

Fort Calhoun Elementary

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Fort Calhoun, NE 68023

Your Principal: Mr. Drew R. Wagner

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-Elementary News-

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Happy Fall Y'all! Thank you for being a Pioneer! The pride of being a pioneer is priceless. We hope you all feel the same way as we continue our journey together.

There are two items of interest I wanted to elaborate more in depth with, which is the student drop-off/pick-up and our fabulous school theme this year, Treat others how you want to be treated. As usual if you have questions/feedback on either of these topics or other topics around the school please let someone know so we can attend to them appropriately.

Our school drop-off/pick-up has been going fantastic from our new changes from last year. This process has been successful for several reasons from everyone (Parents, students, guardians, staff, family friends, etc.) being patient and kind to staff making changes from our daily schedule to adapt to help meet the needs of our students. Let's continue to make this a priority as we move forward. If everyone is following the appropriate guidelines then we will continue to be successful. Thank you for your patience during this time. WE appreciate it!

Treating others on how you want to be treated takes time and purpose. Our school theme this year should not just be a theme, but a true life style. That is exactly why we are continually working on educating students to follow this precise concept to enhance the world around us. With our partnership we can get this accomplished. Please continue to take time to chat with your kiddo at home about how to be kind to one another, how to react when someone does not treat you very kind, and then creating an action plan to get a long. Please take this information how you see fit! Be Kind!

As I wrap up this communication, we want to thank our fabulous PFE for another successful Walk-a-thon (September 21) and Donuts with Dad (October 5). Another way our PFE continues to support our positive school culture. Thank you!

Keep smiling! Each day brings new endeavors. Remember to be a problem solver not a problem sharer!

Respectfully,

Drew R. Wagner

*BE CURIOUS BEFORE CRITICAL!

**A
positive
attitude
will get
you
anywhere!**

What's going on in the classrooms?

Early childhood - Mrs. Royuk

During the month of September, preschool visited Super Bee apple orchard! We learned about different types of apples, compared and taste tested them. We also learned how to be a good friend. The preschoolers had the opportunity to practice sharing, trading and taking turns with classroom toys. In preschool we worked on the letters F, A, M and D and identified numbers. They have been great little Pioneers!!



Kindergarten - Miss Hall & Miss Shupe

Reading	Math
<p>Concepts:</p> <p>We are special</p> <p>My Family and Me</p> <p>I Can</p> <p>Make New Friends</p> <p>Get Up and Go</p> <p>Essential Questions: How is everyone special?</p> <p>Who is in your family?</p> <p>What can you do?</p> <p>How can we get along with new friends?</p> <p>How do baby animals move?</p> <p>Category Words: Names, Numbers, Days of the Week,</p> <p>High Frequency Word: I, the, can, we</p> <p>Vocabulary Words: friend, problem, adventure, and movement</p> <p>Phonics: Letter Recognition: A-Z, m and a</p> <p>Comprehension: key details</p>	<p>Focus: Numbers 0-5, Compare Numbers 0-5</p> <p>Skills: one-to-one correspondence, representing groups in a number of ways, comparing groups by matching objects 1-1, compare numbers (smaller numbers are less than bigger numbers, when we count we can determine if a number is greater than or less than a number)</p> <p>Vocabulary: count, number, one, two, three, four, five, zero, and none, equal, compare, greater than, less than</p>

1st grade - Mrs. Spellerberg & Miss McElhose

Reading

The first graders have dived into our first unit in reading! The students have learned the short a, short I, and I-blend sounds. They have been doing a great job reading and finding the key details in their stories.

Grammar

The students have been practicing writing sentences. We make sure to have a capital letter, punctuation mark, and a whole idea every time we write. We are beginning to talk about different kinds of sentences. The students will practice writing statements, questions, and exclamatory sentences.

Math

The first graders have been digging into addition and subtraction. They have been using different strategies like counting on, counting back, using a number line, doubles, and making a ten to find the sum and difference. We have also been learning how addition and subtraction are related.

Science

The first graders have been learning all about sound. We are learning how to describe the different sounds that we hear everyday. We will discover why certain things make the sounds that they do. Lastly, we will explore the many uses of sound and why it is so important!

Social Studies

The students have been learning about families and community. We have talked about events that can bring families and a community together.

Engaging + Learning
+ Achieving
= Productive
PIONEERS!

2nd grade - Ms. Ebner & Mrs. Hallberg

Language Arts

- *Comprehension skill – Ask and Answer Questions, Identifying Key Details, PLOT, Making Predictions
- *Phonics Skills – Short and Long Vowels
- *Vocab strategies – Root Words, Prefixes
- *Different kinds of sentences – Statements, Questions, Exclamations
- *Subject/Predicate, Nouns, Verbs

Math

- *Adding Facts Fluently to 20
- *Number Sentences, Word Problems, Math Vocabulary
- *Mental Math Strategies – using hundreds chart, break apart ones and tens, open number line to add 2-digit numbers

Social Studies

- *Communities – How to get along in different communities
- *Timelines

Science

- *Classification of Matter
- *Solids, Liquids, Gases

We have truly enjoyed getting to know your students these past two months. We have jumped into all subject areas quickly and the students are doing a great job meeting our 2nd grade expectations. We look forward to seeing you at Parent-Teacher Conferences!



3rd grade - Mrs. Beacom, Mrs. Benoit & Mrs. Szlachetka

“Treat Others the Way You Want Them to Treat You”

Math:

- We can use addition or multiplication to join equal groups
- We can use a number line to represent and solve multiplication facts
- We can use arrays to show and solve multiplication problems
- We multiply factors in any order to solve multiplication problems
- We can use objects or pictures to show how objects can be divided into equal groups
- We can use repeated subtraction to understand and solve division problems

Reading:

- We can Sequence a story
- We can retell
- We can tell the difference between a Realistic Fiction and Biography
- We can choose a Good Fit Book
- We can read books independently and take an Accelerated Reader comprehension test over the book

Grammar/Writing:

- We can identify types of sentences
- We can punctuate sentences correctly
- We can identify the subject, predicate, and verb in sentences!

Social Studies:

- We can tell about Communities

Science:

- We can model attributes of force and motion

4th grade - Mrs. Omer & Mrs. Schleifer

August and September have been busy days full of new adventures in fourth grade! Students are adjusting well to the classroom routines, procedures, and are working to do their best.

Language Arts is an adventure of investigating our Reading Wonders series through technology. Already we have studied 5 genres: Fairy Tales, Realistic Fiction, Expository Text, Narrative Nonfiction and Persuasive Text.

Our marvelous mathematicians are passing timed tests, mastering place value, rounding, comparing and writing numbers in different forms. The students are learning new problem solving techniques, plus reviewing long addition and subtraction skills. We just began our adventure into multiplication!

In science, we are investigating how motion and energy are related. We are going to put our knowledge to the test and create a safety feature for a car. During Social Studies, our student explorers have had an overview of how the wonderful nation we live in was born.

Stay tuned for more exciting adventures of the fabulous fourth grade Pioneers!

5th grade - Ms. Carlson & Mrs. Romans

We've had a great start to fifth grade!

In math we have been reviewing place value and learning strategies to correctly add and subtract decimals. Next we'll be working, in depth, on multiplication (including multiple digits). It's so important to get those basic facts memorized!

In language arts we have been studying different types of sentences, compound subjects and predicates, and how to combine phrases using conjunctions. We've read and discussed biographies, narrative nonfiction, and realistic fiction. Next we'll study persuasive articles and persuasive writing.

In Social Studies, we've reviewed our nation's geography and economy. Soon, we'll take our test over The Native Peoples of North America.

Science- we just completed our first chapter on living organisms and their classification by kingdoms. We are moving on to our next topic, parents and offspring. This will include some interesting information about heredity.

NWEA and DIBELS testing are wrapped up. Homecoming and the Walkathon were highlights and just awesome days for us! Please check the class website for assignments and additional information.

We look forward to the learning that's in store!

6th grade - Mrs. Larsen, Mr. Mallette & Mr. Teeter

Sixth grade is now in full swing with testing complete. It is early yet, but students are beginning to prepare for Student-Led Conferences at the end of the quarter. Our goal with this important new responsibility is for students to take ownership and pride in their learning. Please be aware of this expectation for sixth grade student attendance when it is time to schedule conferences with the office

Math just completed topic one which was review of decimals and fractions. We have completed topic two which is dealing with integers and rational numbers. We have a Pearson quiz with each lesson. These quizzes are meant as review and the students can open their book and ask questions before hitting the submit button. There are also chances to re-do any quiz (starting with topic 2) that they didn't do well on.

Reading and Language Arts are settling into the routines of Reading Wonders. The first unit's theme is Changes. We are working on Comprehension Strategies (visualizing and rereading), Comprehension Skills (story elements, main ideas/key details, and author's point of view), Genre (fiction and expository), Vocabulary Strategies (context clues, roots, and figurative language), Grammar (complete, compound, and complex sentences) and Spelling (vowel sounds, frequently misspelled and compound words). **BAZINGA!** The world of Science in sixth grade is off to a great start with our new curriculum. We are currently exploring Matter, more specifically the basic building blocks of atoms, molecules, physical/chemical properties, etc. Your child(ren) are engaging in many hands on labs creating models of these structures and investigating in depth of these topics. To help with the introduction of this curriculum please ask your child(ren) to show you what we are doing in Science class through their text, labs/experiments, online capabilities, and projects. Our big project for Matter involves "creating" a movie scene they must pitch to a company involving chemical and physical properties.

Social Studies "flying" through time! So far we have covered the Stone Age and Mesopotamia. We are moving towards the ancient civilization of Egypt. We will be discussing the three kingdoms of this time period and how they contributed to the world through their art, achievements, beliefs, etc. To help with retention of information please ask them about what they are learning in class.

Google Classroom seems to be going well with the 6th graders. To help with organization of assignments students are doing, we post a picture of our assignment board daily. If you are curious as to what your child(ren) have coming up in the future or what they need to work on, ask them to open up their Google Classroom account and show you the picture of the assignment board.



Growth and Development Health Program

Our 5th and 6th grade students are entering a time in life where their bodies are growing and changing. To help our students navigate these times, I am excited to announce that we will be utilizing a comprehensive, medically accurate growth and development curriculum offered through Three Rivers Health Department. We will address physical, emotional, mental, and social factors that accompany these changes. We will also discuss healthy, safe, age appropriate relationships and safety with social media, phone, and video games. Parents of our 5th and 6th grade students are encouraged to attend a parent meeting we will have before we begin the program in the end of October/early November. Please watch for information and permission slips coming home with your child.

From the School Counselor:

Wow! What a great start to the year. Elementary guidance has just finished our feelings unit and is headed into our healthy living/substance awareness unit. This year we will cover a variety of topics including healthy foods and sometimes foods, prescriptions and over-the counters, and healthy drugs, "adult choice" drugs and illegal drugs. We will also spend our time doing role plays and discussing the rules you need to follow to keep healthy drugs from becoming unhealthy.

Mrs. Adams

Behavior Interventionist (BI)

I would like to take the time to describe another role that I have as an educator other than HAL Coordinator. I have the opportunity to intervene and help guide students by giving them tools to succeed. This may be done in a pull out attempt to meet 1-1 or done as a quick walk by and check in. I also have small groups to practice social skills. Before these things happen I build a positive relationship with the student. Then we use positive reinforcement as much as we can. Research shows that positive to negative reinforcement should be 8-1. Everything we are doing here is based off of positive reinforcement. We strive to positively impact and make a change in each student that is faced with challenges. Some strategies that we use are: Positive-peer models, role-playing, problem solving techniques, and/or coping strategies. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call or email me.

Mr. Mallette

High Ability Learners (HAL)

Good afternoon! I'm excited to announce that HAL will be starting soon! Letters will be sent home to students that have been identified. The process is quite complicated and timely. Below are some questions that I get often. I hope this helps clear up a questions you may have. If not, please feel free to email me.

Frequently ask questions:

What is HAL?

-HAL is done in a whole group setting in 1st grade for each class. We do brain stretching activities that get kids thinking outside of the box. Then, in 2-6 grade, HAL is done in a pullout setting for students that have met the requirements to participate in the HAL Program.

Are there different HAL Programs?

-Yes, we have two different programs. We have a Language Arts program that is 2-6 grade. Then we have a Mathematics program that is 4-6 grade.

How do students qualify?

-Students can qualify and be identified through our HAL matrix process. There are many different components that go into this matrix such as: NWEA, Sages-2, Report Cards, Dibels, and teacher recommendation.

Can new students qualify every year?

-Absolutely! New students can qualify every year. We identify at the beginning of the year and then reevaluate at semester.



PFE NEWS

As the start of the school year is busy for many, the PFE is no exception. The PFE Officer Team met throughout the summer to ensure that the organization was off to a great start for the 2018-19 Academic Year. The first meeting was held on September 11 at the high school.

PFE sponsored several events before school began to support our teachers as they prepared their classrooms. PFE along with some help from Scooters delivered warm and cold coffee treats to the teachers on their final workday before students arrived. Kelli Shaner hosted elementary teachers and administrators at her house prior to the annual Back-To-School night for food and conversation with Mr. Wagner and about 15 teachers and para-professionals in attendance.

Congrats to all of the K-6th graders who continued learning throughout the summer through Summer Bridge. About 50 students were treated to ice cream for dessert on August 31 as a reward for their hard work. Dara Waters chairs all PFE Summer Bridge activities.

On September 21, the elementary held their 2nd annual Walk-a-thon. Our elementary students raised approximately \$11,000. Prizes were given and drawings were held as incentives to keep the fundraising momentum at a peak. Our walkers had a special treat as a camel joined them as a walking partner! Michelle Tjardes headed both the Walk-a-thon and Corporate Sponsorship activities this fall.

Corporate Sponsorship efforts raised nearly \$8,000 to date. The PFE continues to accept Corporate Sponsorship contributions that will support PFE events throughout the year. Special thanks to our Gold Level Corporate Sponsors who donated \$600 or more. They are: Abe's Trash Service, Countryside Small Animal Clinic, Seal-Rite Insulation, Steiner Dental, The Rustic and Zig Drywall, Inc.

There is still time to become a PFE Member for 2018-19! Membership forms can be found on the school website and it is only \$20 per family to join. Becoming a PFE Member is a great way to support activities throughout the year that are not possible without your donations and time.

We look forward to the following events this fall:

Donuts with Dad: Oct. 5

Donuts with Mom: Nov. 2

****Bring your phones! New to both Donut events, a Photo Booth and 7:15 a.m. start!****

Next PFE Meeting: Nov. 13 at 6:30 p.m., Fort Calhoun High School

Jessica Warfield - President

Denise Work - Vice President

Michelle Dill - Treasurer

Natalie Cummings - Secretary

Andrea Totten - Support Coordinator

A message from the Nurse Office

It's getting to be that season- Remember to get your flu shot. Let's keep our kids the healthiest they can be!

*Friendly reminder, if your child is under the weather, please keep them home from school until they are feeling better. To return to school, students must be fever free and vomit free for 24 hours. If they were sent home from school with a fever or vomiting and return to school in less than 24 hours, parents/guardians will be called and student will need to be picked up.

Mrs. Chriss Lloyd

Mrs. Sara Ruma



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**WE'RE ON THE
WEB!
VISIT OUR NEW
WEBSITE:**

**[www.fortcalhoun
schools.org](http://www.fortcalhounschools.org)**

REMINDER

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

Upcoming events:

October 5: Donuts with Dad
October 9: Fire Prevention Day
October 11: Health Rescreens
October 16: Picture Retake
October 22-25: Book Fair in the Library
October 24 and 25: Parent-Teacher conference-Early out; 1:15pm dismissal
October 26: No School
November 2: Morning with Mom
November 15: Thanksgiving Feast
November 21: Early out; 1:15pm dismissal
November 22-23: Thanksgiving Break, No school
December 6: Winter Music concert (High School)
Happy New Year-2019
February 13 and 14: Parent-Teacher conference-Early out; 1:15pm dismissal
February 15: No School
February 25-March 1: Book Fair in the Library
March 15: Malcolm Band Contest
March 18: Preschool Enrollment opens
April TBD: Talent Show
April 15: Spring Music concert (High School)
April 26: Band Concert; 7:30pm (High School)
May 3: Field Day
May 10: Field Day in case of inclement weather
May 21: Last day of school; 11:15am dismissal



Our Mission at Fort Calhoun Schools:

Foster Learning in an inspiring and caring environment, provide
Opportunities For All Students to be successful, instill the attributes of
Respect and Responsibility among staff and students alike, and present students with the
Tools to Succeed in life.

Our Purpose:

Engaging + Learning + Achieving = Productive PIONEERS!