



Fort Calhoun Pioneer Band



Fort Calhoun Community Schools, 5876 County Rd P43, Fort Calhoun, NE 68023
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Dear Parents:

In today's high-paced world of instant information, high stress, and everything dependent on a computer to continue functioning, there are still a few things worth doing the "old-fashioned way!" It is impossible to understand or describe the challenge and reward of "creating music" with your horn in union with other individuals if you have never had the chance to experience it.

Each year at this time, students have been eagerly waiting their turn to join our band program. The study of music could be one of the most valuable components in your child's education. Current research shows that playing an instrument increases brain development and—along with developing responsibility, teamwork and self-esteem—will provide enjoyment and fulfillment while fostering a lifelong appreciation of music.

On Tuesday evening, September 19, 2023, at 7:30 p.m., we will host a meeting at the high school building for the parents of any fifth or sixth grader interested in starting on a band instrument. The first part of the meeting will be a discussion of topics such as: 1) the overall band program in our school system, 2) what is expected of students who enroll in band, 3) what is expected of the parents, and 4) what type of instrument should your child play. Please bring your student along to the meeting.

All instruction is free, but it will be necessary for you to obtain a horn for your student. A quality instrument is essential for your student's success. To assist you with that, following our presentation—which will hopefully be brief but informative—Dietze Music will have instruments on display and will explain their rental program to you. Dietze is a long-established Lincoln-based company, with a large branch store in Omaha. They are a highly professional company and provide full service to the school on a weekly basis. Instruments will be available to rent that night if you so desire. However--**You are in no way obligated to deal with this company nor to rent your instrument that night.** If you wish, there are a few other companies in the area at which you may inquire about their rental programs. **You are encouraged to shop around and are perfectly free to deal wherever you like, but do watch brand names of the horns and details of the rental plan.** The school is in no way involved in the rental program. A list of other stores in the area will be made available to you for your reference. [We also have limited resources to assist with getting a horn into the hands of students whose families may not have the funds to provide their own horn.]

All fifth graders are eligible to start band and a good number have already expressed interest in joining. If your student is undecided, come on out to the meeting anyway. Attendance at the meeting is by no means an obligation to join. Parents of sixth graders who may wish to start as beginners this year are also welcome.

Band rehearsals for Fifth graders will begin the week of Tuesday, September 26. While the schedule varies a little from time to time, the fifth grade will normally meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays with the sixth graders meeting Monday and Wednesday. Regardless of where you rent your child's instrument, it would be best if they could have their equipment and be ready to go by that first practice or at least sometime that next week of class so they do not get behind from the start.

We have an excellent band program in the Fort Calhoun School system, and with your child's energy and your support and cooperation, your school can continue to maintain a championship HIGH SCHOOL band program. IT ALL STARTS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!! We will be looking forward to seeing you and your students on September 19. If you should have any questions before that time, please email Mr. Jones at mjones@ftcpioneers.org.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Jones
Ms. Grace Roby
Elementary Instrumental Music Instructors

"Pioneer" Band: A Tradition of Quality, Class, and Pride.