



Important upcoming dates for seniors...
+ End of Year Celebrations

- ❖ If you haven't already sent in documentation regarding acceptance or other post-secondary plans in progress - do that ASAP for the senior celebration wall.
- ❖ Complete Blair Enterprise Google Survey by March 28th.
- ❖ Report to the Guidance Office ALL scholarships you have been offered, even those you will not accept. Documentation can be snail mail letters, screen shots, or forwarded emails by April 15th to Mrs H. Be sure each one includes the following info:
 - Name of school or organization that granted the scholarship
 - Name of the scholarship or monetary award
 - Value of the scholarship
 - Whether or not it's renewable.



Local Scholarships comp app - 2/23
Prom / Post Prom - 3/17
Senior day off (ACT day) - 3/27
Blair Enterprise Sr Survey - 3/28
Earned Scholarship List - 4/15
Final Transcript release - 4/24
Athletic & Academic Honors - 4/25
Seniors Last Day - 5/1
Sr BBQ, Graduation Practice, Sr Slides
Graduation Ceremony - 5/4

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 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 at the high school office. The fob renews yearly each June 1st. If you have any questions contact Jamie Schleifer at 402-468-5591.

Visit our website at www.fortcalhounschoools.org



The Fort Dispatch

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FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

The "Snow Day" Decision

What goes into the decision to call off school, release early, or start late? A "snow day" is a relative term as we have canceled for extreme cold, ice, and we even canceled a day a year ago for extreme wind. How do I come to this decision? There are many moving and intertwining parts. I will try and walk you through the process.

1. Local news channels will issue a weather alert day or notices for extreme weather. You are now put on alert for what might be.
2. If the inclement weather develops superintendents and other local officials are contacted by the National Weather Service (NWS). Twenty-four to thirty-six hours ahead of the storm they will begin sending out power point updates every four to six hours. It just depends on the severity. If severity increases, they will do a webinar with the listed updates usually about six hours ahead of predicted storm.
3. Armed with this information it becomes a waiting game of sorts. Surrounding superintendents are in direct contact with each other and relay thoughts on what they may decide. Two scenarios develop at this point based on the confidence of the NWS predictions. If confidence is high and the storm is tracking, you will see schools cancel early. If confidence is not as strong you will see superintendents delay seeing what develops. There is a domino effect as well. Once a school cancels and then another you will start to see more go. I am on a thread with seven other surrounding superintendents, some of those are on threads with schools closer to them. Communication happens well into the night and into the early morning. I am well informed about what is happening all around us.
4. In-district information comes from the head maintenance person and me, who each drive the roads to get an idea of conditions. This happens usually between 11 p.m. and 4:30 a.m. depending on the timing of the storm. We are also in contact the county to get their view on the roads, especially the gravel roads. Then I make the best possible, safest decision I can.

There are many more scenarios that could be played out here, but this is a snapshot of what goes into the decision. At the end of the day, it is about getting students and staff home or here safely. This decision is never made lightly. So, as we enter February, it is my hope we are done with making "snow day" decisions. (But probably not)

Jerry Green
Superintendent



Fort Calhoun Schools is currently accepting applications for 2024-25 for 6th Grade, K-6 and 7-12 Special Education teachers, Food Service personnel, and Para professionals - all areas. Apply through Applitrack on our website, About, Job Openings and follow the instructions. Applications will be taken until the position is filled. Subject to a veterans preference. EOE

-Elementary News-
Engaging + Learning + Achieving = Productive PIONEERS!

Mr. Schleifer
Asst Principal-Activities Director

Pioneers,

•Activity Updates:

- ☐ Girls/Boys Basketball:
 - ☐ The Girls and Boys basketball teams competed in the NCC Tournament the week of January 22nd-27th. Our girls finished 4th and our boys finished 3rd. Fort Calhoun hosted 7 games during the week, including the 3rd place and Championship games on Saturday the 27th. I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make the tournament a success, specifically the athletes and coaches of the JH Track/Cross Country and High School Basketball teams for volunteering in the concession stand during the week!
- ☐ Girls/Boys Wrestling:
 - ☐ Our Girls’ wrestling team is entering the last week of the season, they begin sub-districts on Friday February 2nd at Burke High School. The top 4 in each weight class will advance to Districts at Battle Creek on Friday February 2nd.
 - ☐ Boys wrestling start post-season action on Saturday February 10th with districts at Grand Island Northwest. They had a good a showing at the NCC meet on Jan. 20th finishing 5th overall as a team. Medalists - 106 Merritt Olberding 4th, 113 Presley Olberding 1st, 126 Landon Bernasek 1st, 132 Gage Nixon 1st, 150 AJ Duros 4th, 157 TJ DeMilt 3rd.
- ☐ Cheer/Dance:
 - ☐ Our Cheer Team travels to Grand Island for State competition on Friday February 16th.
 - ☐ Dance team travels to Orlando Florida for UDA Nationals on February 3rd/4th. They then have a quick turnaround for State Dance on February 17th in Grand Island.

•Important Activity Dates:

- ☐ Basketball
 - ☐ February 9th- FCYSO Youth Basketball Night, Post-Prom Lasagna Dinner, Chuck-A-Duck, & Art Club Face Painting!
 - ☐ Girls Subdistricts- February 12, 13, & 15
 - ☐ Boys Subdistricts- February 19, 20, & 22
- ☐ Wrestling
 - ☐ Boys Districts- February 10 at Grand Island Northwest
 - ☐ Girls Subdistricts- February 2nd at Omaha Burke
 - ☐ Girls Districts- February 9th at Battle Creek
 - ☐ State- February 15, 16, & 17
- ☐ Spring Sports
 - ☐ Practice starts on February 26th for high school baseball, golf, and track
 - ☐ Practice starts on March 18th for junior high track.

Thank you,

Jamie Schleifer
Assistant Principal/AD



Regular school attendance is not merely a matter of compliance; it forms the bedrock of a student’s academic success and personal development. Consistent attendance fosters a routine that cultivates discipline, time management skills, and a sense of responsibility. Each day in school presents an opportunity for students to engage with peers, participate in discussions, and absorb crucial information from teachers. These daily interactions contribute significantly to their cognitive and social growth, helping them develop crucial communication skills and form lasting relationships. Moreover, consistent attendance ensures students receive continuous instruction, building upon previous lessons and staying updated with the curriculum, thus maximizing their learning potential.

Beyond academic progress, regular school attendance plays a pivotal role in shaping a student’s future trajectory. Research consistently shows a strong correlation between attendance rates and future success in both academic and professional realms. Students who attend school regularly are more likely to graduate from high school, pursue higher education, and secure stable employment. Conversely, chronic absenteeism is associated with a myriad of negative outcomes, including lower academic achievement, increased likelihood of dropping out, and limited career opportunities. By attending school regularly, students not only acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for their academic pursuits but also develop the habits and mindset crucial for long-term success in various aspects of life.

Furthermore, regular school attendance is essential for maintaining a supportive and inclusive learning environment for all students. When students are consistently present in class, teachers can tailor their instruction to meet the diverse needs of learners, providing timely feedback and additional support when needed. Additionally, active participation from all students fosters a sense of community and belonging, enhancing the overall educational experience for everyone involved. By valuing and prioritizing regular attendance, schools demonstrate their commitment to providing equitable opportunities for all students to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally, laying the foundation for a brighter and more promising future for generations to come. Thank you for being a PIONEER!

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

Upcoming events for the 2023-24 school year:

February 1: Preschool Registration opens for 2024-25 school year
February 14 and 15: Parent/Teacher Conferences; 1:15pm dismissal
February 16: No School
*All dates are subject to change.



Preschool registration will take place From February 1-March 1, 2024. More information is available on our website. The next Parent Advisory Committee will be February 7, 2024 at 3:15 PM - Preschool Room at the Elementary..

MR. NICK WEMHOFF
Principal

Over the course of the next month and a half, we will begin to prepare our Junior's for the ACT. Using test strategies and test prep questions provided by the ACT, we will begin to practice questions to give exposure to test questions students may see on the ACT. It is important to us that we give all our students the best possible opportunity to maximize their ACT scores. ACT scores can have an enormous financial impact on the future of our students who decide to attend a two or four-year college. Every high school junior student across the state of Nebraska is required to take the ACT this Spring. The test date for Fort Calhoun is set for Wednesday, March 27th; please make sure you mark your calendar. If you have any questions regarding the ACT this Spring, please feel free to stop in and see Mr. O'Connor during Parent-Teacher conferences. He is the ACT coordinator for the HS and can help answer any questions you may have.

Speaking of Parent-Teacher conferences, they are scheduled for Wednesday, February 14th at the Junior-Senior HS. Parents are invited to stop in and see teachers between 2:00 pm and 8:00 pm. Detailed information regarding Parent-Teacher conferences will be coming soon.

"Your success and happiness lie in you."
- Helen Keller

February



- 2/1 Preschool Registration Begins
- 2/2-4 Dance Team Nationals-Florida
- 2/4 Teammates Bingo @ High School
- 2/9 Post Prom Lasagna Dinner
FYCSO Basketball Night
- 2/9-15 Elementary Book Fair
- 2/12 School Board Meeting
- 2/14 **Happy Valentine's Day**
Parent Teacher Conferences at both schools Early Dismissal
- 2/15 Parent Teacher Conferences at the Elementary - Early Dismissal both Schools
- 2/16 **No School**
- 2/16-17 State Cheer Competition
- 2/21 Booster Club Meeting
- 2/25 Spring Sports Parents Meeting
- 2/27 Senior High Band Concert
- 2/29 Jr-Sr High Choir Concert
- 3/1 Preschool Registration Ends
- 3/6 End of 3rd Quarter
- 3/7-8 No School Spring Break

Post Prom Lasagna Dinner Benefit
Thursday, February 9, 2023
High School Commons
During the Girls/Boys Basketball Games



Fort Calhoun Community Schools use an automated system to notify families of emergencies or weather-related closings. More of the schools' information is now sent by electronic means. It is imperative that all contact information for parents/guardians is up to date. Contact your child's school with any new or updated phone numbers, e-mail addresses or text information.



Congratulations to our three Pioneer families who won front row seats to the winter concert of their choice. We appreciate you being a member and supporting PFE!

We have started planning for all of the fun upcoming events for Spring 2024. The first Pioneers For Education meeting will be Monday, January 29th at 7:30pm in the High School Library. Save the date for the below upcoming events sponsored by PFE:

- January** -- Art After School
1/29 - PFE Meeting, 7:30 pm, High School Library
- February** -- Original Works
2/10 - Father Daughter Dance, 7:00 pm, Elementary School Gym
2/26 - PFE Meeting, 7:30 pm, High School Library
- March** -- One School, One Book
3/15 - Donuts with Dad
3/25 - PFE Meeting, 7:30 pm, High School Library

PFE can be reached at pioneersforeducation@gmail.com. Follow Pioneers For Education on Facebook for fun updates, pictures of events, and other exciting news.

Your Officer Team, Chris Roberts- President, Vacant- Vice President, Shannon Pokorski- Treasurer, Jami Biodrowski- Secretary, Amy Evanich- Communication Coordinator



Participants selected through audition for the Hastings College Honor Band are **Addie Benoit, Trey King, Eddie Lautrup, Michael Maxon, Cody Rogers, Johnathon Schwarte** and **Alex Schuler**. **Addie** was awarded 1st Chair. **Alex Fienhold** was selected by audition to the Hastings Honor Choir. Congratulations! **Samantha Thomas, Eric Ertzner** and **Harrison Geiger** were selected for the Nebraska Wesleyan Honor Choir.

The Blair Enterprise has released it's "9 Who Shine" for this year. Fort Calhoun students selected are **Grayson Bouwman, Anna Taylor, Kaylee Taylor** and

McKenzie LeColst. Students are chosen for their academics, activities, and community involvement to name a few. A special section of the paper will showcase them.

Grayson Bouwman has become the all time leading scorer for Fort Calhoun Boys Basketball. He will certainly climb higher as this season's games continue.

Presley Olberding, Landon Bernasek and **Gage Nixon** all wrestled their way to the top in the Capital Conference Wrestling tournament. Congrats Champs!

Elementary Spelling Bee winners are **Gabrielle Muse**--Champion and **Geno Roberts**--Runner-Up. Junior High winners are **Leo Morris**-Champion and **Layla Steiner**-Runner Up.



February 19th



#HeartHealth