

Fort Calhoun Community Schools
Box 430
Fort Calhoun, Nebraska 68023

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FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT’S OFFICE

Welcome Back to School

August 10th will be the start of the school year for our students. Starting with a very short day on Thursday and a regular Friday allows for a soft landing before we start with our first full week. It is always a good feeling to have the students and staff back in the building after summer break. It can get a little “empty” around these halls. The custodial crew has been busy with summer cleaning and other projects that take place over the summer days.

Wherever your student is in their educational journey, I believe most students do enjoy the start of the school year. It is an exciting time to meet their new teachers and connect with friends. This summer seems to have gone by very fast for me, maybe because I am just getting older, and time seems to move faster. Anyway, the elementary and junior/senior time for your students will go by quickly and they will be off to their next adventure after high school. Make sure to take the time to enjoy the ride.

The track and field is running a little behind schedule but the company has made some adjustments to the schedule and still have hope we will be able to play on the football field for our first game. The entire project will not be finished but the hope is the field will be. Just in case it doesn’t go as planned we do have a backup plan in place. If needed Mr. Schleifer will get that information out to you. If you remember in the fall of 2015, we didn’t have a gym and had to play our volleyball games on the road. This is not the same scenario, but we have made alternate plans before. We will hope for best.

See you soon.

Sincerely,

Jerry Green
Superintendent
Fort Calhoun Community Schools



The mission of the Fort Calhoun Schools is to:
Foster learning in an inspiring, caring and safe environment; provide
Opportunities for all students to be successful; instill the attributes of
Respect and responsibility among staff and students alike; and present students with the
Tools to succeed in life.

POLICY 3053-NONDISCRIMINATION

The School District does not discriminate on the basis of prohibited factors in employment and educational programs/activities. The School District affirmatively strives to provide equal opportunity for all as required by: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 -prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended -prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, or national origin. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 -prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender. Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA) as amended -prohibits discrimination on the basis of age with respect to individuals who are at least 40. The Equal Pay Act of 1963 as amended -prohibits gender discrimination in payment of wages to women and men performing substantially equal work in the same establishment. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 -prohibits discrimination against the disabled. Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) -prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in employment, public service, public accommodations and telecommunications. The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) -requires covered employers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to “eligible” employees for certain family and medical reasons. The Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 -prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions. The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) –provides job protections and reemployment rights to military reservists and National Guard members called to active duty. The Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act (FEPA) –prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy), disability, marital status, and retaliation. Nebraska Age Discrimination in Employment Act (Age Act) –prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of age for those individuals who are over 40 years of age. The Equal Pay Act of Nebraska –prohibits discriminatory wage practices based on sex. The Nebraska Equal Opportunity in Education Act –prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex (including pregnancy) by any educational institution. Veterans Preference Law (NEB.REV.STAT§§ 48-225 to 48-231) -stipulates categorical preferences for employment for military veterans and for the spouses of disabled veterans. Additional School Board policies prohibit harassment and/or discrimination against students, employees, or patrons on the basis of sex, race, color, ethnic or national origin, religion, marital status, disability, age, pregnancy, and any other legally prohibited basis. Retaliation for engaging in a protected activity is also prohibited. Any person who believes she or he has been discriminated against, denied a benefit, or excluded from participation in any district education program or activity may file a complaint using the district’s complaint procedures. Inquiries regarding compliance with any of the laws referred to in this policy may be directed to the superintendent or to the district’s Title IX and/or Section 504/ADA Coordinator.

Mr. Nick Wemhoff
Secondary Principal

I hope this newsletter finds you all in high spirits and enjoying your summer break. As we eagerly count down the days, I am thrilled to welcome you back to school in just a few weeks!

One of the things I like most about a new academic year is that it presents a wonderful chance to start fresh and explore new horizons. This year I challenge each of you to embrace the newness around you. Try something you’ve never done before, step out of your comfort zones, and take the leap to meet new people. Don’t be afraid to face your fears; let them become stepping stones to growth and success. This academic year is an opportunity to learn, grow, and become who you want to become.

I want nothing more than for each of you to have a successful school year. While many people measure success in different ways, it is my hope you understand that success isn’t solely measured by academic accomplishments; it encompasses your personal growth, happiness, and the positive impact you make on others. You need to define success for yourself. Whatever you want; whatever you desire; work hard. You will be amazed at what you can do!

I cannot wait to see you all back at the FORT. I know that this is going to be a great year!

- “If it doesn’t challenge you, it doesn’t change you.”
Fred DeVito

Jr-Sr High School Pick Up/Drop Off

All students should be dropped off in the west parking lot and enter through the front doors. Be considerate of our buses as this is also the bus drop-off area.

Picking up students during the school day should always be done in the west parking lot as they exit from the office. Students may meet you in the parking lot.

During construction, the south parking lot will not be available for student pickup. Parents should come to the west lot, **find a spot and PARK to wait for your student(s)**. This lot has traffic and the front drive is a bus lane and an emergency area which should not be used. Please be mindful of the buses exiting the lot on your departure. After practices parents should **PARK** in the west lot not on the drive. Thank you for your help with this.



Several baseball players were recognized for post season honors this past Spring. **Chase Premier** and **Carter Christensen** were named 2nd Team All Conference and **Sam Halford, Declyn Otte** and **Eli Tinkham** received All Conference Honorable Mention. **Carter** and **Chase** were also named All State Honorable Mention by the Omaha World Herald.

Joe Doyle attended the Skills USA contest in Atlanta and received a Skill Point Certificate in Fire Fighting.



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| 7/31-8/2 | Band Camp |
| 8/7-8/10 | Staff Inservice |
| 8/8 | 7th Grade Orientation |
| 8/9 | Elementary Back to School Night |
| 8/10 | First Day of School Early Dismissals |
| 8/14 | School Board Meeting |
| 8/18 | PFE Movie Night @ Elementary |
| | Fall Sports Kickoff @ High School |
| 8/30 | Band @ State Fair |
| 9/4 | Labor Day NO SCHOOL |



Greetings Pioneers and families! We’re ready to begin a new school year! First, we extend a warm welcome to our newly appointed officers Chris Roberts, President and Amy Evanich, Communications Chair. Your time and talent make a difference for PFE. We’re also grateful for the dedicated service over the past years of our outgoing officers, Matt Reichert and Nicole Duros. Their commitment to our school community has been invaluable. Currently we have an open Vice President position. If interested in learning more, reach out to PFE. The PFE officer team has been diligently preparing for the new academic year, and we’re eager to engage again with the remarkable team and families at Fort Calhoun Community Schools!

You’ll find PFE at Back to School Night. Come and connect with us. Membership forms will be available, and we’re eager to answer any inquiries and share with you the exciting events we have been busy planning for the 2023-2024 year! Pioneers For Education (PFE) is an organization propelled by parents, educators, and the community. The amount of your involvement is your choice; and we appreciate all who donate their time, talents and/or treasure to support PFE.

- Mark your calendars for some of our favorite events of the year:
- August 9 - Back to School Night - Elementary
 - August 11 - Family Movie Night - Elementary
 - August 28 - Monthly PFE Meeting @ 7:30 pm - High School Library
 - September 22 - Walk-a-thon
 - October 27 - Mornings with Mom
 - March 15 - Donuts with Dad

PFE is always open to feedback and we can be contacted at pioneersforeducation@gmail.com. Follow PFE on Facebook for exciting updates, event photos, and more. We’re looking forward to a collaborative and fun school year!

Your Officer Team,
Chris Roberts - President; **Open Position** - Vice President; Shannon Pokorski - Treasurer; Jami Biodrowski - Secretary; Amy Evanich - Communication Coordinator

SCHOOL DISTRICT CENSUS

We are growing and to be prepared we continually maintain a census of all our residents to determine future needs.

Please help us with our child count by reporting your children up to 18 years old. If you have not already notified us or there has been a change in your household, call the District office at 402-468-5591 with your information. If you have new neighbors pass this on to them. We would like to hear from you whether you have school-age children or not so we may keep everyone up-to-date with District information.

FORT CALHOUN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS DISTRICT CENSUS RECORD					
Resident: Last	First	Mailing Address:		Zip	
Spouse		Residence Address: (if different)			
Occupation	He/She	County	Phone #		
Other Adults Living at Same Address					
Date	For Office Use Only:			Census ID #	
NAME OF CHILD/SOC. SEC. # (Birth to 21 Years)	ID #	SEX M F	DATE OF BIRTH MMDDYY	PLACE OF BIRTH CITY/STATE	
Rev 9/2010					

Summary of the School Immunization Rules and Regulations

Student Age Group	Required Vaccines
Ages 2 through 5 years enrolled in a school based program not licensed as a child care provider	4 doses of DTaP, DTP, or DT vaccine 3 doses of Polio vaccine 3 doses of Hib vaccine or 1 dose of Hib given at or after 15 months of age 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine 1 dose of MMR or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age 1 dose of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. 4 doses of pneumococcal or 1 dose of pneumococcal given on or after 15 months of age
Students entering school (Kindergarten or 1 st Grade depending on the school district's entering grade)	3 doses of DTaP, DTP, DT, or Td vaccine, one given on or after the 4 th birthday 3 doses of Polio vaccine 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine or 2 doses of adolescent vaccine if student is 11-15 years of age 2 doses of MMR or MMRV vaccine, given on or after 12 months of age and separated by at least one month 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. If the child has had varicella disease, they do not need any varicella shots.
Students entering 7 th grade	Must be current with the above vaccinations AND receive 1 dose of Tdap (contain Pertussis booster)
Students transferring from outside the state at any grade	Must be immunized appropriately according to the grade entered.

Source: Nebraska Immunization Program, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. . For additional information, call 402-471-6423.

The School Rules & Regulations are available on the internet: http://dhs.ne.gov/Pages/reg_1173.aspx (Title 173: Control of Communicable Diseases - Chapter 3; revised and implemented 2011)
Updated 01/26/2018

FOOD SERVICE 2023-24

Fort Calhoun Schools serve nutritious meals to student during the school year. If you have already received notification of 2023-24 benefits granted through direct certification, your student(s) will begin receiving them on the first day of school. If you received benefits in 2022-23 those will carryover until September 22, 2023. If you did not, we urge you to complete the necessary paperwork immediately if you believe you qualify. Forms will be sent home the first day of school and can be found on the school website under “Food Service”. Students will have to pay for meals until such time this is received. Benefits are not retroactive. School board policy states “The district’s policy on charged meals is: “If a student has no funds available to pay for a meal, the student will be permitted to charge up to five meals. Thereafter, if a student has no funds available to pay for a meal, no food will be provided.” If you have any questions, please contact the District Office at 402-468-5591.



Due to rising food costs, supply chain issues, and -----, the Board of Education took a recommendation regarding meal costs to raise the costs in some areas. Prices had not been raise since prior to the pandemic.

PRICES FOR 2023-24

ELEMENTARY K-6

Student Breakfast	1.75
Adult Breakfast	2.50
Student Lunch	2.75
Second Lunch	2.75
Milk	0.50
Reduced Breakfast	.30**
Reduced Lunch	.40**
Adult Lunch	4.75

SECONDARY 7-12

Student Breakfast	2.25
Adult Breakfast	2.50
Student Lunch	3.10
Second Lunch	3.10
Milk	0.50
Reduced Breakfast	.30**
Reduced Lunch	.40**
Adult Lunch	4.75

** Required by Federal Legislation

P-EBT BENEFITS SUMMER 2023 PLAN

The USDA approved a final summer COVID relief payment for meals for students who received benefits at the end of the 2022-23 school year. Information was sent to the Child Nutrition Program on the eligible students and those students/families should watch for a P-EBT card to come in the mail or a notification that additional money has been added to the card you may already have gotten. This should be coming mid-September. If you have any questions contact your DHHS representative.

OPTION ENROLLMENT 2024-25

The Option Enrollment application period for the 2024-25 school year is open September 1, 2023 through March 15, 2024. Forms are available on our website or at the school offices. The School Board sets class size and program parameters in October. According to State law, and all applicants must be notified one way or the other by April 1st. **Applicants are taken on a first-come, first-serve basis.**



Fort Calhoun Community Schools use an automated system to notify families of emergencies or weather-related closings by call, text or e-mail. Make sure all your contact numbers are up-to-date and let us know your preferred way of notification by returning your Student Profiles.

MR. JAMIE SCHLEIFER
Assistant Principal/AD

Pioneers,

As we gear up for an exciting fall sports season, we want to remind you of a few important details to ensure a smooth start for your children’s participation in the sports program.

1. Sports Physicals: Please remember to turn in your children’s sports physicals to the High School office before the start of the fall sports season. These physicals are essential for their safety and athletes will not be allowed to participate in practice until they have completed a Sports Physical.
2. NSAA Consent Forms: The NSAA consent forms are a requirement for all students participating in sports. Kindly complete and submit these forms to the school office as soon as possible so your children can be cleared for their chosen fall activities.
3. Important dates for Fall Activities: The High School fall sports season officially starts on August 7th. Please refer to the highlighted dates below for additional information.
4. Parents Meeting: We invite you to attend the parents meeting on August 6th at 6pm. This meeting will be held at Fort Calhoun High School and will cover important information about the fall sports season, team expectations, and guidelines. Each fall sports team will hold their sport specific parents meeting after a short meeting with the AD. This is great opportunity to meet the coaching staff and fellow parents.

Activity passes will be available at the Fall Sports Kickoff on August 18th. Passes are also available at activities and in the high school main office.

- Student (K-12)-\$50, Single Adult- \$70, Family Pass- \$150 (This includes: Mom, Dad, Children)

A new FREE live streaming system will be offered through HUDL (fan.hudl.com) this year. Fans will have access to watch live activities at Fort Calhoun High School.

Important Dates:

- Sunday, August 6th- Falls Sports Parents Meeting: 6pm
Monday, August 7th- First high school practice
- Cross Country, Football, Softball, Volleyball
- Friday, August 11th: Fall Sports Team Pictures at FCHS after school.
Friday, August 18th: Fall Sports Kickoff
Monday, August 21st- First junior high practice
- Cross Country, Football, Volleyball

Thank you for being a part of our sports community, we look forward to an amazing fall season. We value your involvement and support in your children’s sports journey. Together, we can create a positive and enriching experience for all participants. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please don’t hesitate to contact us. GO PIONEERS!

Mr. Schleifer



Students K-12	\$50.00
Each Adult	\$70.00
Family Pass (Immediate Family)	\$150.00

Individual Admission Prices – Varsity Home Contests
\$5.00 Students K-12
\$7.00 Adults

*Pass prices have not increased for 2023-24
Golden Age Conference Passes are available **FREE OF CHARGE** to any patron over 60 who requests one.

***FORT CALHOUN SEASON PASSES DO NOT INCLUDE ADMISSION TO ANY CONFERENCE, DISTRICT OR STATE CONTEST HELD AT FORT CALHOUN OR THAT FORT CALHOUN MIGHT HOST

SEASON
ACTIVITY PASSES 2023-24*



ELEMENTARY NEWS
MR. WAGNER

“Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.”
-Marian Wright Edelman

Why does tradition matter during change?

WELCOME TO THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR! I always value the opportunity to be one of the first to welcome you to the upcoming school year. Thank you for choosing to be a part of the FORT! Let’s continue to let tradition lead the way to our success.

Let’s take a moment to celebrate last year’s growth and accomplishments. We tend to forget quickly what happened and the impact we made during a difficult time in education. Let’s not forget the footprints that have been created during this time. Some of those footprints are newly created but have impacted our culture and environment in a healthy manner. Some of those footprints are embedded in the sand like concrete. Keep in mind, if they are newly created or embedded in the sand like concrete, they make a difference. That difference is the direction our system will lead. There are outputs and inputs during this time. No matter if they are interpreted as positive or negative, they matter. Stability each year is essential to our success. Traditions are staples to our stability. I know the traditions that we have created the last decade have impacted our environment in a progressive manner. Traditions in many factors determine the pulse and stability of the system. If those traditions don’t maintain during adverse times it typically leads the system to an unstable stage. That unstable stage will lead to unstable actions that lead to negative outcomes. Those negative outcomes are not always intentional or bad. However, when those negative outcomes don’t have a remembrance of what the positive outcome could be, then it will lead to an unstable system. We all have a role in our environment to ensure success moving forward. This involves tradition, providing new ideas and overall meeting the systems need to ensure we have a successful environment for students.

Ultimately, rich traditions must be remembered to impact the current challenges. We must believe it matters in the future success. While maintaining those rich traditions we must welcome new and creative ideas. Our system will need our familiar, new, and creative ways to protect the traditions that have made us who we are...Proud PIONEERS!

Thank you again for choosing to be a pioneer. It matters! Let’s have a fabulous year.

Go PIONEERS!
Mr. Drew R. Wagner

PIONEER STRONG! Engaging + Learning + Achieving = Productive PIONEERS!

- SCHOOL GOALS:
- EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT A NEW MATH PROGRAM
 - ACHIEVE ACADEMIC PROGRESS FOR ALL STUDENTS
 - MENTAL HEALTH
- *School goals are subject to change.

ELEMENTARY NEWS
MR. WAGNER Continued

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

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| -August 9: Back To School Night; 6-7pm | -December 14: Winter Music program |
| -August 10: First day of school (K-6); 11:15am dismissal | -December 21-29; January 1-3: No School |
| -August 14: First day of preschool | Happy New Year-2024! |
| -September 4: No School | -January 3: Teacher In-service day |
| -October 6: Homecoming Parade | -January 4: School Resumes |
| -September 19: 5th/6th grade Parent Band Meeting | -February 14 & 15: Parent/Teacher Conferences; 1:15pm dismissal |
| -September 22: Walk-a-thon | -February 9-15: Book Fair |
| -September 25: No School | -February 16: No School |
| -September 26: Picture Day | -March 7 & 8: No School |
| -October 13-19: Book Fair | -March 15: Malcolm Band Contest |
| -October 17 & 18: Parent/Teacher Conferences; 1:15pm dismissal | -March 29 & April 1: No School |
| -October 19: Early dismissal; 1:15pm | -April 11: Spring Music program |
| -October 20: No School | -May 2: Spring Band Concert |
| -November 7: Picture Re-take | -May 3: Field Day |
| -November 14: Thanksgiving Feast | -May 9: Talent Show |
| -November 22: Early dismissal; 1:15pm | -May 15: Last day of school; 11:15am dismissal |
| -November 23 & 24: No school | *All dates are subject to change! |

WELCOME BACK NIGHT - To Kickoff the 2023-24 School Year

August 9th 6-7PM Fort Calhoun Elementary
Bring: School Supplies and a Positive Attitude
For Staff, Parents/Guardians, Princpal and Especially Students
This is a great night to introduce yourself to your new teacher.
Come by and visit.

Parents/Guardians/Visitors in the Building

Parents/guardians/visitors may volunteer in the classroom setting with proper approval and proper documents with background checks filled out appropriately. We are no longer allowing parents/guardians/visitors to eat in the lunchroom. This task of monitoring foot traffic during the school day is purposeful to limit unknown visits.

The Elementary supply list is on the website, www.fortcalhounschoools.org, under Schools, Elementary, School Supplies. Secondary students should get supply information from their individual classes.

