

Fort Calhoun Community Schools
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The Fort Dispatch

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Fort Calhoun Community Schools

November 2023

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT’S OFFICE

Stay Hungry

It is hard to believe that we are already in the second half of the semester and Thanksgiving is right around the corner. The year moves fast with students and staff keeping busy with several school related items. We continue to look toward the future and remain optimistic for the rest of the school year. As we move forward it is important that all of us remain hungry for achievement, success, and satisfaction in all that we do.

As we head into the final few months of 2023, I would like to share some words from Jon Gordon that motivate me. I wish everyone “hungry” as they work toward their goals.

BE HUNGRY

- Follow your passion, continuously improve, and continue to dream.
- Seek out new ideas, new strategies, and new ways to push yourself out of your comfort zone.
- Invest time, energy, sweat and dedication to be your best.
- Be willing to pay the price that greatness requires. Don’t be average. Strive to be great.
- Become the hardest worker you know.
- Love the process and you’ll love what the process produces.
- Decide to leave a legacy. Even at a young age it’s important to think about what legacy you want to leave because knowing how you want to be remembered helps you decide how to live today.
- Don’t focus on where you’ve been. Focus on where you are and where you are going.
- Make your life and work a quest for excellence. Every day ask how I can be better today than I was yesterday?
- Make your next work your best work.

-Jon Gordon

Jerry Green
Superintendent
Fort Calhoun Community Schools



OPTION ENROLLMENT 2024-25

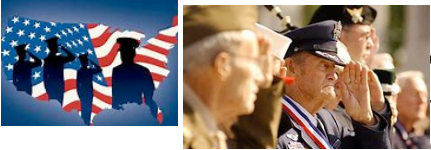
The Option Enrollment application period for the 2024-25 school year is now open through March 15, 2025. Forms are available on our website or at the school offices. The School Board set class size and program parameters in October. Applicants are taken on a first-come, first-serve basis. According to State law, all applicants must be notified one way or the other by April 1st.



The schools’ offices will be closed
November 23rd and 24th

VETERANS DAY PROGRAM

November 10, 2023 10:00 AM
Fort Calhoun High School
Main Gym



The program is open to all who would like to attend. If you are unable to attend in person, the program will be streamed live, free of charge under “FC Live” on our home page. There will be a luncheon after the program for each veteran and an adult guest. Contact the high school office at 402-468-5591 to let us know if you will be staying for lunch. **The program will also be streamed live by going to the school website and click on “FC Live”.**

WELCOME TO FORT CALHOUN

Our community is growing and we want to be prepared. We are interested in families/students in our District to determine future needs.

Residents: Please help us by reporting your family 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.

Thank you.



Jamie Schleifer
Assistant Principal/AD

It's been a great fall this year and we are very proud of the effort our fall sports teams put into their season! We would like to thank everyone that helped throughout our homecoming week. It was great to see so many people support our programs, parade, pep rally, and events throughout the week. I also want to thank the programs and businesses' that sponsored the fireworks show after the Homecoming football game again this year. And speaking of Homecoming I would like to congratulate the 2023 Fort Calhoun Homecoming Royalty! Princess: Natalie Reichert, Prince: AJ Duros, Queen: Mollie Dierks, and King: Jay Stoa

The Pioneer softball season came to an end in the District Championship after they fell to Gothenburg. There was much to celebrate this year for our softball girls. They finished as Runner-up or Champion in the tournaments below! Great job Pioneers!

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> C-8 District Runner-up | <input type="checkbox"/> C-1 Sub-District Champions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NCC Runner-up | <input type="checkbox"/> AppleJack Champions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cass County Quad 3-0 | <input type="checkbox"/> North Bend Runner-up |

The Pioneer Cross Country team qualified both girls and boys teams to the state meet again this year! The District meet was held at Fort Atkinson State Park in Fort Calhoun where the boys finished as District runner-up and the girls finished in 3rd place! Boys finished 4th at the State meet and girls finished 14th and Raeann Massey finished 8th overall, Great job!

The Football team finished the season on a high note by winning their last two games against Omaha Concordia and Boys Town. The Pioneers drove down the field with 39 seconds left in the game and scored as time expired and then converted a 2-point conversion to defeat Boys Town 30-29!

Volleyball finished their season in subdistricts falling to Douglas County West in the 2nd round. The girls had a very competitive year and we are very proud of their effort and commitment to the program!

We are updating our security systems at both schools and anyone that has purchased a FOB to the weight room will need to get a new FOB. The new system will be installed the week of November 13th, as the date gets closer, we will communicate when the new FOBs will be able for pickup from the high school office. Please email Mr. Schleifer at jschleifer@ftcpioneers.org with any questions.

Winter Physical Form Information: I want to remind parents of students who plan to participate in athletics this winter in grades 7-12 need to submit their physical to the main HS office. The sports physical must take place after May 1, 2023 to qualify them for the 2023-2024 school year. The specific line we are looking for is "the athlete is cleared without restrictions to participate in athletics."

The Winter Sports season is right around the corner. Start dates for JH & HS are below.

- High School Basketball and Wrestling- Monday, November 13th
- Junior High Boys Basketball- Monday, October 23rd
- Junior High Girls Basketball- Monday, January 8th
- Junior High Wrestling- Monday, January 8th
- Winter Sports Parents meeting November 12th 6pm at the high school
- Winter Sports Pictures will be on November 17th

Pioneer Fans: A live FREE streaming is offered through HUDL. Fans can download the HUDL fan app or go to hudl.fan.com and search "Fort Calhoun" to find all the events available for livestream.

Fort Calhoun Season Passes are still available at Jr./Sr. High games and in the High School office:

• Family- \$150	• Single Adult- \$70	• Student (K-12)- \$50
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We appreciate the support from the Fort Calhoun Community this Fall and we are excited for the start of the winter season! **Go Pioneers!**

Mr. Schleifer

Elementary News

Engaging + Learning + Achieving = Productive PIONEERS!

Elementary News

The first quarter is complete! As we move into the second quarter we should pause and highlight the accomplishments up to this point. Now, keep in mind the school year happens in several different phases. However, the first phase of getting the school year kicked off in a positive manner is important to set the tone for the entire school year. We kicked off the school year at a high level. We want to ensure ALL students feel like they can accomplish anything. That starts with knowing all students can learn at their maximal level. Safe to say, with the data collected, we are on the right track to maximize students potential. We aren't just accomplishing this academically. We are accomplishing this emotionally, socially, and behaviorally. Let's dive into how we are accomplishing this. Here we go!

Of course, we start each year out with academic assessments to provide a benchmark for each student. Those assessments include Dibels, MAPS/NWEA, and NSCAS (3rd -6th state assessment). These assessments provide important data to guide instructional approaches for each staff member. Additionally, the support and instruction are provided from our adopted curriculum that include all four core subjects (Math, English Language Arts, Science and Social Studies). All these programs are aligned to state standards. From those programs we are provided additional data indicators to ensure we are on the right track for each student. The main goal each year is growth! I hope this provided you just a glimpse of all the hard work that each of your children receive here at the FORT. Let's move into the social, emotional, and behavior components.

Like the approach to academics there are adopted programs that provide important data for each student. First, we currently implement the Second Step program for the delivery of the social and emotional learning development. This is delivered by Mrs. Adams (K-5th guidance counselor) and Mrs. Fischer (6th -8th guidance counselor). This is a great program that provides the students social and emotional skills to connect and thrive. Additionally, Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Fischer are here to support students that are in need of just a check in or a pick me up that day. It is vital to provide students these social and emotional skills, but we must also provide other services when students can't or unable to develop these skills. A part of this initiative includes a universal screener for students in 5th and 6th grade. The screener is through FastBridge called mySAEBRS (my Social, Academic, and Emotional Behavior Risk Screener). One of our goals with this is to assist students that may need more additional assistance. We are excited to implement this new screener and see what direction this takes us. Next, more good news here is we have the supports available through proactive thinking and grants that has enable us to currently have two additional therapists through grant work to assist students, when needed. We also have supports outside of school through Arbor Family Counseling. If you are looking for these supports, please contact your classroom teacher, guidance counselors, or myself. We are more than happy to provide you contact information. That is why the services are there, to support students and families.

Lastly, with a lot of hard work and focused initiatives Mr. PJ Mallette is now full time as our Behavior Coordinator. The services that he provides are both proactive and reactive to ensure students are safe and have the skills to cope with others. Mr. Mallette continues to review behavioral data with all staff to ensure there are timely interventions in place to keep all students safe. We are excited about having him full-time with the Behavior Coordinator role to assist with developing those social and emotional skills with all the other resources that are in place. Our hope with all these social, emotional and behavior resources in place will provide students the skills to be productive citizens in our ever-changing society. As I wrap up my message to you, please take time to process this information and understand that the work we do every day is setting students up to be their best. We hope every student thrives academically, emotionally, socially, and behaviorally. That hope only goes so far unless we put all of this into action every single day. Rest assure, we are doing that! The positive support you provide the school system matters and we feel it. THANK YOU!

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me. Thank you again for your continued support. We greatly appreciate it!

Go PIONEERS!

Drew R. Wagner

Upcoming events:

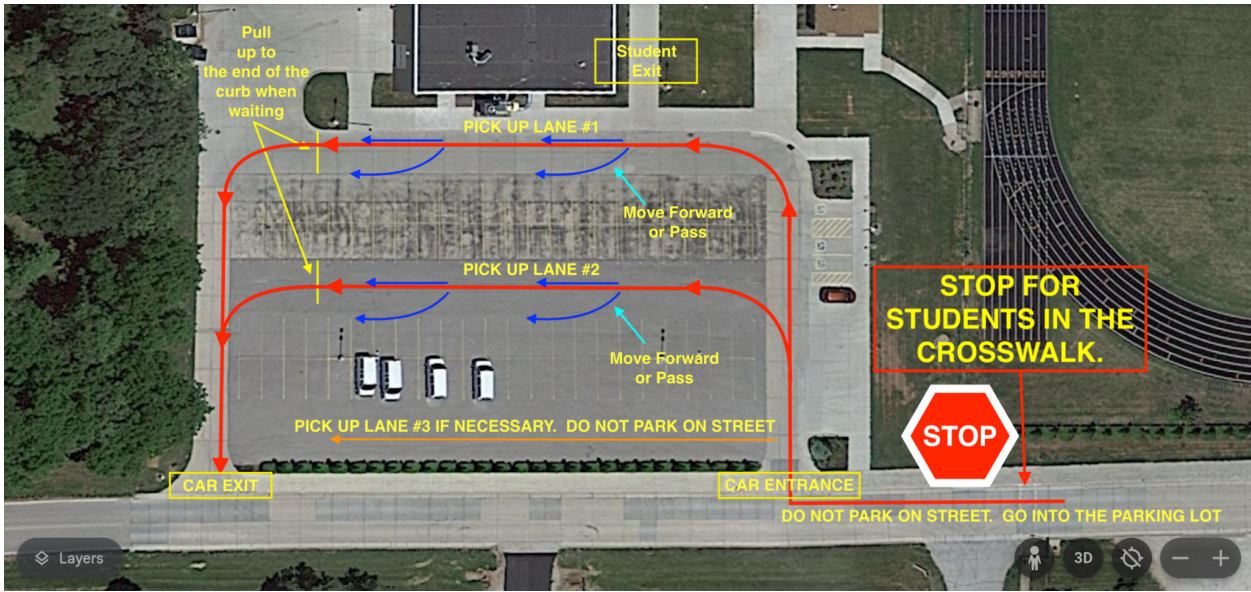
October 27:	Morning with Mom sponsored by our PFE
November 7:	Picture Retakes
November 14:	Thanksgiving Feast
*All dates are subject to change.	

MR. NICK WEMHOFF
Principal

I want to say THANK YOU to all the students and parents who attended parent-teacher conferences on either October 17th or October 18th. Communication between teachers, students, and parents is key to students' success at school. If you were not able to attend conferences for any reason, please know that you are welcome to contact your child's teachers anytime.

If you have not done so already, please consider connecting to PowerSchool through your parent access. If you need login information, please contact the JRH/HS office. We have your access code to get started. You can see grades, lunch balances, attendance in addition to other information regarding your child. PowerSchool gives you 24/7 access to how your child is doing academically.

Now that the construction project is done, anyone who picks up a student from school will do so in the south parking lot starting Monday, October 30th. DO NOT pick up students in the west parking lot. This will help with the flow of traffic. Please refer to the picture for the student pick up process:



I often hear this phrase “It takes a village to raise a child”. Together with parents, friends, school, and community we have become the village for each other. We are happy to be on the journey with our students and their families. Although parent teacher conferences only come twice a year, the door is always open. If you have a question, ask. If you need help, ask. If you need someone to listen, ask. If you don’t know, ask. We are here for our students and families. We know that as parents you are doing your best for your child. Working together is what makes the FORT a special place.

*“By working together, pooling our resources and building on our strengths,
we can accomplish great things”*
- Ronald Reagan



2023 Homecoming Court: King Jay Stoa, Queen Mollie Dierks, AJ Duros Prince, Natalie Reichert Princess. Crown Bearers are Rylee Kelly, Mallett Christensen, Mayzie Welchert, Wyatt Frievald, Wesson Pane, and Parker Smith



PFE News

Greetings Pioneer Families! Fall is here and our students and educators have completed Quarter 1! We have had a successful fall with multiple activities including Back to School Movie Night, the Walk-a-thon fundraiser and recognition of our students who completed the Summer Bridge Program! The PFE enjoyed supporting speakers for our students and leaders, the Homecoming fireworks celebration, the purchase of a new microwave at the Elementary school and the Jr/Sr High, and money for our teachers to invest in books at the Book Fair for their classrooms. We appreciate all of your donations which assisted with funding for these events and necessities. Our membership drive is still open, thank you for your support of Pioneers for Education (PFE).

The officers have been busy meeting and planning our upcoming events. We do meet monthly and welcome additional parent participation from our district. We continue to have an open Vice President position, if interested please reach out to pioneersforeducation@gmail.com. Follow Pioneers for Education on Facebook for fun updates, pictures of events, and other exciting news.

Save the date for our upcoming events. We have a few more that we are excited to share details on in the future.

November 27 – PFE Meeting, 7:30 High School Library

March 15 – Donuts with Dad

April 26 – Spring Carnival

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



Sam Brewer, Anna Taylor and Kaylee Taylor were selected as **All Nebraska Capital Conference 1st Team** for Softball. **Kaitlyn Welchert** was selected 2nd Team and **Lucie Larsen** was named Honorable Mention. Congrats!!

At State Cross Country, **Raeann Massey placed 8th** and the **Boys Team of Gage Nixon, Chris Post-Whiteowl, Will Dennis, Lawson Tjardes, Seth Waters and Travis Skelton placed 4th.**

The **Pioneer Marching Band** received a **Superior** at the NASB State Marching Contest.



11/2	Jr-Sr High Choir Concert 7:00 PM
11/5	Daylight Savings Time Ends
11/6	Conference Choral Clinic @ D C West
11/7	School Picture Retakes
11/10	VETERANS DAY PROGRAM 10:00 AM - HS GYM
11/12	Winter Sports Parents' Meeting 6:00 PM
11/13	School Board Meeting
11/16	Winter Sports Pictures
11/16-18	All State Band and Choir-Lincoln
11/22	Early Out-Thanksgiving Break
11/23-24	HAPPY THANKSGIVING Thanksgiving Break NO SCHOOL



School meals make a difference every day for our kids



Alumni Cheerleaders got in the spirit of Homecoming!