help them develop into great young people. The world can be hard enough. We all can make it better by being positive and supportive of everything of which we are privileged to be a part.

Please make the most of it.

Jerry Green  
Superintendent  
Fort Calhoun Community Schools



## Homecoming

Homecoming Royalty was announced at the pep rally following the parade. They are Queen-Dala Drowne, King-Austin Welchert, Princess-Sophie Thomas and Prince-Glenn Hunter. The Kindergarten Court includes Jaxon Bryan, Aubree Gochanour, Ella McMahon, Maddie McMahon, Brooks Romans and Lucas Smithberg.



MR. NICK WEMHOFF, Principal

Parent-Teacher Conferences are quickly approaching. Parents/Guardians, please make plans to come to school and meet with teachers. If you are unable to attend in person, please reach out to your child's teachers via email. We want to make sure that the lines of communication are open and used often. Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for October 19-20. Teachers will be available in their classrooms from 2:00 - 8:00 pm on both nights. We will have a dinner break for staff from 5:00 - 5:45. Please plan accordingly.

We have seen an increase in student lunch account balances that are below zero. As a reminder, breakfast and lunches are not free this year. Please check PowerSchool to see your child's lunch account balance. If you have any questions, please contact the HS office. You may deposit money either using E-Funds (electronic deposit) or have your child bring a check to school to place in their account. When depositing funds, please plan for the future and deposit more than the negative balance. This will ensure they have funds available for future breakfasts or lunches.

Fort Calhoun SkillsUSA will be sponsoring the Veteran's Day Program on November 11th at FortCalhoun HS at 10:00 am. All community members are welcome to attend. The program will last approximately 1 hour. We would like to invite any Military Service Men and Women to our luncheon following the program. This is open to those who are currently serving or have served in the past. All Military Service Men and Women are also allowed to bring 1 guest with them to attend the meal. Please RSVP by calling the HS office at 402-468-5591. This will help us plan for how many people to expect. On behalf of the FORT -- THANK YOU for your service!

*"As we express gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." -John F. Kennedy*



PFE News

Greetings from Pioneers for Education! September was an exciting month for us! Our annual Walk-a-Thon took place on September 23rd. It was a great day celebrating all the hard work everyone put into fundraising this year. We were able to raise an impressive \$14,729.39 through donations collected by students, sponsorships, and the Coin Drive. A huge thank you to everyone that donated and to all the volunteers that help make this event possible! Another big thank you to Mr. Wagner and Mr. Mallette for getting pie'd in the face for us hitting our fundraising goal!!! Way to go Pioneers!

We keep the fun going in October with some of our favorite events! Mornings with Mom will be Friday, October 14th. Hope to see everyone there! On October 23rd come Picnic in the Park with PFE. Everyone in the community is invited to join. More details on this event are coming soon, so keep an eye out. Art After School session two kicks off October 27th. We can't wait to see what these kiddos create!

Our Membership Drive will also 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. 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 24th at 7:30pm. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Your Officer Team: Matt Reichert- President, Chris Roberts- Vice President, Shannon Pokorski- Treasurer, Jami Biodrowski- 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.



Jamie Schleifer  
Assistant Principal/AD

Thank you to all that helped throughout our homecoming week. It was great to see so many people support our programs, parade, pep rally, and events throughout the week. I also want to thank the programs and families that sponsored the fireworks show after the Homecoming football game that was arranged by Independence Pyro Company.

Fall activities are quickly moving into post-season play this month, which is always a very exciting time! There has been a tremendous amount of support at all of our events this year from both the students and community members. This level of support is second to none and it is very much appreciated by our athletes and coaches, it's a great time to be a Pioneer!

Looking ahead as we move through fall activities, I want to give everyone a reminder that winter sports are right around the corner. If your child is participating in a winter sport and has not completed their physical, please refer to the information below.

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, 2022 to qualify them for the 2022-2023 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 2022 fall Sports Physical does not need a new physical form for winter activities.

Winter Sport Start Dates:

- High School Basketball and Wrestling- Monday, November 14th
- Junior High Boys Basketball- Monday, October 24th
- Junior High Girls Basketball- Monday, January 9th
- Junior High Wrestling- Monday, January 9th

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

Fort Calhoun Season Passes are still available at Jr./Sr. High games and in the High School office:

- Family- \$150
- Single Adult- \$70
- Student (K-12)- \$50

Good luck to all of coaches and students this fall! Watching our student athletes compete in fall activities has been outstanding. Go Pioneers!

WELCOME TO FORT CALHOUN

**Residents:** Please help us with our work to keep our community up to date. 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. We publish a *Dispatch* monthly during the school year with 4 of the editions being mailed to each household and the remaining editions posted on our website fortcalhounschoools.org.



HAPPENINGS

10/6	Football at Roncalli-Televised
10/10	School Board Meeting
10/14	End of 1st Quarter
10-14-20	Elementary Book Fair
10/17	Junior High Great Race Night
10/19-20	Parent Teacher Conferences 2-8
	Early Dismissal @ All Buildings
10/21	No School--Fall Break
10/22	State Marching Band
10/24	PFE Meeting
10/31	Happy Halloween