

Back to School NEWSLETTER

Fort Calhoun Elementary School - July 2025

A Note from The Principal

Dear Fort Calhoun Elementary Families,

Welcome to a new school year! I hope your summer was filled with joyful memories, rest, and time with loved ones. As we gear up for an exciting year ahead, I'm thrilled to welcome our students and families back to Fort Calhoun Elementary—where it's always a great day to be a Pioneer!

This year, our theme is "**Shine Bright**"—a reminder that every child has their own unique light, and together, we will help them shine. We believe that each student brings their own light to our school community, and it is our mission to help them discover and develop that light. Whether it's through academics, friendships, creativity, or acts of kindness, we are encouraging our students to shine in ways that make them proud and inspire others. Our staff is committed to creating a positive and uplifting environment where students feel seen, valued, and supported as they work toward their goals. Together, we will face challenges with courage, cheer each other on with heart, and work hard each day to make this school year one where every child truly shines bright.

I'm also excited to share our updated school vision, which reflects who we are and what we stand for: At Fort Calhoun Elementary School, we honor our traditions and build strong relationships with students, families, staff, and the community. We are committed to teaching the whole child through authentic learning experiences that promote academic excellence, well-being, and character. In a safe and supportive environment, students are empowered to be respectful, responsible, and brave. Grounded in a culture of hometown pride, we prepare students for success beyond the classroom and readiness for the real world.

We are truly looking forward to partnering with you this year and watching our students grow, achieve, and shine bright!

With Pioneer pride,
Mrs. Horstman

Our New Staff Members:

Please welcome our new staff members to Fort Calhoun Elementary School. We are excited to have these new faces in our building for the upcoming school year.

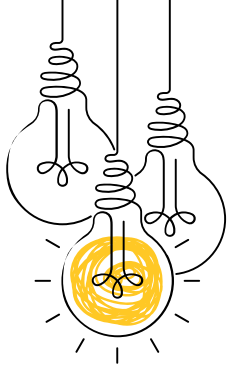
Ariel Connor - Art Teacher
Christina Bowser - 2nd Grade Teacher
Cassidy Knust - 3rd Grade Teacher
Olivia Bruening - 5th Grade Teacher
Marshall Keough - Intervention Specialist
Neile Rogge - Paraprofessional
Gina Christiansen - Paraprofessional
Mary Hanselman - Paraprofessional
Bailee Miles - Paraprofessional

Teacher's Amazon Wishlists

The following teachers have created an Amazon Wishlist for their classroom or educational space. If you are interested in donating to a classroom, please scan the QR Code. If your student's classroom is not listed, feel free to check with the staff member during Back to School Night on August 13th.

Thank you.





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For our Preschool Families:

The first day of preschool will be Monday, August 18th. Morning preschool is from 8:00 am - 11:15 am and afternoon preschool is from 11:50 am - 3:05 pm. In addition to preschool on Monday through Thursday, there will be preschool on the following days:

- Morning preschool - October 22nd, November 26th, and February 18th, from 8:00 am - 11:15 am.
- Afternoon preschool - October 23rd, December 19th, and February 19th from 8:00 am - 11:15 am.

Before the school year begins, please bring a copy of your child's birth certificate and current immunization records. The first tuition payment is due on or before August 1, 2025. Payment for each subsequent month will be due on or before the 20th of the month. There will be a grace period of five days if payment is not received by the 20th. Payments can be mailed to the elementary school (PO Box 430 Fort Calhoun, NE 68023), brought to the elementary office during school hours, or by setting up automatic payments through eFunds. Tuition is \$150 per month.

If you have any further questions regarding preschool, please contact the Fort Calhoun Elementary School Office.

Upcoming Events:

AUGUST:

7th - PFE Summer Pool Party

13th - Back to School Night from 6 - 7 pm

14th - First Day of School - 11:15 Dismissal

15th - PFE Back to School Movie Night

18th - First Day of Preschool

22nd - Fall Sports Kick Off

SEPTEMBER:

1st - No School

23rd - Picture Day

19th - Homecoming

29th - No School

OCTOBER

17th - End of the 1st Quarter

22nd & 23rd - Parent Teacher Conferences, 11:15 Dismissal

24th - No School

Daily Schedule:

7:45 am - Buses Arrive
Students Enter School
Breakfast Begins

8:00 am - School Begins

8:05 am - Students are Tardy

10:10 am - Kindergarten Recess

10:45 am - Kindergarten Lunch
1st & 2nd Grade Recess

11:20 am - 1st & 2nd Grade Lunch
3rd & 4th Grade Recess

11:55 am - 3rd & 4th Grade Lunch
5th & 6th Grade Recess

12:30 pm - 5th & 6th Grade Lunch

3:00 pm - Dismissal on Monday - Thursday

***FRIDAY'S DISMISSAL IS AT 1:15 PM**

How can I help my child prepare for the 1st day of school?

Preparing your child for going back to school can help ease anxieties, build excitement, & set the stage for a successful year. Here are a couple practical & supportive steps you can take:

- **Ease Back Into Routine** - Gradually adjust bedtime and wake-up times to match the school schedule.
- **Get Supplies & Organize Together** - Let your child help pick out school supplies to build excitement. Practice routines by packing the backpack, picking out outfits, or role-playing school drop-off.
- **Manage Emotions & Build Confidence** - Normalize nerves & share your own positive school memories. Build confidence by letting them practice opening lunch containers, tying shoes, or organizing their supplies.