

Fort Calhoun Community Schools  
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Volume 23 No 1

Fort Calhoun Community Schools

Back to School/August 2013

### **FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE**

Holy Cow! The start of the 2013-14 school year is just around the corner. I have enjoyed seeing our kids trickle back into and around the school for all the camps and summer activities. I love having kids in the building again. It gets me real excited for the start of the 2013-14 school year. This summer has been a very busy summer here at the "FORT" and the custodial staff is finishing preparing the buildings for the upcoming year.

The biggest news around here is the proposed building project at the Secondary building. At the July board meeting the board unanimously passed a resolution that calls for a Special Election on September 10, 2013 for a remodel and addition to the Jr. Sr. High building. The cost of the project is not to exceed \$12,930,000. The building plan for this project was developed by a community group of between 50 and 60 people who met five times over the past several months to help evaluate the district's needs and to help formulate possible solutions to the issues. The District then held 3 additional public meetings to receive community feedback. After all the meetings the board took the proposed plan recommended by the committee and passed the resolution to move forward with the election in September. If you would like information regarding this project feel free to give me a call or visit the construction website [www.sites.google.com/site/ftcalhoun](http://www.sites.google.com/site/ftcalhoun).

In other news:

The School District will be launching a new website for the start of the school. The website will have a new design to it which reflects our innovative approach to education. We have also worked to make the website more user-friendly and have set procedures in place to keep the website updated on a regular basis. As the time gets nearer we will let you know the new address and how to access it.

**FOR PARENTS:** The administration is looking forward to an exciting year with quite a few new staff members, refer to your Principal letters for their names and positions. Help us welcome them. We are excited about the 2013-14 school year as it holds a lot of promise for the students here at the "FORT". As always, our Legislature introduces new policies that will be reflected in school regulations so be sure that you thoroughly read over the Parent/Student handbooks to note any of those rule changes.

On another front, the Board of Education and the Administration held our annual Board Retreat to identify goals for the 2013-14 school year. Programming, facilities, and all other aspects of educating our kids here at the "FORT" are evaluated and goals are pulled from them these areas for the upcoming school year. These goals will be refined and presented to the Board at the August Board meeting for approval. Our District is very fortunate to have an outstanding group of people who serve on our Board and their efforts are very much appreciated.

In closing I would like to extend our appreciation to the community for their support of our School District. I would encourage you to be active in the education of our kids here at the "FORT". I would also encourage you to communicate any concerns you may have with our District to the appropriate personnel.

Have a great and safe rest of the summer!

Respectively  
Donald P. Johnson, Superintendent of Schools



#### Policy of Nondiscrimination

It is the policy of the Fort Calhoun Community Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, creed, age, marital status, sex or disability in its educational programs, activities, or employment policies as required by Titles VI and VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments, the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Nebraska Equal Educational Opportunity Act.

Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against, denied a benefit, or been excluded from participation in any district education program or activity on the basis of reasons listed above, may grieve such matters using the adopted grievance procedures of this district. Such procedures shall provide for prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging acts of discrimination.

Inquiries regarding compliance with Title IX, the Nebraska Equal Opportunities Education Act or Title VI may be directed to the Superintendent of Schools, Fort Calhoun Community Schools, 1506 Lincoln Street, Fort Calhoun, Nebraska 68023; Telephone (402) 468-5592 or (402) 341-1686; or in the case of Title IX and the Rehabilitation Act to the Director of the Region VII Office of Civil Rights Ed. 1150 Grand Avenue, 7th Floor, Kansas City, Missouri 68106. Phone (816) 374-2474.

**Mr. Jerry Green**  
**Secondary Principal**

**“Back to School”  
What Does it Mean?**

Back to school can have many definitions for people. I believe it is positive and exciting, a time when many are looking forward and anticipating another year. Here is a small glimpse of what I think back to school means to administrators, teachers, support staff and students.

**Administration:** For me it is the most exciting time of the year. A time to institute new ideas and professional development learned over the summer. The energy of having teachers, students and staff in the building creates an environment I chose to dedicate my career to. I can't wait!

**Teachers:** After some time for reflection and relaxation teachers are ready to discover new possibilities. Great teachers are constantly looking for new ideas and methods to apply to their classroom. Some of the ideas will be excellent, others will need some refinement and some will need to go to the trash. Change and new discovery keeps the classroom current and exciting.

**Support Staff:** An opportunity to get back to work and apply their skills and knowledge. The support staff is so vital to the success of the entire school year. They are sometimes behind the scenes but their work includes everything from academic support, cooking, cleaning and operational support for hundreds of students.

**Students:** I am not trying to be a mind reader but if you could see the excitement and energy level the first day of school it is obvious that almost all are excited to be back. Why? Seniors are entering their final year with nervous anticipation of “what comes next”. Juniors move into the upper tier and find out this experience called high school is going really fast. Sophomores move off the bottom rung and enter a more competitive high school world of academics and activities. Freshmen are in high school, which is “cool”. Eighth graders are no longer rookies and seventh grade is in the “big house”, both of which are cool.

Whatever “Back to School” means to you, it means the world to me because it is what I love.

**MR. NICK WEMHOFF**  
**Assistant Principal/AD**

There is no better way to start an August article than to stand up and shout...WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL! Did I just hear some groaning coming from the Fort Calhoun students? I hope not! Here at the Fort, we are excited about the beginning of a new school year. We are excited because it is an opportunity for every student to get a fresh start to school again. If you didn't have such a great year of school last year, guess what, you can change that this year! This is the time to set your attitude for the year. Come in prepared, ready to learn, and ready to take on new challenges. Statistics show that what happens in the first two weeks of school will set the tone for how the rest of the year will go. How will your first two weeks be?

As we begin school, here are a few things to keep in mind: One, you get out of school what you put into it. It is hard to teach new concepts and ideas to the intentional non-learners, and by that I mean the students who just don't care or don't try. School is the land of opportunities. If you work at it, the sky is the limit. Two, take pride in your school. Find a way to be involved by joining a club or activity. If you don't want to join an activity, be involved by going to events and supporting those that are. Don't miss out on this part of high school, it will be part of what you look back at many years from now. And three, if you are not in school, you cannot learn. This last item is what I will finish up this article with.

One of my duties as Assistant Principal is that I am in charge of checking students' attendance here at the high school. Here are a few reminders. We will send out reminders about your student's attendance after they have 5 absences. Should they have 10 or more absences in any one class in one semester, they will need to make up time. If a student misses 20 days of school or the hourly equivalency for the year, we must submit that information to the State. This is a state law that we must follow.

The start of school is just around the corner. I am looking forward to all the high fives, smiles, and the fun this school year is going to bring. I want everyone to have a good first day, a great first two weeks, and an even better school year! GO PIONEERS!

*You don't understand anything until you learn it more than one way.*



**Pioneers for Education**

Pioneers for Education (PFE) is the parent, teacher, student organization for Fort Calhoun Schools. As our mission statement explains we are committed to working together with parents, teachers, and students to provide fun and educational opportunities for both the High School and Elementary School. We are excited to welcome students, staff and their families back to school for the 2013-2014 school year! Please stop by our table at Back to School Night (Wednesday, August 14th, 6-7 pm) where we will have membership forms and volunteer opportunities available for all families. The PFE is only able to sponsor so many fun and educational programs like the One-Book, One-School reading program and the accompanying spring carnival, Red Ribbon Week, Teacher/Staff Appreciation events and Post Prom because of our membership fees as well as the hard work of all of our volunteers! Please consider becoming a member of PFE and supporting our kids and school. Sign up forms can be found online under the PFE tab at fortcalhounschoools.org and at the offices of both the High School and Elementary. If you have any questions about PFE please feel free to contact one of our 2013-14 officers.

Cheryl Miller – President, gcmiller7@yahoo.com  
Kelli Shaner – Treasurer, jkshaner@abbnebraska.com

Annie Halford – Vice President, annie.halford5@gmail.com  
Melaney Towerton – Secretary, melaneytowerton@gmail.com

**NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION  
FORT CALHOUN SCHOOLS**

Registration for students new to Fort Calhoun Elementary School will be held August 1 and 2 from 9:00AM to 3:00PM. To register, parents will need to bring an original birth certificate and a complete record of immunizations. For more information regarding registering your K-6<sup>th</sup> student, contact the elementary school office at 402-468-5714.

Registration for 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students new to the district will take place by appointment. Please contact the high school office at 402-468-5591 to set up an appointment to meet with the school counselor. To register, parents will need to bring an original birth certificate and a complete record of immunizations. For high school students, it is also helpful to bring a copy of the student's last report card and a copy of their transcript.

Other general information for student registration:

- Kindergarten and 7th grade students will also need to have a physical form completed and given to the office 30 days from the date of registration.
- Any student coming from another state is required to have a physical.
- Forms to release student records from the previous school can be signed at the time of registration.

**FORT CALHOUN SEVENTH GRADE ORIENTATION WILL BE HELD AT THE HIGH SCHOOL ON  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, AT 6:30PM.  
PARENTS AND STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.**



**FOOD SERVICE PRICES 2013-14**

**ELEMENTARY K-6**

Student Breakfast	1.40
Adult Breakfast	1.90
Student Lunch	2.15
Seconds (2nd Entrée)	1.40
Second Lunch	2.15
Adult Lunch	3.45
Milk	.50

**SECONDARY 7-12**

Student Lunch	2.50
Seconds (2nd Entrée)	1.40
Second Lunch	2.50
Adult Lunch	3.45
Milk	.50

Lunch benefit and e-Funds direct deposit information will be sent home the first day of school and will also be available on the website. As stated in the Student Handbooks adopted by the Board of Education, **“No charging of school lunches”**. Lunch will not be served to students who do not pay in advance.

**SEASON/ACTIVITY PASSES 2013-14**

Elementary Students K-6	\$20.00
Jr-Sr High 7-12	\$30.00
Each Adult	\$50.00
Family Pass	\$110.00

**Individual Admission Prices – Varsity Home Contests**

\$4.00	Students K-12
\$5.00	Adults

**Individual Admission Prices – JV and Lower**

\$2.00	Students K-12
\$3.00	Adults

**\*\*\*FORT CALHOUN SEASON PASSES DO NOT INCLUDE ADMISSION TO ANY CONFERENCE, DISTRICT OR STATE CONTEST HELD AT FORT CALHOUN OR THAT FORT CALHOUN MIGHT HOST.**

**- Elementary News-**

Welcome Back!



I am thrilled to welcome you back to the 2013-14 school year! The staff is preparing the school and classrooms for an exciting year of learning and growth. I am looking forward to hearing about summer adventures, getting caught up with returning families and meeting our newest Pioneers.

A safe learning environment will continue to be our goal at Fort Calhoun. In that process we will need to have open communication. So I ask for your support and participation in this effort by sending your child to school every day, encouraging him/her to read for pleasure at least 30 minutes every night, monitoring homework and progress, and asking your child to share what they learned at school each day.

Please remember to use the drop off/pick up lane appropriately throughout the school year. This lane is specifically design to drop off and pick up your student. It is NOT a parking lane. If you prefer to park and walk your student to the building please park in the parking lot. Be advised there is No Parking on the south side of Monroe Street from 10th to 11th Street. No Parking on north side of Adams Street from 10th to 11th Street during the school hours of 7:45-8:00am and 2:45-3:15pm. These are recently new signs that the city has posted with the request from administration. We will continue to monitor our streets around the school to keep our students SAFE!

Let’s take that next “step” together in our 2013-14 journey and have an outstanding school year. As usual please feel free to contact me with any questions that might arise during the school year.

Thank you!

Mr. Drew R. Wagner, Elementary Principal  
402-468-5714 or dwagner@ftcpioneers.org

*“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.” -- Benjamin Franklin*

**Summary of the School Immunization Rules and Regulations 2013-2014**

Student Age Group	Required Vaccines
Ages 2 through 5 years enrolled in a school based program not licensed as a child care provider	4 doses of DTaP, DTP, or DT vaccine, 3 doses of Polio vaccine, 3 doses of Hib vaccine or 1 dose of Hib given at or after 15 months of age. *Hib not required after child reaches 5 yrs of age 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine, 1 dose of MMR or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age, 1 dose of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. 4 doses of pneumococcal or 1 dose of pneumococcal given on or after 15 months of age. *Pneumococcal not required after child reaches 5 yrs of age
Students from Kindergarten through 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade, including all transfer students from outside the State of Nebraska and any foreign students	3 doses of DTaP, DTP, DT, or Td vaccine, one given on or after the 4 <sup>th</sup> birthday, 3 doses of Polio vaccine, 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine or 2 doses of adolescent vaccine if student is 11-15 years of age. 2 doses of MMR or MMRV vaccine, given on or after 12 months of age and separated by at least one month, 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. If the child has had varicella disease, they do not need any varicella shots.
Additionally, for 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Only	1 dose of Tdap (must contain Pertussis booster)

Source: Nebraska Immunization Program, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, 2011. For additional information, call 402-471-6423.  
The School Rules & Regulations are available on the internet: <http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/rcep/173.htm> (Title 173: Control of Communicable Diseases - Chapter 3; revised and implemented 2011)  
Updated 9/2012

**ALERT NOW ©  
EMERGENCY INFORMATION**

Fort Calhoun Schools use the notification system AlertNow© for school closing information based on weather and other emergencies. If you are new to the schools or have had changes to phone numbers or contacts, call school to update the information.



These local media outlets will be additional sources of school information: TV---KMTV, FOX 42, WOWT, KETV, and KFAB-1110AM radio. Information will also be available on the school website - [www.fortcalhouschools.org](http://www.fortcalhouschools.org).

**Before and After School Program**

At this time, there is no Before/After School Program. If you are interested in starting one, contact Mr. Wagner 402-468-5714 or Mr. Johnson 402-468-5596

**WELCOME BACK NIGHT!  
YOU'RE INVITED**

Where: FORT CALHOUN ELEMENTARY  
Why: Kick off the 2013-14 School year  
What to bring: YOUR SCHOOL SUPPLIES  
Who is going to be there: STAFF, PARENTS, PRINCIPAL, AND ESPECIALLY STUDENTS  
What time and date: August 14th, 6-7pm,  
Meet in the gym at 6:45pm for Mr. Wagner’s welcome!  
\*This is a great night to introduce yourself to your new teacher. Please come by and visit.

**Mark your Calendars**

- August 14 Back to School Night - 6-7pm
- August 15 Students’ First day \*Early Dismissal 11:15am
- September 2 NO SCHOOL \*LABOR DAY



The suggested elementary school supply list is on the school website.