

Winter Break Food Security Resources for Families

With the upcoming holidays and the uncertainty of winter weather, there are several ways to locate food and meals when school is not in session. Here are just a few resources for you:

Nebraska Market Maker | Nebraska Regional Food Systems Initiative
Free Meals Finder | No Kid Hungry
Find Your Local Food Bank | Feeding America
Nebraska's Little Free Pantry Network | Civic Nebraska
Call "211" or text your zip code to "898211"

1/1/23	Happy New Year!!
1/1-1/4	Vacation Continues
1/4	Teacher Inservice
1/5	School Resumes
1/9	School Board Meeting
1/10	Post Prom Lasagne Dinner Teammates Fundraiser -- "Chuck A Duck" Halftime of Basketball Games
1/16	No School - Teacher Inservice
1/20	Junior High Dance
1/27	Wee Screen @ Elementary
2/1-3/1	Preschool Registration
2/9	Post Prom Lasagne Dinner



WEE SCREEN



Wee Screen will take place January 27, 2023.
Watch for more information.



January 9th is School Resource Officer Appreciation Day---We are so grateful to have Officer Byelick in our schools

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.

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.

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.



The Fort Dispatch

Volume 32 No 6

Fort Calhoun Community Schools

January 2023

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Expectations

It is hard to believe it is already January, second semester will get underway soon. As we experience all the items that life throws at us, we must continue to have high expectations in our education, activities, work and in life. What are our hopes and dreams moving forward, what does it mean to have high expectations? Here is a top ten list of ideas that will help us have high expectations for ourselves in all that we do.

10. Leave behind the negativity – thoughts and people. No time for this.
9. Find solutions and resolutions. Put your work toward a positive outcome.
8. Be curious before critical. A question gets more response than a reaction.
7. Care more. Enough said.
6. How you view adversity and change will define how you grow.
5. Love and accountability are needed for growth.
4. Believe in your team. Empower your team.
3. You get what you allow.
2. It's not the event or circumstance that matters, it's your state of mind.
1. Think BIG!

None of these are uniquely mine. This list comes from many experiences, classes, books read, and speakers witnessed. A reflection of my notes as we start a new year, a new semester, a new month, a new day. As we continue with second semester and move toward the end of another school year it is important to remember to be positive and have high expectations.

Jerry Green
Superintendent
Fort Calhoun Community Schools



Visit our website at www.fortcalhounschoools.org

Mr. Schleifer
Asst Principal-Activities Director

-Elementary News-

Engaging + Learning + Achieving = Productive PIONEERS!

Pioneers,

Blizzard Blowout Holiday Tournament

- Fort Calhoun hosted Centura, Sandy-Creek, and Howells-Dodge on December 29th and 30th at the 2022 Blizzard Blowout Holiday Basketball Tournament.

Important Activity Dates:

- Basketball
 - o January 10th- Post-Prom Lasagna Dinner and Teammates Chuck a Duck Fundraiser
 - o January 31st- Parents Night
 - o February 9th- FCYSO Basketball Night & Post-Prom Lasagna Dinner
- Wrestling
 - o January 5th- Parents Night and Youth Wrestling Night

Unified Basketball

- We are excited to kick-start our Unified Basketball team this year! The Pioneers will travel to Ashland-Greenwood on Saturday, January 7th for a 4pm tip-off before the boys varsity basketball game at 5:00pm.

2022-2023 Unified Basketball Team	Athlete Partner
Adam Bannister	Cody Seefus
Noah Wolfe	Avery Quinlan
Will Turley	Sean Waters
Noah Le	Gemma Schrum
Harley Koepsell	Max Nourse
William Maxon	Kenny Wellwood
Colton Kendall	Owen Miller



Coaches: Paul Wilson, Jackie Beckmann, David Relihan, Ashley Dougherty

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



Happy New Year! Let's bring in 2023 with positive thoughts and a ready to work hard attitude. Once we put these two characteristics together the amount of production we accomplish will be amazing. I look forward to seeing what this new year will bring. Remember it will not always bring good news, but it will bring a decision for you to be positive or negative. You get to decide! On that note we are deciding to get well equipped to ensure students are getting the best learning environment possible. Please see below a few professional development activities that staff will be participating in and are excited for in the month of January.

The Fort Calhoun Elementary staff understand that we are always trying to get better for our students. That means, we as a staff, must get along and function at a high level to maximize students' experience. With that said, on Wednesday, January 4 our staff, myself included, will be participating in a professional development session that provides us tools to know how to work with others in a productive manner. This professional development is called ColorWorks®. We have been working with this same concept for over five years in the building. The constant movement with staff and the hardships we have endured these past years have taken a toll on all of us. Intentional sessions like this one are an example of the growth mindset we possess to ensure we will weather this storm in a systematic approach. Please understand we are working hard just not in the daily grind of the school day. We are working hard even when students aren't in the building. We know the time to get better is now. We continue to be up for the challenge.

On January 13, we are excited to bring in our local Educational Service Unit for some additional supports with our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) frameworks. We are on year four on implementing this framework school-wide. Each year we are evolving to meet the students and systems needs. This professional development on January 13 will include one more layer to ensure we are implementing this program with fidelity. We look forward to seeing how this rolls out. Please take time to ask questions to any staff member on this school-wide frameworks. I know your students are active with it every day.

Thank you for reading. If you have any questions regarding any of our professional development plans or what is our next steps, please don't hesitate to give me a call or stop by.

Let's continue to make our school the best in the state. Thank you for being an active component in our school. We appreciate you!

Educationally yours,

Drew R. Wagner
Your Elementary Principal

Upcoming events:
January 5: School resumes
January 16: No School-Teacher
In-Service
January 27: Early Childhood Screenings

*All dates are subject to change.



Preschool registration will take place From February 1-March 1, 2023. More information will be available on our website. The next Parent Advisory Committee will be March 4, 2023.

MR. NICK WEMHOFF
Principal

Welcome back from Winter break and welcome to 2023! While we usher in a new year on the calendar, the second half of the school year begins. Winter break serves as an opportunity for students to rest before the rush of the second semester. Before time gets busy and the daily rush is in full effect, I want to share with you key dates for the second semester:

- January 16, no school.
- February 15, parent teacher conferences.
- February 15-16, 1:30 school dismissal.
- February 17, no school.
- March 9-10, no school.
- March 18, Prom and Post Prom.
- March 21, Pre-ACT day for sophomores and ACT day for juniors.
- April 7 and 10, no school.
- May 6, graduation.

This is a reminder that the school calendar can be found on the school website. You are able to access our daily schedule as well as see what is coming up for the remainder of the school year.

“Do something today that your future self will thank you for.”



Grayson Bouwman
and **Austin Welchert**
were named All
Nebraska Football
Honorable Mention by
the *Omaha World Herald*.



Fort Calhoun Schools is currently accepting applications for an Elementary Special Education Teacher for the 2023-24 school year. Certification/Licensure: Nebraska Teaching Certificate endorsement in Special Education in the areas of regular and special education with emphasis on Specific Learning Disabilities, Behavior Disorders, and at-risk students. Applications will be taken until the position is filled. Subject to a veterans preference. EOE



**Post Prom Lasagna
Dinner Benefit**
Tuesday
January 10, 2023
5-8 PM High School
Commons
During the Girls/Boys Basketball Games



Happy New Year from Pioneers for Education! We hope everyone had a fun and safe holiday break. Now that we are all refreshed and reenergized its time to look toward the last half of the school year. The next Pioneers for Education meeting will be held Monday, January 23rd at 7:30pm. Please consider attending to hear about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. We look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year!

Pioneers for Education (PFE) is the parent/teacher organization that supports the students and schools in the Fort Calhoun school district. We are committed to working together with parents, teachers, and students to provide fun and educational opportunities for both the Elementary School and High School. The PFE gives back to both the high school and elementary school by financially supporting many activities like Post Prom, Family Movie Night, Donuts with Dad/Mornings with Mom, Spirit Fridays, Speakers & Assemblies, Staff Appreciation Week, and many others. We also sponsor many fun and educational events like the Summer Bridge Workbook Program, One School/ One Book Reading Program, and Senior Scholarship opportunities.

In addition to our corporate sponsorships and fundraising opportunities we count on membership dues to help support activities, events, programs, and items for our schools to enrich, engage, and celebrate students! We hope you will consider joining PFE this year to support students, teachers, and the schools. We also hope that you will attend some meetings and help us plan and volunteer for events so that we can continue providing them to our students.

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.
pioneersforeducation@gmail.com or on Facebook: facebook.com/pioneersforeducation

Come have fun with us!

Matt Reichert- President, Chris Roberts- Vice President, Jami Biodrowski- Secretary, Shannon Pokorski- Treasurer, Nicole Duros- Communications 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.



**Healthy School Food
A Recipe for the Future**



More of the schools' information is now sent by electronic means. It is imperative that all contact information for parents/guardians is up to date. Contact your child's school with any new or updated phone numbers, e-mail addresses or text information.