



- 1/1 Happy New Year
- 1/3 Teacher Inservice
- 1/4 **School Resumes**
- 1/5 Nebraska Middle School Honor Choir
- 1/8 School Board Meeting

- 1/14 TeamMates Bingo
- 1/15 **NO SCHOOL- TEACHER INSERVICE**
Martin Luther King Jr. Observance
- 1/16 Wrestling Parents' Night
Post Prom Lasagne Dinner during Basketball Games
Teammates "Chuck-a-Duck"
- 1/18 Basketball Parents' Night
- 1/19 Junior High Dance @ High School
- 1/21 Hastings Honor Choir/MS Honor Choir
- 1/21-28 Nebraska School Board Member Recognition Week
- 1/24 Unified Basketball Tourney TBA
- 1/26 UNO Honor Band & Choir

- 2/14-15 Parent Teacher Conferences
- 2/16 **No School**



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.

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. **Our door accesses have changed. Stop by the high school office to switch your fob to a new one.**



The Fort Dispatch

Volume 33 No 5

Fort Calhoun Community Schools

January 2024

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Expectations for 2024

It is hard to believe it is already January, second semester will get underway soon. As we experience all the items that life throws at us, we must continue to have high expectations in our education, activities, work and in life.

What are our hopes and dreams moving forward, what does it mean to have high expectations? Here is a top ten list of ideas that will help us have high expectations for ourselves in all that we do.

10. Leave behind the negativity – thoughts and people. No time for this.
9. Find solutions and resolutions. Put your work toward a positive outcome.
8. Be curious before critical. A question gets more response than a reaction.
7. Care more. Enough said.
6. How you view adversity and change will define how you grow.
5. Love and accountability are needed for growth.
4. Believe in your team. Empower your team.
3. You get what you allow.
2. It's not the event or circumstance that matters, it's your state of mind.
1. Think BIG!

None of these are uniquely mine. This list comes from many experiences, classes, books read, and speakers witnessed. A reflection of my notes as we start a new year, a new semester, a new month, a new day. As we continue with second semester and move toward the end of another school year it is important to remember to be positive and have high expectations.

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, 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.

Martin Luther King Jr.
Observance
January 15, 2024



IT STARTS WITH ME:

Fort Calhoun Schools have reason to celebrate. The AQUESTT ratings from state assessments have been released for 2022-23. Fort Calhoun Elementary earned a "Great", as did the High School. The Junior High, including 6th Grade, earned "Excellent". These ratings measure proficiency in both Language Arts and Math.

Pioneers,

Blizzard Blowout Holiday Tournament – December 29th & 30th Sandy Creek High School

- Schools competing: Fort Calhoun, Centura, Sandy-Creek, and Howells-Dodge.

Important Activity Dates:

- Basketball
 - January 4th- WCB Night
 - January 16st- Post-Prom Lasagna Dinner & Teammates Chuck-a-duck
 - January 18th- Parents Night
 - February 9th- FCYSO Basketball Night & Post-Prom Lasagna Dinner
 - Wrestling
 - January 18th- Parents Night and Youth Wrestling Night
 - Dance Team
 - December 3rd – UDA Spirit of Midwest Dance Challenge: Placed 1st in Pom and 3rd in Hip-Hop
 - December 16th – UNO Competition: Placed 1st in both Hip-Hop and Pom!
 - February 3rd & 4th – UDA Nationals in Orlando Florida
 - February 17th – State Dance Competition at Grand Island High School
 - Cheer Team
 - February 16th – State Cheer Competition at Grand Island High School
- Unified Basketball
- We are excited to continue Unified Basketball this year! The Pioneers competed against DC West on December 7th at home and will compete in a tournament on January 24th! Special thanks to Mr. Wilson and Mr. Relihan for coaching our team again this year!

2023-2024 Unified Basketball Team

| #'s | Players |
|-----|-------------------|
| 4 | Harley Koepel |
| 14 | Max Nourse |
| 5 | Gerald Taylor |
| 11 | Owen Dougherty |
| 6 | Noah Le |
| 28 | Gemma Schrum |
| 10 | Allie Jabens |
| 12 | Ione Schneider |
| 13 | Will Maxon |
| 7 | Kenny Wellwood |
| 32 | Reilly Rauterkaus |
| 3 | Katie Nourse |
| 35 | Colton Kendall |
| 15 | Owen Miller |
| 75 | Kameron Pringle |
| 8 | Cody Seefus |
| 94 | William Turley |
| 95 | Sean Waters |

Thank you,

Jamie Schleifer
Assistant Principal/AD



-Elementary News-

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

Engaging + Learning + Achieving = Productive PIONEERS!

Happy New Year! I always think around this time of year how grateful I am to be in such a great community. The continual support from staff, administration, and the community is positive. I appreciate all the confidence you give in all of us to make sure your child is getting the education they need to be successful. We are getting excited to “take on” all new challenges the New Year brings. The experience your child receives here is second to none. I say that with confidence and pride. Our relationship that we are creating is life changing for your child. We will continue to strive for the best in all we do because we want what is best for kids.

Finally, as usual there will be a lot of assessments coming in the 3rd and 4th quarter. To ensure your child is performing at their best please make sure your child is receiving a healthy breakfast, getting enough sleep, and asking them questions at home. You might get common answers like “I don’t remember” or “Umm” or “It was fine”. Here are some helpful questions, from www.scholastic.com, to ignite their memory and get more insight on their school day.

- What was the hardest thing you had to do today?
- Did any of your classmates do anything funny?
- Tell me about what you read in class.
- Who did you play with today? What did you play?
- Do you think math [or any subject] is too easy or too hard?
- What’s the biggest difference between this year and last year?
- What rules are different at school than our rules at home? Do you think they’re fair?
- Who did you sit with at lunch?
- Can you show me something you learned (or did) today?
- Tell me about the best part of your day.

If you have any more questions or concerns as we enter 2024 please let me know. Thank you for your support and positive thinking. Let’s have a great second half to the school year. Be thankful, stay positive, and encourage a growth mindset. Take care! Go PIONEERS!

Respectfully,

Drew R. Wagner

Upcoming events for the 2023-24 school year

January 4: School Resumes

January 15: No School

January 26: Early Childhood Screens

February 1: Preschool Registration opens for the 2024-24 school year

*All dates are subject to change.

**All Fridays during the year are early outs. The Elementary will dismiss students at 1:15 PM.

MR. NICK WEMHOFF
Principal

Welcome back from winter break and welcome to 2024! While we usher in a new year on the calendar, the second half of the school year begins. Winter break serves as an opportunity for students to rest before the rush of the second semester. Before time gets busy and the daily rush is in full effect, I want to share with you key dates for the second semester:

- January 15, no school.
- February 14, parent-teacher conferences.
- February 14-15, 1:30 school dismissal.
- February 16, no school.
- March 7-8, no school.
- March 16, prom and post prom.
- March 27, Pre-ACT day for sophomores and ACT day for juniors.
- March 29 and April 1, no school.
- May 4, graduation.

This is a reminder that the school calendar can be found on the school website. You can access our schedule daily and see what is coming up for the remainder of the school year.

“Do something today that your future self will thank you for.”
• Sean Patrick Flanery

Visit our website at www.fortcalhounschoools.org



The **Fort Calhoun Dance Team** competed at the Spirit of the Midwest regional competition at Papillion LaVista South. They placed Third in Intermediate Varsity Hip Hop and Champions in the Intermediate Varsity Pom. At the UNO Dance Competition and were Champions for both Hip Hop and Pom Dances in Class C/D. Members are **Anna Mallory, Ellie and Macie Collins, Natalie Reichert, Abbey Lienemann, Maddy Buczkowski, Leah Klabunde,**

Breanna Blizzard and **Morgan Bentley**.

Our One-Act group performed at Districts and earned a Superior Rating and Second Place Tech Team. **DeLloyd Robertson, Samantha Thomas, Natalie Lammers, Sammie Ladwig, Brady Work** and **Kaylee Taylor** earned Outstanding Actor status.

Final football recognitions have been released. **Grayson Bouwman, Andrew Namuth** and **Adam Elofson** received Omaha World Herald All Omaha Area Team Honorable Mention.

The NSAA has announced its NCPA Academic All State for the Fall activities. They represent football, volleyball, softball, cross country, and play production. Fort Calhoun students recognized are **Lawson Tjardes, Seth Waters, Maelie Nelson, Grayson Bouwman, Declyn Otte, Brooke Johnsen, Samantha Thomas, Anna Taylor, Bria Bench** and **Taylor Stewart**.

The **Boys Basketball Team is Champion** of the 2023 Blizzard Blowout Basketball Tourney held this year at Sandy Creek High School.

Fort Calhoun Community Schools
2023-24 CALENDAR
ADOPTED 2/13/23 - REVISED 6/12/23

| August, 2023 | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|------------------------------------|---|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S | | |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Aug 7-9 | Pre-school In-service |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | Aug 10 | School begins - E - 11:15; H.S. 11:30 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | Sept 4 | No School - Labor Day |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | Sept 25 | No School |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | Oct 13 | End 1st Quarter - 45 days |
| | | | | | | | Oct 17-18 | Parent Teacher Conferences -- 2-8 PM Early Out |
| | | | | | | | Oct 19 | School in Session-Early Out |
| | | | | | | | Oct 20 | No School - Fall Break -Comp Day |
| | | | | | | | Nov 22 | Early out |
| | | | | | | | Nov 23-24 | No School - Thanksgiving |
| | | | | | | | Dec 20 | End 2nd Quarter - 45 days - Early Out |
| | | | | | | | | End of 1st Semester - 90 days |
| | | | | | | | Dec 21-Jan 3 | No School - Christmas Break |
| | | | | | | | Dec 23-27 | NSAA Moratorium |
| | | | | | | | Jan 3 | Teacher In-service - No School |
| | | | | | | | Jan 4 | School Resumes |
| | | | | | | | Jan 15 | Teacher In-service - No School |
| | | | | | | | Feb 14 | K-12 Parent-Teacher Conferences 2-8 PM Early Out |
| | | | | | | | Feb 15 | Elementary Only Parent-Teacher Conferences 2-8 PM - Early Out Both Buildings |
| | | | | | | | Feb 16 | Comp Day - No School |
| | | | | | | | March 6 | End 3rd Quarter - 43 days |
| | | | | | | | March 7-8 | No School - Spring Break |
| | | | | | | | Mar 29-Apr 1 | No School Easter Break-School Resumes 4/2 |
| | | | | | | | May 4 | Commencement 2:00pm |
| | | | | | | | May 15 | End of 4th Quarter - 46 days End 2nd Semester 89 days |
| | | | | | | | | Dismissal E - 11:15; H.S. 11:30 |
| | | | | | | | May 16 | Teacher In-service |
| | | | | | | | May 27 | Memorial Day |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | 1st Sem. Teacher days = 94 | |
| | | | | | | | 2nd Sem. Teacher days =93 | |
| | | | | | | | Total = 187 | |
| | | | | | | | 1st Sem. Student days = 90 | |
| | | | | | | | 2nd Sem. Student days = 89 | |
| | | | | | | | Total = 179 | |
| | | | | | | | Emergency Days: May 16, 17, 20, 21 | |

- End of Quarter/Semester

- School in Session

- NO SCHOOL - Vacation

Staff In-Service

Parent Teacher Conference

Early Outs: E - 1:15 H.S. - 1:30

January, 2024

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

February, 2024

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | |

March, 2024

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

April, 2024

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |

May, 2024

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |