



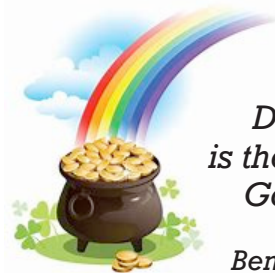
Read Across America Day
and Dr. Seuss' Birthday
March 2, 2023



3/2 Jr-Sr High Choir Concert
3/8 Elementary Talent Show
End of 3rd Quarter
3/9-10 Spring Break
NO SCHOOL
3/13 School Board Meeting
3/14 Junior High Science Fair
3/17 St. Patrick's Day
3/18 Prom-Post Prom
3/20 First Day of Spring
3/25-26 Band Variety Show
4/1-2 High School Musical
4/14 & 21 Kindergarten Round Up



High School Musical
April 1 & 2, 2023
Fort Calhoun High School



*Diligence
is the Mother of
Good Luck*
Benjamin Franklin

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 set class sizes and program parameters in February. 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 fortcalhoun-schools.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.



The Fort Dispatch

Volume 32 No 8

Fort Calhoun Community Schools

March 2023

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

The "Snow Day" Decision

What goes into the decision to call off school, release early, or start late. A "snow day" is a relative term as we have canceled for extreme cold, ice, and we even canceled a day a year ago for extreme wind. How do I come to this decision? There are many moving and intertwining parts. I will try and walk you through the process.

1. Local news channels will issue a weather alert day or notices for extreme weather. You are now put on alert for what might be.
2. If inclement weather develops, superintendents and other local officials are contacted by the National Weather Service (NWS). Twenty-four to thirty-six hours ahead of the storm they will begin sending out power point updates every four to six hours. It just depends on the severity. If severity increases, they will do a webinar with the latest updates usually about six hours ahead of predicted storm.
3. Armed with this information it becomes a waiting game of sorts. Surrounding superintendents are in direct contact with each other and rely thoughts on what they call may be. Two scenarios develop at this point based on the confidence of the NWS predictions. If confidence is high and the storm is tracking, you will see schools cancel early. If confidence is not as strong you will see superintendents delay seeing what develops. There is a domino effect as well. Once a school cancels and then another you will start to see more go. I am on a thread with five other surrounding superintendents, some of those are on threads with schools closer to them. Communication happens well into the night and into the early morning. I am well informed about what is happening all around us.
4. In-district information comes from the head maintenance person and me, who are each driving the roads to get an idea of conditions. This happens usually between 11 p.m. and 4:30 a.m. depending on the timing of the storm. We can also contact the county to get their view on the roads, especially the gravel roads. Then I make the best possible, safest decision I can.

There are many more scenarios that could be played out here, but this is a snapshot of what goes into the decision. At the end of the day, it is about getting students and staff home or here safely. This decision is never made lightly. So, as we enter March, it is my hope we are done with making "snow day" decisions. (But probably not)

Jerry Green
Superintendent
Fort Calhoun Community Schools.



Pioneers,

Mr. Schleifer
Asst Principal-Activities Director

Important Activity Information & Dates:

- Boys Basketball
 - Grayson Bouwman continued to add to his records, adding the following:
 - Free Throws Made in a Season: Grayson Bouwman 136
 - Free Throws Made in a Game: Grayson Bouwman 20
 - Girls Basketball
 - Ella Bouwman added her name to the record boards in the gym as well!
 - Free Throws Made in a Game: Ella Bouwman 15 (this ties the record currently held by Ashley (Kucera) Armstrong)
 - Wrestling
 - Congratulations to Ely Olberding, Lance Olberding, and Wesley Short for qualifying for State Wrestling. Ely Olberding was our lone medalist finishing as State Runner-Up! The Olberding boys rewrote the record books (again) this year, below are the new records broken this season:
 - Most Wins in a Career: Ely Olberding 106
 - Team Points in a Career: Ely Olberding 1188.5
 - Pins in a Career: Ely Olberding 106
 - Nearfall Career: Lance Olberding 194
 - Our Fort Calhoun Junior High Invite will be held on Friday, March 3rd at 4:00pm.
- Spring Sports
 - Practice started on February 27th for high school baseball, golf, and track
 - Practice starts on March 20th for junior high track.

Fort Calhoun Community Weight Room Information:

- A family fob can be purchased in the high school main office for \$50
- It is for immediate household family members only
- Guests are not allowed- family only
- To purchase a fob, you must be 18 years +, and be a high school graduate
- No students should be in the weight room at any time without supervision
- Open Monday-Friday 6:00pm-10pm & 8:00am-10:00pm on weekends

Thank you,

Jamie Schleifer
Assistant Principal/AD



March is National Nutrition Month

Good nutrition is essential for students to have a strong education. The Child Nutrition program through the Nebraska Department of Education supports schools, among other institutions, to ensure healthy meals to children. Through USDA guidelines, Fort Calhoun Community Schools provide healthy school meals throughout the school year. Fort Calhoun provides both healthy breakfasts and lunches to students to promote health and educational readiness.

Meal benefits are available to families/students who qualify, and meal prices are kept in line to ensure participation by those who don't. Benefit applications and meal prices are listed on the schools' website under "School" and "Food Service".

Some tips for healthy nutrition choices include plenty of water each day, knowing and choosing foods high in nutrients, eating brightly colored foods, and shopping for non-processed foods that do not contain unnecessary additives and sugars.

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

February was full of activities around the building. A few highlights included Valentine's Day parties and Parent/Teacher conferences. We did get to celebrate Valentine's Day in each classroom. The students really enjoyed this celebration. It was a celebration that was long overdue with the students missing out on the winter celebration due to inclement weather. It was nice to have parent volunteers in the building. Moving right along to Parent/Teacher conferences. Parent/Teacher conferences started with a great turnout. Unfortunately, with the inclement weather we had to cancel the second day of Parent/Teacher conferences. There were a few options that were available if you felt like you wanted to meet with the teacher to discuss your child's education. Good news is that all report cards and materials that were supposed to be shared that night were sent home with your child. The month sure went fast. As we turn the corner for March we will not slow down.

The March events include Reading Across America week, Talent Show, and Donuts with Dad. Reading Across America week we will celebrate reading and the importance of literacy all around us. Each day will bring a theme for students to celebrate. We will also have guest speakers to come into classrooms and read a book of their choice. Our guest readers are Mr. Green, Deputy Greg, and me. We all look forward to sharing a book with each classroom. This week is full of fun. Then, on Wednesday, March 8, our student council will be hosting our annual Talent Show. Please be on the lookout for information regarding this event in our weekly digital folder. The students are ready to shine and show of their talents. This is always a fun filled event. Hope to see you there. Lastly, our PFE will sponsor our last Donuts with Dad event on Friday, March 17. Who can turn down a free donut and a great way to start your day, not me! We look forward to seeing our dad's/guardians at this event.

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



April 14th & April 21st
Watch for More Information
Contact the Elementary School at
402-468-5714 to register if you have not
already done so



The next Parent Advisory Committee will be March 4, 2023. More information will be available on our website.

MR. NICK WEMHOFF
Principal

The Fort Calhoun Prom for Juniors and Seniors will be hosted on Saturday, March 18th in the Skutt Center at Creighton University. The doors will open at 6:30 pm. The coronation of the Prom Royalty will take place at 7:45 pm. The dance is officially over at 10:00 pm. I want to take a minute to thank all those who assist in making prom a great experience for our students, in particular, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. WellmannHH. As the junior class sponsors, they are critical in ensuring prom is a success. The fundraising, scheduling the DJ, finding a place to host the event along with putting the ceremony together are a few items that go along with the prom.

Post Prom this year will be held at the High School. There are a lot of activities for our students to participate in while attending post-prom this year. The post-prom is driven by a committee of parents who work very hard at organizing fundraising events, coordinating the activities, decorating, purchasing gifts and so much more. Countless other people volunteer, bring food, make food, and hang out with our students while staying up all night. Thank you to all parents who will assist with post-prom this year. One more thank you to all patrons and businesses within our community and around our community who donated money, goods, or services.

Prom and Post Prom are great events and wouldn't be possible without the help and hard work of so many people. Thank you to everyone who is a part of the process!

Please mark your calendar! March 21, 2023 will be the ACT / Pre-ACT day for our Juniors and Sophomores. Information will be sent home soon with details regarding that day. It is important that all Juniors are here for the ACT test on that day!

"You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you."
-John Bunyan



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.



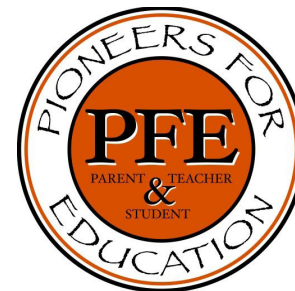
Fort Calhoun Community Schools are currently accepting applications for these positions for the 2023-24 school year:

Elementary Special Education Teacher. Certification Licensure and Nebraska Teaching Certificate with endorsements in Special Education areas of regular and special education with emphasis on Specific Learning Disabilities, Behavior Disorders, and at-risk students is required.

Elementary School Nurse. This is a full time position when school is in session. Either RN or LPN licensure is required.

Jr-Sr High School Office Aide. This position will be open beginning 3/13/23 for 2022-23 and available for 2023-24.

Applications will be taken until the positions are filled. Application procedures are available on the schools' website under "About" and "Human Resources" Subject to veterans preference. EOE



Greetings from Pioneers for Education! Students have been letting their creativity flow and have completed their art for the Original Works program. This is a really great opportunity to get your child's artwork immortalized on a wide variety of fun products! Be on the look out for order forms coming home in Thursday Folders and posted to our FaceBook Page.

Donuts with Dad will be on March 17th at 7am in the Elementary Gym. Feel free to grab Grandpa, Uncle, or Mom if Dad is not available. All are welcome! We will be selling desserts at the St. John the Baptist Fish Fry on March 24th. Keep an eye out on how to donate desserts and volunteer. We are excited to get out and see the community at this event. Save the Date! 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! More details coming soon!

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, March 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



Congrats to our three wrestlers who made it to State-Ely Olberding, Lance Olberding and Wes Short. Ely wrestled to 2nd Place and is State Runner-up!!!

Leo Morris placed 2nd at the Washington County Spelling Bee.

12 students earned recognition with 24 entries in the Scholastic Art Awards competition. They are **Ava Bittner, Sophie Conrad, Harrison Geiger, Brooke Johnsen, Minne Ma, Bella McLaughlin, James Miller, Regina Namuth, Jake Ng, Abe Parys, Kylie Perfetti, and Sasha Robinson.** Gold Keys were earned by **Ava, Harrison, Brooke (2), and Regina.** Silver Keys were earned by **Ava, Brooke, and Sasha.** Congratulations.

Grace Genoways was recognized in poetry for her entry in the Scholastic Writing competition.

Our **Dance** and **Cheer** teams attended the State competitions. **Dance** placed 3rd in the Hip Hop competition.

Additional recognitions for our Band students include **Tyler DeMilt** who was selected to UNO Honor Band. **Michael Maxon, Jovi Greiner** and **Addie Benoit** medaled at the Elkhorn Band Olympics.

Isabella Irvine, Eric Ertzner, Brooke Johnsen and **Sophie Thomas** were selected to the Midland University Honor Choir. **Steven Bryan, Dehlia Hallberg** and **Layla Steiner** were selected to the UNO Middle School Honor Choir.

