

Fort Calhoun Community Schools  
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Fort Calhoun, Nebraska 68023

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**FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT’S OFFICE**

**Positive Relationships Build Strong Schools  
Welcome to Fort Calhoun**

Positive relationships between staff and students are a cornerstone of effective education. When students feel valued, respected, and supported by their teachers and school staff, they are more likely to engage with learning, take academic risks, and develop a strong sense of belonging within the school community.

Trust and mutual respect in staff-student relationships foster a safe and inclusive environment where students feel comfortable expressing themselves and asking for help. This emotional security is essential as it reduces anxiety and increases motivation. Students are more willing to participate in class discussions, collaborate with peers, and persevere through challenges when they know their teachers believe in their potential.

For staff, positive relationships allow for better understanding of individual student needs, creating more personalized and effective teaching strategies. Teachers can identify early signs of academic or personal struggles and offer timely support, which increases student success.

Research consistently shows that schools with strong staff-student connections see improved academic performance, higher attendance rates, and reduced behavioral issues. These relationships also contribute to students’ long-term social and emotional development, helping them build confidence, resilience, and interpersonal skills.

Nurturing positive staff-student relationships is not just beneficial—it is essential. It creates a culture of respect and support that empowers students to reach their full potential both inside and outside the classroom, enhancing the overall learning experience.

Jerry Green  
Superintendent  
Fort Calhoun Community Schools



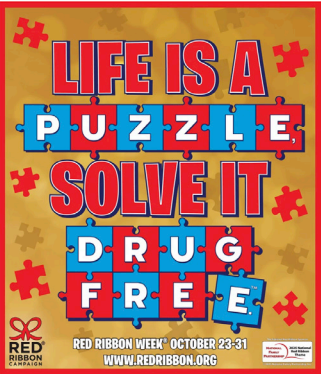
Fort Calhoun Community Schools use an automated system to notify families of emergencies or weather-related closings by call, text

or e-mail. Make sure all your contact numbers are up-to-date and let us know your preferred way of notification by returning your Student Profiles.

**OPTION ENROLLMENT 2026-27**

The Option Enrollment application period for the 2026-27 school year opens on September 1, 2025 and runs through March 15, 2026. Forms are available on our website or at the school offices. The School Board set class sizes and program parameters in February. Applicants are taken on a first-come, first-serve basis within the guidelines set by our Board of Education and according to State law. All applicants must be notified one way or the other by April 1st.

Just like a puzzle coming together, a drug-free lifestyle helps build a stronger, brighter future—one piece at a time.



**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.

The mission of the Fort Calhoun Schools is to:  
**F**oster learning in an inspiring, caring and safe environment; provide  
**O**pportunities for all students to be successful; instill the attributes of  
**R**espect and responsibility among staff and students alike; and present students with the  
**T**ools to succeed in life.



Pioneers,

We are past the halfway point of the fall sports season, and postseason play will be here before we know it, and our programs are off to a great start! I can't remember a season in recent memory where all of our fall sports teams have had such a strong start to the year. A big thank you to all of our coaches and athletes for their hard work and dedication to their programs. Additionally, the support we've seen at events from the Fort Calhoun community has been amazing—let's keep packing those stands!

A special thank-you goes out to everyone who was able to attend our home cross country meet on September 25th! This was the 31st meet held at Fort Atkinson, and we officially renamed the event the “Fort Calhoun Jim Meyer Classic” in honor of Coach Meyer's incredible 44 years of coaching at Fort Calhoun!

I would like to share a few reminders to help avoid confusion at some of our facilities/home events:

**Football Field & Track:** Hopefully, you've noticed the new visitor bleachers on the east side of the track! This section is reserved for visiting teams only. We ask that spectators not stand on the track during home football games.

**Track Usage:** When the football field and track are not in use for school activities, the community is welcome to use the track for recreational purposes. However, no practices or games are allowed unless permission is granted by the administration. Also, no bikes, strollers, rollerblades, etc., are permitted on the track.

**Fort Calhoun Facility Pet Policy:** You may have seen new yellow signs at the football/track facility gate. As a reminder, pets are not allowed at any Fort Calhoun Community Schools event—indoors or outdoors—at any building. The only exception is for service animals approved by Fort Calhoun administration, in accordance with school board policy.

**New Emergency Access Road - Wrestling Room:** We've added an emergency access road to the wrestling room for EMS use only. This is not a parking lot. Unauthorized vehicles may be towed at the discretion of FCCS or the homeowner.

**Cross Country Events at Fort Atkinson:** We love seeing your support at our home cross country meets! Just a reminder, anyone entering the park (even on foot) must have a valid Nebraska Parks Pass. Fort Calhoun Activity Passes and NCC Passes will not be accepted. Park passes can be purchased ahead of time on <https://www.gooutdoorsne.com/customer/catalog>

Finally, looking ahead, the winter sports season is just around the corner! As a reminder, any student in grades 7–12 who wishes to participate in activities must have a current sports physical on file and a signed NSAA consent form (located in the high school office) submitted to the office before they will be allowed to participate.

#### Notable Dates

October 4 - Home Varsity Volleyball Classic: 9am  
October 6 – Softball Subdistricts (Location TBD)  
October 9 - NCC XC at Fort Atkinson State Park: 4:30 p.m.  
October 10–11 – Softball District Finals (Location TBD)  
October 20 – Start of Junior High Girls Wrestling  
October 27 – Start of Junior High Boys Basketball  
October 27–29 – Volleyball Subdistricts (Location TBD)  
October 29 – Start of Unified Bowling Practice  
October 31st - Start of State Football Playoffs (Location TBD)  
November 1 – Volleyball District Finals (Location TBD)  
November 16 – Mandatory Winter Sport-Specific Parent Meeting at 6 p.m. (High School)  
November 17 – Start of High School Basketball and Wrestling Seasons

Thank you for your continued support of Fort Calhoun Community Schools!

#### Go Pioneers!!!

Jamie Schleifer  
Fort Calhoun Junior/Senior High School  
Assistant Principal/Athletic Director

## A Note from the Elementary Principal



Dear Fort Calhoun Families,

October is shaping up to be an exciting month at school, and we wanted to share a few highlights with you! On **October 3rd**, students will take part in the **Pioneers for Education Walk-A-Thon**. Later in the month, on **October 16th**, we are excited to welcome **Learnin' the Ropes**—a special event that students can attend by earning **150 LiveSchool points**. Finally, we look forward to connecting with you during **Parent-Teacher Conferences on October 22nd and 23rd**.

Along with these special events, our focus on student learning continues to grow. Students are diving into our **new science curriculum**, which sparks curiosity and hands-on discovery. We are also excited to see the arts flourishing in our building, with **Mrs. Connor supporting our new art program** and encouraging creativity in our classrooms.

Thank you for your continued partnership in helping our students learn, grow, and shine this October.

~ Mrs. Horstman, Elementary Principal

**Student Expectations at Sporting Events:** We love seeing our elementary students and families at jr/sr high school sporting events to cheer on the Pioneers! To make sure everyone has a safe and enjoyable experience, please remind your child of the following expectations:

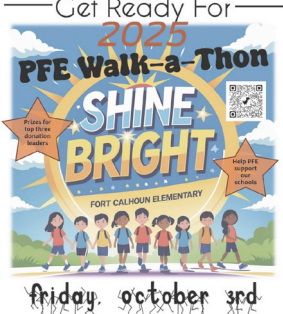
1. **Cheer respectfully.** Show good sportsmanship—encourage our team and respect the other team, officials, and fans.
2. **Safety:** Running, climbing, or rough play during sporting events is not permitted.
3. **Engagement:** Students are expected to attend events to support the Pioneers by watching the game. Playing games, running, or engaging in activities such as tag will not be permitted during sporting events.
4. **School Expectations:** The same standards for respectful, responsible behavior that apply during the school day also apply at school-sponsored events.

Thank you for helping us create a positive game-day environment for all Pioneer fans!

**Parent-Teacher Conferences:** Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on October 22nd and 23rd. These meetings allow parents to hear about their child's academic progress, review assessment results, and discuss strengths as well as areas for growth. In the next week, you will receive information about how to sign up for a time to meet with your child's teacher and other staff members who work with your student each day.

**1st Quarter Celebration - Learnin' the Ropes:** Our 1st Quarter Celebration will take place on October 16th! Students who earn 150 *LiveSchool* points will be invited to attend a special assembly featuring **Learnin' the Ropes**. This unique performance combines jump rope skills with positive messages about perseverance, teamwork, and making good choices. Students will be amazed by the high-energy tricks, creativity, and athleticism, all while learning important lessons that connect to our school values.

Students can earn LiveSchool points each day by showing what it means to be **safe, respectful, responsible, and brave** at school. Whether it's following directions, helping a classmate, staying focused on learning, or making positive choices, every point adds up. We can't wait to celebrate their hard work and watch them enjoy this high-energy show!



#### Upcoming Elementary Events

October 3 - Walk-a-Thon  
October 7 - Fire Safety Day  
October 16-17 - 1st Quarter Celebration  
October 17 - Donuts with Dad  
October 17-23 - Scholastic Book Fair  
October 22-23 - 1:15 Dismissal-Parent Teacher Conferences 2-8 PM  
October 24 - No School





**DR. NICK WEMHOFF**  
**Principal**

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on October 22-23 from 2:00–8:00 p.m. Teachers will be available in their classrooms throughout these times, with a scheduled dinner break from 5:00–5:45 p.m. Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend. For those unable to attend in person, please feel free to contact teachers directly via email.

I would like to remind families to check lunch account balances regularly through PowerSchool. Payments may be made electronically through E-Funds or by sending a check with your student to school. To avoid recurring shortages, we encourage families to deposit more than the current negative balance to provide funds for future meals. Questions regarding lunch accounts may be directed to the high school office.

Looking ahead, Fort Calhoun SkillsUSA will sponsor the annual Veterans Day Program on Tuesday, November 11, at 10:00 a.m. at the high school. The program will last approximately one hour, and community members are invited to attend. A luncheon will follow in honor of Military Service Men and Women, both past and present. Each service member is welcome to bring one guest. To assist with planning, please RSVP by calling the high school office at 402-468-5591 or sending an email to [rtinkham@ftcpioneers.org](mailto:rtinkham@ftcpioneers.org). On behalf of the Fort Calhoun community, we extend our sincere gratitude to all who have served or are currently serving our nation.

*“As we express gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”*

*John F. Kennedy*

Homecoming royalty was crowned at the Homecoming Pep Rally on September 19th. **King and Queen are Kade Foy and Maelie Nelson, Prince and Princess are Eli Tinkham and Ari Nelson.** Other members of the Court are **Ali Dill, Ella Bouwman, Colby Bentley and Blake Welchert.** The Crown Bearers court are **Joseph and Genevieve Brooks, Nathan Bloodworth, Renee Kelly, Aubrey Pane, Zoey Welchert, and Emilia Vidales.**



As of this printing, the **Fort Calhoun Football Team** is ranked 8th in the State in the *Lincoln Journal Star* and 7th in the *Omaha World Herald*. After the Pierce win, the *World Herald* stated this could be “one of the most momentous wins in program history”. The **Softball Team** is ranked 5th in the State in the *Omaha World Herald* and the *Lincoln Journal Star*. Our Cross Country Teams competed in the Kearney Invite. The Boys Team placed 5th out of over 35 teams and the Girls Team placed 4th out of over 30 teams. Our Volleyball team is 14-4 overall so far. **Congrats to all our student athletes and coaches for a great start to the year!**



President John F. Kennedy created National School Lunch Week (NSLW) in 1962 to promote the importance of a healthy school lunch in a child’s life and the impact it has inside and outside of the classroom. Fort Calhoun serves nutritious meals for our students. Meal prices are listed on our website as is the Meal Payment policy. If you have any questions, please contact the District Office at 402-468-5591.



## HAPPENINGS

- 10/3 Elementary Walk-a-Thon  
FCYSO Youth Cheer & Football Night
- 10/9 Home Cross Country Invite @ Ft. Atkinson
- 10/10 Football/Cheer/Dance Parent-Senior Night
- 10/13 School Board Meeting
- 10/17 End of 1st Quarter
- 10/20 Midland Honor Choir  
Volleyball Parent/Senior Night
- 10/22-23 Parent Teacher Conferences--Early Out
- 10/23-31 Red Ribbon Week
- 10/24 NO SCHOOL
- 10/25 NSBA State Marching Band Festival
- 10/31 **HAPPY HALLOWEEN**

National School Bus Safety Week is an active and evolving public education program and an excellent way for parents, students, teachers, motorists, school bus operators, school administrators, and other interested parties to join forces and address the importance of school bus safety.



Happy Fall, Pioneer Families -

Pioneers for Education kicked off the school year with some great events. We hosted back to school pool night at the Blair pool and co-hosted the annual movie night with the City of Fort Calhoun. We had a great turnout for Trolls! We are currently working on our largest fundraiser of the year, the Walk-A-Thon! We created a stretch goal to raise \$11,000, we can do it! We appreciate all of the families who have donated. We look forward to walking with our elementary students on October 3rd to celebrate their success.

### Upcoming October events:

- 10/3 - Walk-A-Thon
- 10/17 - Donuts with Dad
- 10/20 - October PFE Meeting

The PFE would like to send a huge THANK YOU to our 2025-2026 Corporate Sponsors. We are able to do so many things for our educators, students and families because of your support. We appreciate you!

**A Place at Home, Abe’s Trash, Ascend Aircraft Management, ATV Motor Sports, Calhoun Oil, Cherry Hill, Custom Electric, Dino’s Storage, Harvest Design Co., Holland & Bloom Style Co., Legato Living, Midlands Dental Group, NTEC/Hal’s Autobody & Paint, Paintless Perfection, Peitzmeier Demolition, Taylor Quick Market, The Bunker, The Fort Bar, The Longhorn Bar & Grill, TLM Extensions & Color, Washington County Bank, Zig Drywall**

Your 2025-2026 Office Team: Sara Nichols-President; Vacant-Vice President, Krissy Jorgensen-Treasurer, Raschelle Drumheller-Secretary, Amy Evanich-Communication Coordinator