



12/11 Jr-Sr High Band Christmas Concert
12/15 Jr-Sr High Choir Winter Concert
12/19 5th-6th Grade Band Concert



12/4	Community Performance One Act Play "Cut"
12/6	Preschool Advisory Meeting
12/7	Red Cross Blood Drive @ High School
12/10	High School Winter Formal
12/11	Instrumental Christmas Concert
12/12	School Board Meeting
12/15	Jr-Sr High Winter Vocal Concert
12/19	5th-6th Grades Band Concert
12/21	End of 1st Semester - Early Dismissal
12/22-12/27	NSAA Moratorium
12/22-1/5	NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break
12/29-30	Holiday Boys & Girls Basketball Tourney at Fort Calhoun
1/4/23	Staff Inservice
1/5/23	School Resumes

OPTION ENROLLMENT 2023-24

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 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.

WELCOME TO FORT CALHOUN

Our community is growing and we want to be prepared. We are contacting families in our District to determine future needs.

Please help us with our household information by reporting any adults and 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.

TITLE IX INFORMATION

Fort Calhoun Community Schools Board of Education's Policy 3057 addresses all areas of discrimination. This policy can be found on the schools' website fortcalhounschoools.org. Go to "About, Board of Education, Policies" and scroll down to Policy 3057-Title IX.



COMMUNITY WEIGHT ROOM USE

The high school weight room is available for use by District patrons. A fob is issued for a fee of \$50.00 which renews yearly each June 1st. If you have any questions contact Jamie Schleifer at 402-468-5591.

Visit our website at www.fortcalhounschoools.org



The Fort Dispatch

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Fort Calhoun Community Schools

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FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Could You Imagine.....

I would like to take a minute to tell all our parents and fans how much we appreciate your support. Parenting is a lot like teaching and coaching. We both have the best intentions in mind and do our very best for our children, students, and teams. Never would we do something that would cause intentional harm or distrust. All three jobs are extremely difficult, and many times require the positive support of others, the whole "it takes a village" concept. It is that very concept that allows our programs and children to grow in a positive manner. When they see and hear positive interaction, positive support between parents, teachers and coaches, wow, what a great life lesson. Make no mistake, I realize that not all is wonderful, but can't we take that and teach another great lesson? Take care of adult issues behind closed doors and don't air dirty laundry in public. I love a passionate positive fan, one that supports all the athletes, the cheerleaders, and coaches. Could you imagine the positive energy being distributed by the fans and cheerleaders to a team as they stood in unison chanting loudly, GO BIG C, GO BIG C, GO BIG C.

We recently received an email from that state about the shortage of officials, umpires, and referees. This is not just a Nebraska problem but one that is impacting sports all over the nation. Games are being moved to nights they wouldn't normally play because they can't find officials. The emailed explained that COVID has had some impact, but the reality is that officials are tired of all the negativity from coaches, players, and fans.

Let's be part of the solution and not part of the problem. We need more positivity in the world. I love to attend competition where players give their best effort, coaches work their hearts out and the fans cheer for great plays and support all players, coaches, and officials. I understand not every call is going to bring us joy and celebration, but it doesn't have to bring negativity, rude and unnecessary ridicule.

Rise above and be the positive example as we chant loudly, GO BIG C.

Thank you to all our positive, supportive fans who cheer on the great student athletes and coaches at Fort Calhoun.

Jerry Green
Superintendent
Fort Calhoun Community Schools



Mr. Schleifer
Asst Principal-Activities Director

Pioneers,

Congratulations to our All-District, All-Conference, and Academic All-State nominations from our fall seasons:

- Cross Country
 - o Boys State Medalists-Ely Olberding (6), and Lance Olberding (7)
 - o Boys Finished 3rd Overall!
 - o Girls State Medalists-Maelie Nelson (11)
 - o Academic All-State- Lance Olberding, Ely Olberding, Bria Bench, Harley Schwarte
- Football
 - o All-District- Grayson Bouwmann, Austin Welchert, Blake Welchert, Colton Miles
 - o Honorable Mention- Andrew Namuth, Alex Christensen, Levi Lasher
 - o Academic All-State- Grayson Bouwman and Austin Welchert
- Softball
 - o 1st Team NCC- Katlyn Welchert and Samantha Brewer
 - o Honorable Mention All-Conference- Anna Taylor, Kaylee Taylor, Lucie Larson
 - o Academic All-State- Anna Taylor and Addison Benoit
- Volleyball
 - o Honorable Mention NCC-Raegen Wells and Olivia Quinlan
 - o Academic All-State- Grace Genoways and Madison Buczkowski
- Play Production
 - o NCC Outstanding Performance-Sophie Thomas, Eric Ertzner, James Miller, Kaylee Taylor, Bella Irvine, Samantha Thomas, Abbey Lienemann, and Mollie Dierks
 - o Academic All-State- Abbey Lienemann and Samantha Ladwig

Winter Activities- We are hosting the girls and boys Holiday Basketball Tournament on December 29th and 30th. Please check the school website for additional information.

New Gym Activities Only- 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. The live stream is only in the new gym. We will play as many games in the new gym as possible, but some games will have to be played in the old gym without the live stream.

- Monthly Subscription- \$10.99
- Annual Subscription- \$69.99

Thank you,

Jamie Schleifer
Assistant Principal/AD



Fort Calhoun Drama Club Community Performance

The One-Act Play *Cut* will be performed on Sunday December 4th at 3:00 PM in the Auxiliary Gym at the High School. The community is invited. Admission is \$3.00 per person.



-Elementary News-

Your Principal: Mr. Drew R. Wagner
402-468-5714 or dwagner@ftcpioneers.org

Engaging + Learning + Achieving = Productive PIONEERS!

The month of November came in with nice temperatures and our first snow of the season. (That was hard to say.) November brought opportunities to build relationships with each of you. We had our music concert a little early this year and our infamous Thanksgiving Feast. We continue to strive for excellence in all we do. In that process we pursue different avenues to advance our educational process. With that said, we are happy to say we are on the right track. We continue to explore different avenues to meet the 21st century learner. We are pleased on the progress, but there is still work to be done. Remember the pursuit to excellence takes commitment, dedication, and positive relationships. Those characteristics are evident in what we do.

Our annual music concert turned out great. We know this was a little early this year and we had a fall concert instead of a winter concert. However, the selection of songs were on target to meet our seasonal needs. Thank you to Mrs. Geisler for all your hard work. Additionally, thank you to the students, staff, and parents for your dedication to our music program.

Next, our annual Thanksgiving Feast was a hit! We appreciate everyone attending this awesome event each year. It does take time out of your day, and we recognize that. Thank you! This is a special event in a lot of different ways. We are one of the only schools to host an event like this each year. We couldn't do it without our great kitchen staff, Mr. Green, staff members, students, and of course OUR great community. This event shows how caring and involved our community is in our school. You are all appreciated!

To wrap this up, we hope all of you get time to be with your loved ones during this great season. Enjoy every minute with them. Life is a gift, remember to cherish it. Please remember we always acknowledge your support in this pursuit of excellence. The journey is hard and takes a lot of effort. Good news is you have a staff that is dedicated to being the best.

Take pride in being a PIONEER! We are, and we are proud to say we are creating PRODUCTIVE PIONEERS for the future. Be safe!



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE PRESCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A public meeting of the Preschool Advisory Committee has been called and will be held by the Fort Calhoun Community Schools. The public meeting will be held on Thursday December 6th, 2022 at 3:15 o'clock PM and will take place at Fort Calhoun Elementary School, 1020 Monroe Street, Fort Calhoun Nebraska. The public hearing will be to discuss, consider, receive input, and for coordinating and conveying community interests and concerns related to the early childhood program.

MR. NICK WEMHOFF
Principal

One of the things that I get to do as a part of my position is visit with students on a regular basis. I get to talk to them about how things are going in class, their goals for after graduation, and what they hope the future brings for them. These conversations are one of the things I enjoy the most.

Last week I spoke to a senior student about how their year was going. Outside of the simple answer of “good”, she talked about how fast the year was going. What she said next is the basis for my article today. She referred back to my conversation with her class in May last year. Some history for you. When the Seniors leave following their graduation practice in May, I sit with the Junior Class and discuss various topics with them about the upcoming year. One of the items I point out is how quickly their senior year will go. She recalled that conversation and just couldn’t believe that her senior year was nearly half over. I then said to her, it only goes faster.

I think we all can relate to the phrase “it will all be over in a blink of an eye”. I want to emphasize to our students the importance of that phrase. As the school community continues toward winter break, you cannot lose focus on finishing the semester strong; it will all be over in a blink of an eye. December will pass, prom will come even quicker, and we will soon be saying we can’t believe it is graduation.

For our seniors, I hope you will live in the moment and savor what remains of your high school years. Don’t look ahead to graduation too early, it will be here soon enough. Live in the present. There are only 22 more Saturdays from now until graduation. To put this in perspective, there are 940 Saturdays from your birth until you turn(ed) 18. So while 22 may seem like a lot of Saturdays until graduation, you have already lived approximately 940 of them. “It will all be over in a blink of an eye.”

For me and living in the moment, I am looking forward to this holiday season. It is an opportunity for our family to spend time with those who matter most to us in our lives. As my family gets together and celebrates, we will be thinking of our other family we have gotten to know over the years; our family at the FORT. From my family to yours, we wish each and everyone of you a safe and wonderful holiday season.

“Be present, it is the only moment that matters”. -Unknown



Raegen Wells and Olivia Quinlan were selected as members of the Nebraska Capital Conference All Conference Volleyball Team

Congratulations to: 1st Team All-Conference- **Kaitlyn Welchert** and **Samantha Brewer**; Honorable Mention All-State *Omaha World Herald*- **Kaitlyn Welchert** and **Samantha Brewer**; Honorable Mention All-Conference- **Kaylee Taylor, Anna Taylor, Lucie Larsen.**

Several of our actors received recognition at the recent Conference One-Act Play competition. Those earning Outstanding Performance Awards are **Sophie Thomas, Eric Ertzner, James Miller, Kaylee Taylor, Bella Irvine, Sammie Ladwig, Abbey Lienemann, and Mollie Dierks**. At the District One-Act Contest **Sophie, Eric, James** and **Sammie** again earned Outstanding Performance Awards!

The **Show Choir** received a Superior rating for their performance at the Peru State Contemporary Choral Festival.



PFE News

Greetings from Pioneers for Education! We had a busy November planning the second half of the school year. Thank you to everyone that attended our November meeting it was very productive. It was decided to try to bring back some favorite PFE events. We will continue to plan and work with the school to make this happen. More details to come.

Art After School continues next semester. Registration will open before the holiday break. Information will be sent out in Thursday Folders and posted to our Facebook Page. These classes are very popular and fill up fast!

We wish every family in our amazing community a Happy Holiday Season! We will be anxious to get back to work after the holiday break and hope to see you join in. 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. Come have fun with us!

The next Pioneers for Education meeting will be held Monday, January 23rd at 7:30pm. We look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year!

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 correct by updating your Student Profile or calling your child’s respective schools.



The Medical Careers Club will be holding their annual Blood Drive on Wednesday, December 7th in the Auxiliary Gym of Fort Calhoun High School. The hours are 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Contact the high school at 402-468-5591 to register



Healthy School Food
A Recipe for the Future

Nebraska Department of Special Education
Survey for Parents



As a part of data collection for the SPP Part B Indicator 8 – Parent Involvement, a survey is made available to parents of children receiving special education in the Fort Calhoun School District. The parent survey is available for completion from January 17, 2023-March 30, 2023. Parents will be sent a link to the survey via email from their student’s case manager. All parent survey results must be submitted to NDE by March 31, 2023.

Post Prom Lasagna Dinner Benefit

Tuesday
December 13, 2022
5-8 PM High School Commons
During the JV and Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball Games

