

Fort Calhoun Community Schools
Box 430
Fort Calhoun, Nebraska 68023



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FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT’S OFFICE

Thoughts on the New Year

It is a busy time of year. As I write this, we are well beyond the midpoint of January, and it will soon be February. Items to remember as second semester flies by:

- Stay Healthy, the health department has informed the school districts they believe we will see another spike in the cold and flu season. Keep good hygiene practices and etiquette a top priority to help stop the spread of illness.
- Keep a growth mindset. As we live our lives, we understand that it is not always going to be easy. The mark of a growth mindset is your ability to find success and positivity even when things aren’t quite right. Character has many different names and definition; in the end the most important thing is to just have it.
- Ignore the Critics; control what you can control. You could cure all disease or feed the world and some people will criticize you for it. Leaders expect to be attacked but will still say what needs to be said and do what needs to be done.
- Stay positive. You are broadcasting energy in everything that you do, is it positive or negative? Your vibe is contagious and impacts the people around you. Maybe ask the question, would you want to hang out with you?
- Love the ones you love. I say this as we continue to see heartache and tragedy in our world and in our own lives. Don’t forget to give hugs, allow yourself to be hugged and always have the awareness and courage to say I love you.

Have a great second semester and a great 2023.

Jerry Green
Superintendent
Fort Calhoun Community Schools



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

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 at the high school office. The fob renews yearly each June 1st. If you have any questions contact Jamie Schleifer at 402-468-5591.

Visit our website at www.fortcalhounschoools.org

Mr. Schleifer
Asst Principal-Activities Director

Pioneers,

Important Activity Dates:

- Basketball
 - o January 31st-Parents Night
 - o February 9th- Unified Basketball vs Bennington (Between the varsity Girls & Boys games)
 - o February 9th- FCYSO Youth Basketball Night & Post-Prom Lasagna Dinner
 - o Girls Subdistricts- February 13, 14, & 16
 - o Boys Subdistricts- February 20, 21, & 23
- Wrestling
 - o Districts- February 10 & 11 at Ogallala
 - o State- February 16, 17, & 18
- Spring Sports
 - o Practice starts on February 27th for high school baseball, golf, and track
 - o Practice starts on March 20th for junior high track.



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



GRADUATING SENIORS AND PARENTS



The Pioneer Foundation first created the scholarship fund in 1985 to provide resources to encourage graduates pursuing post-secondary education and has awarded \$150,000 in scholarships since its inception. This organization is now the Fort Calhoun Community Schools Foundation with the goal to promote the advancement of education and recognize excellence in the Fort Calhoun Community. It also administers and serves as the selection committee for a broad range of local scholarships.

Mrs. Hernandez has been speaking to the seniors about the process to apply for these scholarships and the application period for them is now open. Go to the schools' website, fortcalhounschoools.org, Students, and Local Scholarships for information and the application blanks.

-Elementary News-
Engaging + Learning + Achieving = Productive PIONEERS!

Winter is upon us! I know the students are happy to see the snow on the ground. We would like to provide a few reminders as we enter the winter season. First, please make sure your information is up to date in PowerSchool. This platform is the main communication tool when there is an interruption of a school day (Ex. No school, Late start). If you are having issues with this not working, please contact our office. Next, this would be in regard to recess during the winter season. When the temperature gets below the real feel of 15 degrees the students will have indoor recess. If it is above the real feel 15 degrees, then students will have outside recess. If there is snow on the ground the students can bring their snow gear from home to play in the snow. Unfortunately, if your student does not bring their snow gear then they will not be able to play in the snow. Good news is the playground is scooped and all the equipment is open for students to utilize. I hope this provides some insight on how our recess procedures work during the winter months. It looks like the cold is here to stay for a bit. Let's strap in and continue to work hard no matter how cold it is.

A few reminders coming our way for the month of February. Preschool registration is open from February 1, 2023 - March 1, 2023. It will open at 12:00am on February 1. Please refer to our district website (<https://www.fortcalhounschoools.org/>) to fill out a registration form. Families will be notified of their acceptance status by April 1, 2023. After you complete the registration, you will be emailed a link to sign up for a time to have your child screened on Friday, March 17, 2023. (Alternative screening date will be March 24, 2023.). Students must be 3 years old by August 1, 2023. Tuition is \$140 a month. A sliding scale is available. Additionally, please note that all preschool students that are in the program currently will fill out a separate document. This document will provide us with information if you plan on coming back to our program. Mrs. Royuk and Mrs. Fleischman will send this out to you through email.

Then, Parent/Teacher conferences is February 15 and 16 with a 1:15pm dismissal. We are working on getting the sign-up platform up and running. Please be looking for an email with that information in the next two weeks. More to come soon. We are always excited for this time to celebrate the successes and discuss the challenges. See you soon.

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 27: Early Childhood Screenings
February 1: Preschool Enrollment opens
February 9: County Spelling Bee
February 15 and 16: P/T Conferences; 1:15pm dismissal
February 17: No School

***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

Over the course of the next month and a half, we will begin to prepare our Junior's for the ACT. Using test strategies and test prep questions provided by the ACT, we will begin to practice questions to give exposure to test questions students may see on the ACT. It is important to us that we give all our students the best possible opportunity to maximize their ACT scores. ACT scores can have an enormous financial impact on the future of our students who decide to attend a two or four-year college. Every high school junior student across the state of Nebraska is required to take the ACT this spring. The test date for Fort Calhoun is set for Tuesday, March 21st, please make sure you mark your calendar. If you have any questions regarding the ACT this spring, please feel free to stop in and see Mr. O'Connor during Parent-Teacher conferences. He is the ACT coordinator for the HS and can help answer any questions you may have. Speaking of Parent-Teacher conferences, they are scheduled for Wednesday, February 15th at the Junior-Senior HS. Parents are invited to stop in and see teachers between 2:00 pm and 8:00 pm. Detailed information regarding Parent-Teacher conferences will be coming soon.

"Your success and happiness lie in you."-Helen Keller



Fort Calhoun Community Schools use an automated system to notify families of emergencies or weather-related closings. 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.



- 2/1 Preschool Registration Begins
- 2/7-11 National School Counseling Week
- 2/9 Unified Basketball Game @ Ft Calhoun
Post Prom Lasagne Dinner
- 2/10-16 Elementary Book Fair
- 2/15 Parent Teacher Conferences at both schools Early Dismissal
- 2/16 Parent Teacher Conferences at the Elementary - Early Dismissal both Schools
- 2/17 No School
- 2/28 High School Band Concert
- 3/1 Preschool Registration Ends
- 3/2 Jr-Sr High Choir Concert
- 3/8 End of 3rd Quarter
- 3/9-10 No School Spring Break



Greetings from Pioneers for Education! The PFE Officer Team has spent the last couple months working hard behind the scenes to plan fun and exciting events for our Pioneer Families! We are excited to announce the PFE Spring Carnival is coming back! The Carnival will be held in the Auxiliary Gym of Fort Calhoun Jr/Sr High from 5-8pm on Friday, April 21st! Another PFE favorite happening this month is the Original Works program. This is a really great opportunity to get your child's artwork immortalized on a wide variety of fun products! Information will be coming home in Thursday Folders and be posted to our FaceBook Page with more details on both of these events.

If you would like to add your input or expertise to PFE events, join us at our next meeting. It is never too late to become a member. There will be two officer positions opening up for the 2023-24 school year, Vice President and Communication Coordinator. Please consider joining our team. We are a fun group with the ultimate goal to put smiles on kids faces, provide activities the whole family will enjoy, and support our amazing teachers and staff as much as possible! If you like to spread kindness and joy then you're the volunteer we need to continue to offer these events. Come have fun with us!

The next Pioneers for Education meeting will be held Monday, February 20th at 7:30pm. 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.

Your Officer Team, Matt Reichert- President Chris Roberts- Vice President Shannon Pokorski- Treasurer Jami Biodrowski- Secretary Nicole Duros- Communication Coordinator



Haley Conner, Brooke Johnsen, Samantha Thomas and Sophie Thomas were selected to the Hastings Honor Choir. **Haley, Brooke, Samantha, Sophie and Rylee Steiner** were selected to the UNO Honor Choir. **Brooke, Sophie, Harrison Geiger and Isabella Irvine** were selected to the Wesleyan Honor Choir. Alternates for the Honor Choirs are **Isabella, Riley Lingle and Eric Ertzner**. **Steven Bryan, Dehlia Hallberg, Cavin Greiner and Layla Steiner** were accepted into the Nebraska Middle School Honor Choir.

Trey King, Michael Maxon, Cody Rogers, Alex Schuler and Johnathon Schwarte auditioned and were accepted to the Hastings Honor Band. **Michael, Cody, Trey, Ali Dill, Johnathan and Alex Schuler** were also selected to the UNO Honor Bands. **Johnathon, Trey, Michael and Vinny Bonacci** were selected for the Nebraska Wesleyan Honor Band; and **Michael** was also selected for the UNL Winter Wind Festival.

Leo Morris and Connor Jabens are the Champion and Runner-up respectively of the Fort Calhoun Junior High Spelling Bee.

Post Prom Lasagna Dinner Benefit
Thursday, February 9, 2023
High School Commons
During the Girls/Boys Basketball Games

