



Sounds of the Season

- 12/12 Elementary Christmas Concert
- 12/14 Jr-Sr High Choir Winter Concert
- 12/17 Jr-Sr High Instrumental Christmas Concert



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| 12/1 | District One Act Play-Platteview |
| 12/3 | Regional Dance Competition |
| 12/6 | Red Cross Blood Drive @ High School |
| 12/10 | Community One-Act Play Performance- <i>The Day the Internet Died</i> |
| 12/11 | School Board Meeting |
| 12/12 | Elementary Christmas Concert @ High School |
| 12/14 | Jr-Sr High Winter Vocal Concert |
| 12/15 | Winter Formal - High School |
| 12/17 | Jr-Sr High Instrumental Christmas Concert |
| 12/18 | Post Prom Lasagna Dinner during Basketball games
TeamMates© Chuck-a-Duck Fundraiser |
| 12/20 | End of 1st Semester - Early Dismissal |
| 12/21-1/3/24 | Christmas Break - NO SCHOOL |
| 12/23-12/27 | NSAA Moratorium |
| 12/29-30 | Holiday Boys & Girls Basketball Tourney at Sandy Creek |
| 1/3/24 | Teacher Inservice |
| 1/4/24 | School Resumes |

OPTION ENROLLMENT 2024-25

The Option Enrollment application period for the 2024-25 school year is now open 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 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 which renews yearly each June 1st. If you have any questions contact Jamie Schleifer at 402-468-5591.



The Fort Dispatch

Volume 33 No 4 Fort Calhoun Community Schools December 2023

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Legacy

When I teach P.E.P. (Pioneer Enrichment Program) to our 7th graders I focus on what I call the three P's, Positive, Passion and Purpose. When we talk about being Positive we talk about legacy. We explore the word and how we are constantly developing our legacy with everything we do, our words, our actions, and our attitude, basically everything. As you may know I am a big fan of Jon Gordon and I received this from his weekly email dispatch. I thought I would share it with you. Please help encourage our students to establish a positive legacy.

5 Ways to Leave a Legacy

In *Training Camp* I wrote that every one of us is going to leave a legacy. It just depends on what kind. So what kind of legacy do you want to leave? I encourage you to think about it because knowing how you want to be remembered helps you decide how to live and work today. Consider the following ways to leave a legacy and then identify other legacies you can share.

1. A Legacy of Excellence - To leave a legacy of excellence; strive to be your best every day. As you strive for excellence you inspire excellence in others. You serve as a role model for your children, your friends and your colleagues. One person in pursuit of excellence raises the energy, standards and behaviors of everyone around them. Your life is your greatest legacy and since you only have one life to give, give all you can.

2. A Legacy of Encouragement - You have a choice. You can lift others up or bring them down. Twenty years from now when people think of you what do you want them to remember? What stories do you want them to tell? I recently spent a few days with Ken Blanchard, author of *The One Minute Manager*, and I had the opportunity to thank him for his support, encouragement and the difference he has made in my life. He not only inspired me by the way he lived his life but also by the way he encouraged me as a writer and speaker. Who will you encourage today? Be that person that someone will call five, ten or twenty years from now and say "Thank you, I couldn't have done it without you."

3. A Legacy of Purpose - People are most energized when they are using their strengths and talents for a purpose beyond themselves. To leave a legacy of purpose, make your life about something bigger than you. While you're not going to live forever you can live on through the legacy you leave and the positive impact you make in the world.

4. A Legacy of Love - I often think about my Mom, who passed away nine years ago, and when I think about her I don't recall her faults and mistakes or the disagreements we had. After all, who is perfect? But what I remember most about her was her love for me. She gave me a legacy of love that I now share with others. Share a legacy of love and it will embrace generations to come. -Jon Gordon

Jerry Green
Superintendent
Fort Calhoun Community Schools



Jamie Schleifer
Assistant Principal/AD

As the we begin another sports season, I would like to take a moment and thank our coaches for the time and dedication they put into our programs! I stumbled across this post from Greg Berge of gregberge.beehiiv.com titled “9 things Coaches Want Parents to Understand” and I thought it was worth a share.

9 Things Coaches Want Parents to Understand

Being a Head Coach is HARD Work. I have talked to MANY coaches over my long career. Here are 9 Things Coaches Want Parents to Understand.

1: We CARE about your Child - Even if your child doesn't get much varsity playing time, we care about them. Nothing is ever personal. We love your child. Everyone has a Role. They are all different. But they are all important. Help us celebrate their role.

2: TIME - There are only two people who understand the time commitment of a coach. The Coach and their Spouse. We are always "on," constantly thinking about our team. We sacrifice our Family time to be with your child. We don't need a pat on the back. Just respect this fact.

3: We LOVE this job - But it is a hard job. Please don't steal our Joy. Our Passion. Our Commitment. We are losing too many coaches. Help Support us.

4: Coaches want to WIN more than you do - We are very competitive. We put our heart and soul into this job. We are not perfect. Either are you. No one is. Strategy or X's and O's matter much less than you think. We are at practice every day. Trust what we see and do.

5: Everything is EARNED - You get what you earn. Don't blame the coach. Encourage your child to be committed. It is your child's job to get in the weight room, shoot in the driveway, go to the gym or field, etc. Encourage them to do this. You get what you earn.

6: Trust the PROCESS - Team Sports are the ultimate lab setting for life. There will be bumps in the road. It is guaranteed. It is part of the process. Accept this fact. Trust the Process. The life lessons learned will last a lifetime.

7: Winning is HARD - Other teams want to win too. Other teams put time in too. Other teams compete too. The season is a grind, and the process is more important than the prize. Learning how to win...and how to lose...is an important part of this process.

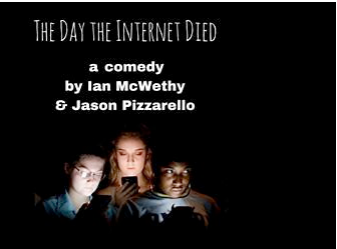
8: Your child GETS it - Your child understands. They are at every practice. They know their strengths. They know their weaknesses. They know their role. Don't feed their youthful insecurities by questioning the coach. This will hurt their experience and the team.

9: Finally, and Most Importantly, this is your child's experience, not yours - This is important. Let them enjoy the experience with your support. Don't judge them. Don't be critical. Just be there. Tell them you LOVE watching them play. Be a fan of the TEAM.

Screenshot by Xnapper.com

I would like to wish everyone a safe holiday season, GO PIONEERS!

-Mr. Schleifer



Drama Club Community Performance

The One-Act Play *The Day the Internet Died* will be performed on Sunday December 10th at 5:00 PM in the Competition Gym at the High School. The community is invited. Admission is \$3.00 per person.

-Elementary News-

Your Principal: Drew R. Wagner
402-468-5714 or dwagner@ftcpioneers.org

Engaging + Learning + Achieving = Productive PIONEERS!

I wanted to provide some tips on maintaining a positive outlook during the most challenging of times. Maintaining a positive outlook amidst life’s challenges is a skill that can be honed with mindful practices.

Firstly, embracing gratitude can transform perspectives. Taking time daily to reflect on and appreciate the positives, no matter how small, can shift focus away from negativity. Whether through a gratitude journal or simply pausing to acknowledge moments of joy, practicing gratitude fosters a positive mindset.

Secondly, nurturing a healthy lifestyle is pivotal. Regular exercise, a balanced diet, and adequate sleep can significantly impact mood and mental resilience. Engaging in physical activity releases endorphins, boosting mood, while proper nutrition and rest provide the foundation for mental clarity and emotional stability, aiding in staying positive even during stressful times.

Thirdly, surrounding oneself with positivity is key. Cultivating relationships with supportive, uplifting individuals can provide encouragement and strength during challenging moments. Additionally, consuming positive content—be it books, podcasts, or inspiring media—can influence thought patterns and inspire a more optimistic outlook.

Lastly, fostering self-care and mindfulness practices is crucial. Taking time for oneself, whether through meditation, hobbies, or relaxation techniques, allows for introspection and stress relief. Mindfulness helps in acknowledging and managing negative thoughts, promoting a more positive and present-focused mindset.

In essence, staying positive involves a holistic approach, incorporating gratitude, a healthy lifestyle, positive surroundings, and self-care practices to navigate life’s ups and downs with resilience and optimism.

Be thankful, stay positive, and encourage a growth mindset. Take care! GO PIONEERS!

Respectfully,
Drew R. Wagner

Upcoming events:
December 5-15: Winter assessment
December 12: Winter Music concert
December 20: Early dismissal; 1:15pm



Preschool Registration for 2024-25:
Opens at 12:00 AM February 1st

Wee Screens: January 26th

MR. NICK WEMHOFF
Principal

As we approach the conclusion of the first semester, it's important to reflect on the significance of finishing strong. The final weeks present an opportunity for students to showcase their hard work and dedication to schoolwork throughout the term. Furthermore, ending the semester on a positive note is more than just completing assignments; it's about reaping the rewards of consistent effort and overcoming challenges. Successfully navigating the academic coursework demonstrates resilience and a commitment to personal growth.

For seniors, having a good finish to the semester is a stepping stone to future endeavors, whether it be higher education or entering the workforce. For underclassmen, it sets the tone for the semesters ahead, building a foundation for continued success. In addition, finishing strong brings about a sense of accomplishment and boosts self-confidence.

I challenge all students to embrace these final weeks with determination and enthusiasm. Whether it's scoring well on these final week's tests or putting the finishing touches on a project, every effort contributes to a positive conclusion. Together, let's celebrate the achievements of the semester and carry the momentum into the well-deserved break ahead. Finish strong and set the stage for an even better second semester!

"Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time."
Thomas Edison

From my family to all of you, we wish you
Joyous Holidays and a very **Happy New Year!!!**



The 2023 National Honor Society inductees are **AJ Duros, Sam Genoways, Trey King, Sammy Ladwig, Anna Melville** and **Allison Prunty**. Congratulations!

Grayson Bouwman, Preston Johnson, Andrew Namuth and AJ Duros were named to the All District 2023 1st Team Football Team. **Levi Lasher** and **Blake Welchert** received Honorable Mention All District.

Kaylee Taylor was named to the All Nebraska Softball Second Team by the *Omaha World Herald*. **Kaitlyn Welchert, Sam Brewer, Anna Taylor** and **Tacey Belina** were all named Honorable Mention. *Lincoln Journal Star's* All State Softball Honorable Mention includes **Kaylee, Kaitlyn, Sam, Anna** and **Tacey**.

Mollie Dierks, Raegan Wells and **Emilee Thayer** were named All NCC Honorable Mention in Volleyball.

Several of our actors received recognition at the recent Nebraska Capital Conference One-Act Play competition. Those earning Outstanding Performance Awards are **Natalie Lammers, DeLloyd Robertson, Ellie Collins, Samantha Thomas** and **Eric Ertzner**. At the Midland University One-Act Contest **Natalie, DeLloyd, Ellie, Samantha, Sammie Ladwig, Ashleigh Walls, Brooke Johnson** and **Alex Feinhold** earned Outstanding Performance Awards!

The eSports Team includes **Trevor DeVries, Hawthorne Roehr, Chris Post-Whiteowl, Ethan Dye, Brooke Johnson, Daniel Boyd**, and **Jaxon Harrell-Bruce**. Our team under the direction of Mr. Bo Hansen, consisting of **Trevor, Hawthorne** and **Chris**, placed 4th at the State contest.



Pioneers for Education (PFE) Bulletin

Greetings Pioneers and families! Hard to believe the first semester of the school year is coming to a close. The committee has been busy planning events for the Spring of 2024! Save the date for some of our upcoming events.

- January 29 - Monthly PFE Meeting @ 7:30 pm - High School Library
- February 10 - Father/Daughter Dance
- March 11 - One School, One Book Begins
- March 15 - Donuts with Dad
- April 13 - Mother/Son Kickball Game (rain date April 20)
- April 26 - Carnival
- May 6 - Staff Appreciation Week

PFE appreciates all who have volunteered to assist with our upcoming events. If you are able to volunteer to help with an upcoming event please reach out to pioneersforeducation@gmail.com. Follow PFE on Facebook for exciting updates, event photos, and more. We're looking forward to a collaborative and fun second semester.

Happy Holidays from your officer team,

Chris Roberts - President
Open Position - Vice President
Shannon Pokorski - Treasurer
Jami Biodrowski - Secretary
Amy Evanich - Communication Coordinator



Fort Calhoun Community Schools use an automated system to notify families of emergencies or weather-related closings. Make sure all your contact numbers, and e-mail addresses are correct by updating your Student Profile or calling your child's respective schools.

Fort Calhoun Schools Recognized for its Safety Programs

Fort Calhoun Community Schools received one of 3 2022-23 Recognition Program Awards for safety at the 2023-24 Nebraska Association of School Boards' annual convention in November. We received the "Loss Ratio Award". ALICAP, our insurance carrier through NASB, stated that "a strong safety program begins with a supportive leadership team and is acted out by every staff member, every day."



Post Prom Lasagna Dinner Benefit

Monday December 18th
5-8 PM High School Commons
During the JV and Varsity Girls/
Boys Basketball Games



The Medical Careers Club will be holding their annual Blood Drive on Wednesday, December 6th in the Auxiliary Gym at Fort Calhoun High School. The hours are 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Contact the high school at 402-468-5591 to register