



# The Fort Dispatch

Volume 36 No 6

Fort Calhoun Community Schools

Spring 2026

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

### Thoughts on the Year....So Far

It is a busy time of year. As I write this, we are nearing the midpoint of second semester, and it will soon be summer. Items to remember as second semester flies by:

- Over the past several weeks we have been able to have our students represent Fort Calhoun Community Schools on field trips, class outings, prom, post prom, and other events. At all these events the administration has had someone hosting these events make a point to come and let us know we have good kids. This is always good to hear. It says a lot about the community as a whole and the school.
- Keep a growth mindset, as we live our lives, we understand that it is not always going to be easy. The mark of a growth mindset is your ability to find success and positivity even when things aren't quite right. Character has many different names and definitions; in the end the most important thing is to just have it.
- Ignore the Critics; control what you can control. You could cure all disease and feed the world, and some people will criticize you for it. Leaders expect to be attacked but they still do what needs to be done. Keep in mind, there is a limit to the madness, be kind.
- Stay positive. You are broadcasting energy in everything that you do, is it positive or negative? Your vibe is contagious and impacts the people around you. Maybe ask the question, would you want to hang out with you?
- Love the ones you love. I say this as we continue to see heartache and tragedy in our world and in our own lives. Don't forget to give hugs, allow yourself to be hugged and always have the awareness and courage to say I love you.

Have a great second semester and a great 2026.

Jerry Green  
Superintendent  
Fort Calhoun Community Schools

Visit our website at  
[www.fortcalhouschools.org](http://www.fortcalhouschools.org)



## Fort Calhoun Community Schools 2026-27 CALENDAR Adopted 2/9/2026

August, 2026							January, 2027							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
						1							1	2
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
30	31						31							
September, 2026							February, 2027							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
						1							1	2
						2	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	28							
27	28	29	30											
October, 2026							March, 2027							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
						1							1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31				
November, 2026							April, 2027							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
						1							1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
29	30						25	26	27	28	29	30		
December, 2026							May, 2027							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
						1							1	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
27	28	29	30	31			23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
							30	31						

Aug 10-12 Pre-school In-service  
 Aug 13 School begins - E - 11:15; H.S. 11:30  
 Sept 7 No School - Labor Day  
 Sept 28 No School  
 Oct 16 End 1st Quarter - 45 days  
 Oct 21 Parent Teacher Conferences -- Early Out  
 Oct 22 Parent Teacher Conferences -- Early Out  
 Oct 23 No School - Fall Break -Comp Day  
 Nov 6 Teacher In-service - No School  
 Nov 25 Early out  
 Nov 26-27 No School - Thanksgiving  
 Dec 18 End 2nd Quarter - 41 days - Early Out  
 End of 1st Semester - 86 days  
 Dec 21-Jan 4 No School - Christmas Break  
 Dec 23-27 NSAA Practice/Competition Moratorium  
 Jan 4 Teacher In-service - No School  
 Jan 5 School Resumes  
 Jan 18 Teacher In-service-No School-Martin Luther King Jr.Day  
 Feb 17 K-12 Parent-Teacher Conferences Early Out  
 Feb 18 Elementary Only Parent-Teacher Conferences  
 Early Out Both Buildings  
 Feb 19 Comp Day - No School  
 March 10 End 3rd Quarter - 45 days  
 March 11-12 No School - Spring Break  
 March 26-29 No School Easter Break  
 April 23 Teacher In-service - No School  
 May 8 Commencement 2:00pm  
 May 20 End of 4th Quarter - 46 days  
 End 2nd Semester 91 days  
 Dismissal E - 11:15; H.S. 11:30  
 May 21 Teacher In-service  
 May 31 Memorial Day

1st Sem. Teacher days 91  
 2nd Sem. Teacher days 96  
 Total 187  
 1st Sem. Student days = 86 days  
 2nd Sem. Student days = 91 days  
 Total = 177

Emergency Days: May 24, 25, 26, 27

- School in Session
- NO SCHOOL - Vacation
- End of Quarter/Semester
- Staff In-Service
- Early Outs: E - 1:15 H.S. - 1:30
- Parent Teacher Conference

## OPTION ENROLLMENT 2026-27

The Option Enrollment application period for the 2026-27 school year is now open through March 15, 2026. Forms are available on our website, the NDE website or at the school offices. The School Board sets class size and program parameters then applicants are accepted 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 Census information by reporting any adults, children up to 18 years old and others in the household. 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.

**MR. NICK WEMHOFF**  
Junior-Senior High School Principal



The Fort Calhoun Junior/Senior Prom will take place on Saturday, March 21st, at the Skutt Center on the campus of Creighton University. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m., with the Prom Royalty coronation scheduled for 7:15 p.m. The dance will conclude at 10:00 p.m.

I would like to take a moment to thank everyone who helps make Prom such a memorable experience for our students, especially Mrs. Johnson and Ms. Wellman. As Junior Class Sponsors, their dedication and hard work are essential to the success of this event.

Post Prom will begin at the high school and then transition to SmashPark in Omaha. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of activities throughout the night. Post Prom is organized by a hardworking parent committee that manages fundraising, activity planning, decorating, gift purchasing, and much more. Numerous additional volunteers also give their time to supervise and support our students during the event. Thank you to all parents who are assisting with Post Prom this year, and an additional thank you to the many community patrons and businesses who generously donated money, goods, or services.

Prom and Post Prom are wonderful traditions for our students and would not be possible without the time, effort, and support of so many people. Thank you to everyone who plays a role in making these events successful!

**Please mark your calendars:** Thursday, March 26, 2026, will be ACT/PreACT Day for Juniors and Sophomores. It is important that all students in these grades are present for testing.

**Schedule for that day:**

- Grades 7–8: Normal school day
- Freshmen: Class field trip to the Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium in Omaha
- Sophomores & Juniors: ACT/PreACT testing begins at 8:00 a.m.; students will be dismissed following the test
- Seniors: No school

*“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then is not an act but a habit.”  
- Aristotle*



New members of the National Honor Society for this year have been selected. The New Members are: **Chase Bierman, Ella Bouwman, Will Dennis, Kade Foy, Izzy Greenough, Connor Holmstedt, Natalie Lammers, Raeann Massey, Gannon Otte, Jayson Reynolds, Christopher Post-Whiteowl, Mason Reichert, Jayson Reynolds, Emilee Thayer-Mencke, Aiden Tinkham, Emily Warfield** and **Blake Welchert**.

Students who are current members are **Taylor Douchey, Sophie Weeks, Harper Tjardes, Maelie Nelson, Macie Collins** and **Arianna Nelson**. What an honor for all of you!!!



**MENTORS  
NEEDED!**

Call Teri Zavadil for information or  
to apply – 402-237-9558



**Hawthorne Roehr** and **Trevor DeVries** have qualified again for the Fall State e-Sports Tournament at Midland University. Trevor placed 4th and Hawthorne placed 7th both winning medals!

Our Fine Arts Music programs have been very much showcased by students who have been selected for various Honor Bands and Choirs.

**Honor Bands:** *Wesleyan University Honors Band-Connor Holmstedt, Logan Hansen, Steven Bryan, Danny Pawol, Zoey Coontz and Jackson Swierczek. Nebraska National Guard Honor Band-Connor, Steven, Logan and Jackson. UNL Winter Winds Festival-Connor. UNO Boch Festival-Logan, Steven, Landyn Urwiller, Danny and Jackson. Hastings College Honors Band-Logan, Steven, Landyn, Connor and Jackson.*

**Honor Choirs:** *Wesleyan Honor Choir-Connor Holmstedt and Emma Bowery. Hastings Honor Choir-Delia Hallberg. Blair Show Choir-Fort Calhoun Phenomenon. Nebraska Middle School Honor Choir-Halley Foy, Andi Greiner, Thomas Jensen.*

**Collin Sundermeier, Claire Heneger, Gabby Muse** and **Sam Richardson** advanced through our local Spelling Bees to participate in the Washington County Spelling Bee where they participated well. Congratulations!

Fort Calhoun students participated in the *Metro Omaha Trade Invitational* allowing them a chance to advance to the SkillsUSA Nebraska championships. Our recognitions are **Gold Medal-Stella Wilmes, Silver Medal-Jaxon Harrel Bruce**, and **Bronze Medals-Matt Smith and Jason Jensen**. Special Recognition-**Mason Wright** who helped plan and organize the entire event.

**Fort Calhoun's Girls Wrestling** team participated very well in the District Tournament. Fort Calhoun is sending 8 wrestlers on to the State Tourney! **Ali Dill** and **Dakota Cheloha** who are both **District Champs**; and **Anna Rae Hartline, Annaleigh McLaughlin, Beckah Gossman, Bella McLaughlin, Kendall Magana-Torres** and **Lydia Kmitta** all also qualified. **Beckah** medaled with **3rd Place** and **Ali** medaled with **6th Place**. Congrats wrestlers and coaches!

The **Boys Wrestling Team** did well in in Districts and are sending five wrestlers to **State: Merritt Olberding** and **Presley Olberding** are both District Champs! Other state qualifiers are **Lucas DeMilt, Nathan Duros** and **Seth Waters**. **Merritt** wrestled his way to a 3rd Place Medal!



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.

## 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 fortcalhounschools.org. Go to "About, Board of Education, Policies" and scroll down to Policy 3057-Title IX.

Pioneers,



Activity Updates:

- **Girls/Boys Basketball:**
  - The Girls and Boys basketball teams competed in the NCC Tournament the week of January 26th-31st. Both Teams competed and had a great tournament!
  - The girls team won the NCC tournament and were tied as regular season champions for the first time since 2007!
  - Subdistricts:
    - Girls host Bishop-Neumann on Friday, February 20th at 6pm.
    - Boys travel to Pierce on Tuesday, February 24th.
- **Girls/Boys Wrestling:**
  - Both wrestling teams competed at the State Tournament February 17-21. The girls team qualified 8: Bechah Gossman (3rd), Ali Dill (6th), Annaleigh McLaughlin, Bella McLaughlin, Kendall Magana-Torres, Anna Rae Hartline, Dakota Cheloha, and Lydia Kmita .
- **Cheer/Dance:**
  - Our Cheer Team traveled to Grand Island for State competition on Thursday February 19th.
  - Dance team travels to Grand Island for State competition on Saturday, February 21st.

Thank you,

Jamie Schleifer  
Assistant Principal/AD



**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. To sign up for a fob or if you have any questions contact Jamie Schleifer at 402-468-5591.



Spring

*Happenings*

- 2/20 NO SCHOOL
- 2/19-21 State Boys Wrestling
- 2/26 Unified Basketball Tourney TBD
- 3/1 Preschool Application Deadline
- 3/3 Instrumental Music Concert
- 3/5 Spring Vocal Concert
- 3/9 School Board Meeting
- 3/11 End of 3rd Quarter
- 3/12-13 NO SCHOOL-Spring Break
- 3-21-22 Prom/Post Prom
- 3/26 ACT-PreAct - Jr-Sr High Field Trips
- 3/28-29 Band Variety Show

# The Pioneer Post

## -Elementary News-

Mrs. Horstman

It was so great seeing so many of you walk through our doors for conferences recently. Thank you for taking the time to sit down with us and support your students; those conversations really do make such a difference in the classroom. We're keeping that positive energy going in March with Read Across America. Our staff is already busy prepping some great activities for March 9th through the 11th and we can't wait to show the students what we have in store. We're also keeping our fingers crossed for some consistent sunshine! We're all ready for those nice spring days where we can get everyone outside for recess to burn off some energy.

We are excited for our students to participate in *Read Across America Week* on March 10th - 12th! The following dress up days have been planned:

- Monday, March 9th - Make Yourself Comfy Monday! Wear cozy clothes or pajamas and snuggle up with a good book.
- Tuesday, March 10th -Team Up for Reading Tuesday! Wear sports jerseys, school spirit wear, or matching outfits!
- Wednesday, March 11th - Wild About Books Wednesday! Wear animal print, bright colors, crazy patterns, or anything wild to show your love for reading!



### Music at Fort Calhoun Elementary School



March is "Music in Our Schools Month"! The purpose of MIOSM is to raise awareness of the importance of music education for all children and to remind citizens that school is where all children should have access to music. In music class, Miss Knorr and students will be celebrating MIOSM by learning about different careers and genres in music, as well as participating in a music-themed March Madness bracket.

### Upcoming Events

- March 6: Morning with Mom
- March 9-11: Read Across America Week
- March 10: 3rd Quarter Celebration
- March 12-13: Spring Break - **No School**-Students & Staff
- April 3-6: No School for Students & Staff
- April 16: Spring Music Concert
- May 1: Teacher Inservice - **No School** for Students
- May 6: Elementary Talent Show
- May 9: Elementary Field Day

### 3rd Quarter Student Celebration

The MTSS team has been working hard to plan our next quarterly celebration. Students will be rewarded and have the opportunity to play, eat a popcorn snack, and play bingo. There will also be prizes available to students who earn a bingo!

For the first time ever, an elementary student, **Piper Willis**, has been nominated by all her teachers for 2 **Pioneer of the Week** awards.

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**We kindly ask that families picking up students in grades 3-6 to please refrain from parking in the areas marked with an "X" at the corner of 12th and Adams. Keeping these areas clear ensures our buses have the space they need to safely make the turn. Thank you for your cooperation and support in keeping dismissal safe for everyone.**



- April 17: Kindergarten Round Up
- April 24: Kindergarten Round Up
- More information to follow