

**Fort Calhoun Community Schools**  
**2024-25 CALENDAR**  
 Adopted 2/12/2024

**August, 2024**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**September, 2024**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

**October, 2024**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**November, 2024**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

**December, 2024**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Aug 12-14 Pre-school In-service  
 Aug 15 School begins - E - 11:15; H.S. 11:30  
 Sept 2 No School - Labor Day  
 Sept 30 No School  
 Oct 18 End 1st Quarter - **45 days**  
 Oct 23 Parent Teacher Conferences -- Early Out  
 Oct 24 Parent Teacher Conferences -- Early Out  
 Oct 25 No School - Fall Break -Comp Day  
 Nov 1 Teacher In-service - No School  
 Nov 27 Early out  
 Nov 28-29 No School - Thanksgiving  
 Dec 20 End 2nd Quarter - **41 days - Early Out**  
 Dec 21-27 No School - Christmas Break  
 Dec 23-27 NSAA Moratorium  
 Jan 6 Teacher In-service - No School  
 Jan 7 School Resumes  
 Jan 20 Teacher In-service - No School  
 Feb 19 K-12 Parent-Teacher Conferences Early Out  
 Feb 20 Elementary Only Parent-Teacher Conferences  
 Feb 21 Early Out Both Buildings  
 Feb 21 Comp Day - No School  
 March 12 End 3rd Quarter - **45 days**  
 March 13-14 No School - Spring Break  
 Apr 4 Teacher In-service - No School  
 Apr 18-21 No School Easter Break-School Resumes 4/22  
 May 10 Commencement 2:00pm  
 May 22 End of 4th Quarter - **46 days**  
 May 23 End 2nd Semester **91 days**  
 May 23 Dismissal E - 11:15; H.S. 11:30  
 May 26 Teacher In-service  
 May 26 Memorial Day

**January, 2025**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

**February, 2025**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

**March, 2025**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

**April, 2025**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**May, 2025**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

1st Sem. Teacher days = 91  
 2nd Sem. Teacher days =96  
 Total = 187  
 1st Sem. Student days = 86  
 2nd Sem. Student days = 91  
 Total = 177  
**Emergency Days: May 23, 27, 28, 29**

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



# The Fort Dispatch

Volume 33 No 9

Fort Calhoun Community Schools

May 2024

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

### Small School, Big Difference

As the year comes to an end it was very satisfying to see all the neat events we do for our students as a small school. Sure, big schools get to enjoy many of the same events, but it is different. When I attend the elementary field day and see parents and grandparents supporting not just their own children but all the others as well, I am not sure that kind of support shows up at larger schools. Maybe I just don't know; I attended a small school, maybe it does happen but not to the level I see at Fort Calhoun. The staff support for the kindergartens for their end of the year celebration, a gym full of parents who take off work to attend. It is just amazing, and it makes a difference. I see similar celebrations for the sixth graders and of course for the seniors. The Fine Arts concerts that take place at the end of the year are well supported. Whether you attend a small school or a big school, there will be advantages and disadvantages, I am a believer that small schools are special and offer students a big difference. I hope the students understand the incredible support they are receiving and have available to them. Take advantage of what your small school has to offer, it will make a difference.

Jerry Green  
 Superintendent  
 Fort Calhoun Community Schools



## May Happenings

- 5/2 Elementary Band Concert
- 5/4 Commencement 2 PM @ the High School
- 5/6-10 Staff Appreciation Week
- 5/7 NO SCHOOL - District Track @ Fort Calhoun
- 5/8 Elementary Field Day (rescheduled)  
Spring Vocal Concert
- 5/9 Elementary Talent Show  
Jazz Band Concert
- 5/10 Junior High Awards Program
- 5/13 School Board Meeting
- 5/15 **Last Day of School**  
11:15 Dismissal @ Elementary  
11:30 Dismissal @ Jr-Sr High
- 5/15-16 State Track for Class B
- 5/16-27 Sports/Activities Summer Moritorium
- 5/27 Memorial Day-Offices Closed

### Summary of the School Immunization Rules and Regulations

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 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.
Students entering school (Kindergarten or 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade depending on the school district's entering grade)	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.
Students entering 7 <sup>th</sup> grade	Must be current with the above vaccinations AND receive 1 dose of Tdap (contain Pertussis booster)
Students transferring from outside the state at any grade	Must be immunized appropriately according to the grade entered.

Source: Nebraska Immunization Program, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. For additional information, call 402-471-6423.  
 The School Rules & Regulations are available on the internet: [http://dhs.ne.gov/Pages/reg\\_1173.aspx](http://dhs.ne.gov/Pages/reg_1173.aspx) (Title 173: Control of Communicable Disease - Chapter 7, revised and implemented 2011)  
 Updated 01/26/2018

## 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 household information by reporting any adults and children up to 18 years old. 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.

### FORT CALHOUN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS DISTRICT CENSUS RECORD

resident: Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Residence Address: (if different) \_\_\_\_\_  
 occupation \_\_\_\_\_ He/She \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other Adults Living at Same Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 For Office Use Only: \_\_\_\_\_ Census ID # \_\_\_\_\_  

NAME OF CHILD(S) (SOC. SEC. # Birth to 21 Years)	ID #	SEX	M	F	DATE OF BIRTH MM/DD/YYYY	PLACE OF BIRTH CITY/STATE

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

Pioneers,

Congratulations to our award winners at the 2024 Athletic Banquet:

Scholar Athlete Award:

- Bria Bench & Grayson Bouwman

Iron-Horse Award: 4 Year 3 Sport Athletes

- Grayson Bouwman: Football, Basketball, Track
- Abbey Lienemann: Volleyball, Cheer, Golf, Dance, Track
- Bria Bench: Cross-Country, Basketball, Volleyball, Track, Cheer
- Raegen Wells: Volleyball, Cheer, Track, Basketball
- Declyn Otte: Football, Basketball, Baseball
- AJ Duros: Football, Wrestling, Track, Baseball
- Morgan Ishii: Football, Basketball, Track

Booster Club Scholarship:

- Bria Bench & Grayson Bouwman

Fort Calhoun Seniors Playing College Athletics:

- Grayson Bouwman: Basketball at Morningside College
- Lawson Tjardes: Cross-Country/Track at Nebraska Wesleyan
- Sophie Conrad: Cheerleading at Doane
- Owen Miller: Golf at Hastings
- Jay Stoa: Cross-Country/Track at Midland

Academic All-State Nomination- (3.7 GPA Or Higher)

- Cross Country- Maelie Nelson, Harley Schwarte, Lawson Tjardes, & Seth Waters
- Football- Grayson Bouwman and Declyn Otte
- Softball- Anna Taylor and Addison Benoit
- Volleyball- Taylor Stewart and Bria Bench
- Girls Basketball- Bria Bench, Kaylee Taylor
- Boys Basketball- Grayson Bouwman, and Declyn Otte
- Boys Wrestling- Trey King and Seth Waters
- Girls Wrestling- Maddi Larrick
- Baseball- Declyn Otte and Sam Genoways
- Track- Bria Bench, Kaylee Taylor, Grayson Bouwman and Lawson Tjardes
- Golf- Beau Ruma & Owen Miller

Our Academic Honors Night and Athletic Banquet was held April 25th. Thank you to all our athletes, coaches, parents, staff members, community members, and administration for all the support this year. I want to thank everyone for doing their part to ensure that our students were able to participate and compete.

Summer Strength & Conditioning is right around the corner for incoming 7-12 students. Please reach out to Coach Thomas with any questions and to sign up for a time at [jasonthomas@ftcpioneers.org](mailto:jasonthomas@ftcpioneers.org).

**Summer Dead Weeks (No Strength Training or Practices):**

- May 16-27
- July 3-7 (Wednesday-Sunday)
- August 1-6

**Looking Ahead to the Fall:** A parents meeting for all athletes involved in a Fall Sport will be held on Sunday August 11th at 6 PM at the High School. There must be at least one parent in attendance before your child can begin practice on Monday, August 12th.

Thank you,  
Jamie Schleifer  
Assistant Principal/AD

**\*\*\*Follow all our activity/athletic accomplishments through the "X" page on our website under "Pioneer Pride".**

## -Elementary News-

***Engaging + Learning + Achieving = Productive PIONEERS!***

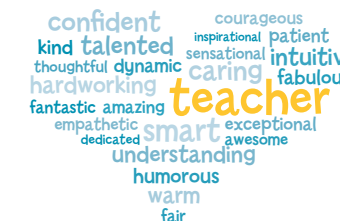
Greetings Pioneer families! Each school year is special in many ways. The memories that are created and shared with each other are priceless. Providing your student the best experience possible is always a priority. Our hope each year is when you and/or your student look back on the year it was a positive experience that created opportunities to grow. This school year has brought similar challenges and celebrations. I know this year may have been a bit different for you and your family in many ways. However, through life's adversity we continue to attempt each year to create productive pioneers that are resilient, problem solvers and just outright outstanding human beings. We truly believe that our environment provides a safe learning atmosphere for all students to be successful at a high level throughout our journey. We believe that ALL students can learn and be the best version of themselves. That is what we want to provide our community every single year. We can do this because of your outstanding support and the outstanding staff that work at Fort Calhoun Elementary. Our staff is second to none, especially during one of the hardest times to be in education. Just know that Fort Calhoun Elementary is set up for future success.

Moving forward, I wanted to take time to say farewell! This is my last year at Fort Calhoun. My family and I have been a part of this community for twelve years. In that twelve years the memories that we have created are treasures that we will hold onto tightly. I remember coming to Fort Calhoun and thinking that this is a special place that needed to be found, polished, and displayed for all to see. I believe that gem has been found and it is shining brightly! Continue the awesomeness that you all possess. It has been a fabulous journey. Thank you for your continued support throughout my tenure at the FORT. It is truly a special place to educate your child.

Thank you! Always...GO PIONEERS!

Mr. Drew R. Wagner

*"Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it."*  
-Marian Wright Edelman



**Teacher Appreciation  
Day  
May 7, 2024**



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

The expectation of academic performance continues to rise from grade to grade. Each grade level requires more time, energy, and skill level to complete the in-class activities. While summer is a time to get away from the daily rigor of school, it is not the time to forget how to utilize core academic skills. Just as athletes continue developing fundamental skills during the off-season, students should approach the summer similarly. As summer approaches, here are some things to do that will help you maintain your academic skills until the next school year begins.

- (1) Set aside time every day that is dedicated to studying. One key component of academic success in school is having a good routine during the school year that promotes good study habits. If you already have a good study routine, continue with that routine. If you do not have a good studying routine, now is a good time to start practicing that habit. Establishing a studying routine is a foundational skill that takes time to get used to. No better time to start than right now.
- (2) Incorporate educational materials into your family vacation or any trips you take over the summer. Wherever you go, do research on the history of the location before you go. This will encourage you to use your reading and researching skills. You can even add journaling while on vacation to put your writing skills into action. In addition to the reading and writing skills, you will learn all about your destination to share with others on the trip with you!
- (3) Trade in screen time for book time. Make it a goal to spend more time reading a book than playing video games. Reading is a good way to exercise the brain and keep your mind ready for school.

Seniors, I wish each of you all the best in the future! It has been an awesome experience to be a part of each of your lives. You are all amazing individuals and there is no doubt in my mind that as a collective group, you will go on to do wonderful things! As you embark on your new adventures, remember to know the way, go the way, and show the way. As Pioneers, we always preach the importance of “finding your passion” and “living with purpose.” You can never aim too high. You truly can do anything you set your mind to. Whatever you decide to do in life, remember what we have taught you. Show up on time; Come with a positive attitude; And be kind...always.

*“Education is our passport to the future,  
for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.”*  
-Malcolm X

**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](http://fortcalhounschools.org). Go to “About, Board of Education, Policies” and scroll down to Policy 3057-Title IX.

**COMMUNITY WEIGHT ROOM USE**

The high school weight room is available for use by District patrons. A fob is issued at the high school office for a fee of \$50.00. **The fob renews yearly each June 1st - your fob will be inactivated if not renewed by that date.**



If you have any questions contact Jamie Schleifer at 402-468-5591.



***PFE News***

Hard to believe the school year is starting to wind down. In April PFE sponsored our first Mother/Son kickball tournament. We had gorgeous weather, tons of fun and snacks! Such a great event for our students on the High School football field with their moms! We also hosted our annual Spring Carnival. We had over two hundred students and their families in attendance enjoying carnival games, bounce houses, music and cotton candy! Thank you to our volunteers for making both of these events possible, we could not do it without you! See below for our final few events of the year.

- May**
- 5/6 Staff appreciation week
  - 5/20 PFE Meeting; Officer Transition
- Summer bridge books delivered

PFE can be reached at [pioneersforeducation@gmail.com](mailto:pioneersforeducation@gmail.com). Follow Pioneers For Education on Facebook for fun updates, pictures of events, and other exciting news.

Your Officer Team: Chris Roberts- President; Vacant- Vice President; Shannon Pokorski- Treasurer  
Jami Biodrowski- Secretary; Amy Evanich- Communication Coordinator

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**The Fort Dispatch is published every month. Print editions are mailed to District patrons 4 times each year. Every edition is also on our website under “About”, then “Publications”.**



Nebraska’s new voter ID law requires all registered Nebraska voters to present a photo\* identification (ID) when voting in an election in Nebraska. Voter ID begins with the May 14, 2024 primary. Visit [VoterID.Nebraska.gov](http://VoterID.Nebraska.gov) for more information.



Elementary teacher, **Allie Schleifer**, was recognized with the NSEA’s 2024 Community Service Award for her work with our FCYSO.

Sixteen of this year’s graduating seniors were awarded Capital Conference Academic Medals for their GPA of 3.5 or above and 25+ on their ACT. They are **Gavin Blesh, Grayson Bouwman, Madison Buczkowski, AJ Duros, Ethan Dye, Adriana Hernandez, Brooke Johnsen, Eddie Lautrup, Sam Lautrup, Olivia Mello, James Miller, Owen Miller, Declyn Otte, Johnathon Schwarte, Lawson Tjardes, and Brooke Wessel**. Five of these scholars received an ACT score of 30 or above along with **Addyson Johnsen**.