

Fort Calhoun Community Schools
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Fort Calhoun, Nebraska 68023

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Fort Calhoun, NE 68023
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The Fort Dispatch

Volume 34 No 10

Fort Calhoun Community Schools

June-Summer, 2024

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Summertime and Appreciation

As the warmth of summer embraces us, I am excited with optimism for the months ahead. Summer is a time for relaxation, rejuvenation, and reflection. It's an opportunity for students, parents, and staff alike to unwind, explore new interests, and prepare for the coming school year with renewed energy.

For students, summer is a shift of gears. Activities, training, and jobs still fill much of their time. With that I would encourage you to use this time to discover new passions, whether it's through reading, engaging in creative projects, time with family or spending time outdoors. Remember, learning doesn't stop at the classroom door. Every experience is an opportunity to grow and develop. Put your device down and have some fun.

Parents, your support has been invaluable throughout the school year. Summer is the perfect time to continue connecting with your child(ren). Family time away from the hustle of summer activities allows you to continue building that strong bond. Even if they don't think so, it creates memories they will appreciate.

To our dedicated staff, thank you for your unwavering commitment and hard work. Use this well-deserved break to recharge and spend quality time with loved ones. Your unselfish path of teaching continues to leave positive impressions among so many. Your time, work, and sacrifice are always appreciated.

As a community, let's embrace this season of sunshine. Find the opportunity to celebrate our achievements, support one another, and look forward to a new school year filled with promise and potential. We are Fort Calhoun Community Schools.

Wishing everyone a happy, safe, and enriching summer. See you in the Fall, ready to engage in another amazing year of learning and growth.

Jerry Green
Superintendent

Summer Food Program Feeds Kids for Free

The Summer Food Service Program provides free meals to all children under 18 years at participating sites statewide. There are no income requirements or registration. Use the following tool to find an SFSP site near you:
-Access USDA's SFSP site locator map at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks>. Put Fort Calhoun Nebraska in the search box, and extend the area to 20 miles. A list of sites in the area will appear. To get directions and hours of operation for each site, click on it. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

OFFICE SUMMER HOURS

The District-High School office will be open from 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM during the summer on regular business days. Call if you have any questions. 402-468-5591

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

e-Funds Reminder for Parents

Families are able to pay for meals and other obligations through e-Funds for Schools. They offer the option to set up recurring pre-authorized payments. To avoid unnecessary payments posting during the summer it is recommended that Pre-Authorized payments be disabled. If you need assistance with this feature contact e-Funds for Schools.

Visit our website at www.fortcalhouschools.org



Pioneers,

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.

Congratulations to our award winners at the 2024 Athletic Banquet:

- Scholar Athlete Award: Grayson Bouwman & Bria Bench**
- Booster Club Scholarship: Grayson Bouwman & Bria Bench**
- Iron-Horse Award: 4 Year 3 Sport Athletes:**

- Bria Bench
- Grayson Bouwman
- AJ Duros
- Morgan Ishii
- Abbey Lienemann
- Raegen Wells
- Declyn Otte



Fort Calhoun Seniors Playing College Athletics:

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



State Track was held on May 15th and 16th at Burke Stadium and Fort Calhoun qualified 17 athletes! The Pioneers broke school records in the boys 4x100 and boys 4x800 relays! Great Job Pioneers

- Clay Bohnenkamp (400-meter relay)
- Will Dennis (3200 relay)
- Preston Johnson (400 relay)
- Matthew Kelly (110 hurdles)
- Dylan Keyser (discus)
- Michael Maxon (400 relay, 100 dash)
- Ari Nelson (triple jump)
- Chris Post-Whiteowl (3200 relay)
- Alex Schuler (400 relay)
- Blake Welchert (400 relay)
- Kaylee Taylor (300 hurdles, triple jump)
- Emilee Thayer-Mencke (high jump) 8th Place at State!
- Lawson Tjardes (3200 relay)
- Seth Waters (3200 relay)
- Will Maxon (Unified Shot Put, Unified Long Jump) 4th Place in Shot Put & 7th in Long Jump
- Logan Brewer (Unified Long Jump) 7th Place at State
- Andrew Namuth (Unified Shot Put) 4th Place at State!



Summer Strength & Conditioning started on May 28th and will go through July 31st for incoming 7-12 students. Please reach out to Coach Hunter Thomas (hthomas@ftcpioneers.org) or Coach Jason Thomas (jasonthomas@ftcpioneers.org)

Summer Dead dates (No Strength Training or Practices):

- May 16th-May 27th
- July 3rd-7th
- August 1st- 9th



Summer Dead Weeks: May 16-27th; July 3-7; and August 1-9. (No Strength Training or Practices during these times)

Gyms will be closed for resurfacing this summer. Elementary and Auxiliary Gyms July 1-7; Main High School Gym August 1-9.

Gridiron Club Golf Scramble---June 7th River Wilds Golf Club. Contact Coach Zach Byrd for registrations and information. zbyrd@ftcpioneers.org.

Summer schedules are available for all currently scheduled activities/sports on the schools' website along with this *Dispatch*. Go to fortcalhounschools.org, "About", "Publications" and click on Fort Calhoun Dispatch. You will access these schedules by clicking on **Summer 2024 Activities**. **Contact the coaches for more information or any changes that may take place for the camps and activities.**

The Washington County Museum will be hosting several activities this summer. Information is available on their website - <https://www.wcnemuseum.org/>

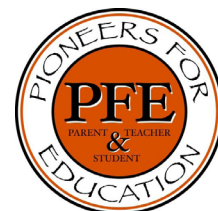
Summer Band Camp - August 5-7, 2024.



Fort Calhoun Community Schools are currently accepting applications for these positions:

- Food Service Personnel**
- Van and Bus Drivers**--Route and Substitutes
- Paraprofessionals**

-Applications will be taken until the positions are filled. Application procedures are available on the schools' website under "About" and "Human Resources" Subject to veterans preference. EOE



Pioneers for Education finished the year strong! We were able to celebrate our fantastic educators with some well deserved treats. We supported our Elementary field day by providing shaved ice and the obstacle course for the students and made a contribution to assist with getting the High School Band to Florida!

Congratulations to the two winners of the PFE \$1,000 scholarships. These Pioneers have shown commitment to our community through volunteering and leadership. Please join us in celebrating the accomplishments of Adriana Hernandez and Natalie Reichert! Best of luck as you continue your educational journey.

With the end of the school year, we want to send a huge THANK YOU to our outgoing Officers. President - Chris Roberts, Treasurer - Shannon Porkorski and Secretary - Jami Biodrowski. These PFE leaders have spent countless hours supporting the mission of PFE and their dedication to our district should be commended. The 2024-2025 Officer team already has our first planning meeting on the books! We are looking forward to bringing back some of your favorite events for next year and have a few new ideas we are excited to incorporate. PFE appreciates your continued support!

Save the date for our first event of the year:

August 10 - Movie Night

PFE can be reached at pioneersforeducation@gmail.com. Follow Pioneers for Education on Facebook for fun updates, pictures of events and other exciting news.

Your 2024-2025 Office Team: Liz Springer - President; Sara Nichols - Vice President; Krissy Jorgensen - Treasurer; Raschelle Drumheller - Secretary; Amy Evanich - Communication Coordinator

MR. NICK WEMHOFF
Principal

Congratulations to the class of 2024; I wish you all the very best! As you journey forward, take steps that will lead you to success. If you are wondering what success looks like, remember that success is different for everyone. Some people view success in a materialistic way while others view success in an intrinsic way. Success can be whatever you want it to be, but most of all, it should make you internally happy.

Success at its very core is dependent upon three principles.

First, successful people spend their time doing things that they are passionate about. Understanding what matters most and what matters least is critical to your success. Ultimately, your satisfaction in life depends on your ability to distinguish between the two. Spend more time doing what you love and you will find success.

Second, successful people are positive influences on others. While some people can quickly make their way “to the top”, that doesn’t always lead to happiness if they are not building up others around them. The world needs more kindness and less judgment. In the simplest acts of kindness, you will find success.

Third, successful people live their lives with purpose. Do not fill your life with meaningless things and activities. Pablo Picasso once said, “The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.” What you receive when you give to others is priceless; and in those moments, you will find success.

*“What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make”
- Jane Goodall*



Important reminder for the Fall of 2024: A parents meeting for all HIGH SCHOOL athletes involved in a Fall Sport will be held on Sunday, August 11th at 6pm at the High School. There must be at least one parent in attendance before your child can begin practice on Monday, August 12th.

Early in the summer is a great time to get sports physicals completed for all incoming 7-12 athletes. Athletes will not be able to participate in any activities starting August 12, 2024, without a sports physical. The sports physical must take place after May 1st to qualify them for the 2024-2025 school year. Return a copy of the physical to the high school office when completed. The specific line we are looking for is **“the athlete is cleared without restrictions to participate in athletics.”**

Mark Your Calendars!

- **Fall Sports Parents Meeting (High School Only):** Sunday, August 11th at 6pm
- **Start of Fall Practices:**
 - High School: Monday, August 12th
 - Junior High: Monday, August 26th
- **Fall Sports Kickoff:** Friday, August 23rd
- **Homecoming Football Game:** Friday, September 13th


Thank you,

Jamie Schleifer
Assistant Principal/AD



June is Census Month

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 or if there has been a change in your household, Complete this census card or call the District office at 402-468-5591 with your information.



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 and current fobs will be deactivated if not renewed.** If you have any questions contact Jamie Schleifer at 402-468-5591.

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 fortcalhounschoools.org. Go to “About, Board of Education, Policies” and scroll down to Policy 3057-Title IX.

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

Month	Days	Notes
August, 2024	1-31	Aug 12-14: Pre-school In-service; Aug 15: School begins; Sept 2: No School - Labor Day; 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 22: End of 1st Semester - 86 days; Dec 23-31: No School - Christmas Break
September, 2024	1-30	Dec 21-Jan 6: NSAA Moratorium; Dec 23-27: Teacher In-service - No School; Jan 6: School Resumes; Jan 7: Teacher In-service - No School; Jan 20: K-12 Parent-Teacher Conferences Early Out; Feb 19: Elementary Only Parent-Teacher Conferences; Feb 20: 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
October, 2024	1-31	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 23: Teacher In-service; May 26: Memorial Day
November, 2024	1-30	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
December, 2024	1-31	

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

FORT CALHOON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
DISTRICT CENSUS RECORD

Resident: Last _____ First _____ Mailing Address: _____ Zip _____

Spouse _____ Residence Address: (if different) _____

Occupation _____ County _____ Phone # _____

Other Adults Living at Same Address _____

Date _____ For Office Use Only: _____ Census ID # _____

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

66 members of the graduating Fort Calhoun seniors were offered scholarships totaling over \$3,969,000.



- Jordan James Back – Metro Community College
- Bria Marie Bench – Midland University, Morningside University, Buena Vista University, Fort Calhoun Booster Club, Fort Calhoun Community Schools Foundation GRIT Scholarship, Metro Community College, Knights of Columbus Council 10305 Scholarship
- Xander James Bender – University of Nebraska – Lincoln
- Gavin Michael Blesh – University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Fort Hays State University, University of Northern Colorado, University of Nebraska-Kearney, Colorado State University, Metro Community College
- William Nathaniel Bogar – Metro Community College
- Grayson Andrew Bouwman – Midland University, Fort Calhoun Community Schools Foundation Leadership and Community Service Scholarship, Fort Calhoun Booster Club, Fort Calhoun Presbyterian Church, Morningside University, Metro Community College, Omaha World Herald 2024 All Academic Program Honorable Mention
- Samantha CeCelia Brewer – Northwest Missouri State University, Metro Community College
- Westin Gage Buckley – Metro Community College, Fort Calhoun Community Schools Foundation Rock Hard Concrete Hometown Scholarship
- Madison Mackenzie Buczkowski – Fort Hays State University, University of Nebraska – Lincoln, University of Nebraska Omaha, Metro Community College
- Carter Clayton Christensen – Fort Calhoun Community Schools Foundation Isaac Blizzard Scholarship, Washington County Community Foundation Scholarship, Metro Community College, University of Nebraska Lincoln
- Ellie Ann Collins – Nebraska Wesleyan University, University of Iowa, Fort Calhoun Community Schools Foundation Paul and Bea Kruger Scholarship, Metro Community College, University of Nebraska Lincoln, Fort Calhoun TeamMates Mentoring Scholarship, Northwest Iowa Classic Tractor Club Scholarship
- Sophie Anne Conrad – Fort Calhoun Community Schools Foundation Learning with Laughter Scholarship, Joseph Heimann Memorial Scholarship, Metro Community College, Fort Calhoun Education Association Scholarship, Doane University VanHoy and Cheer Scholarships
- Pheonix James Daly – Metro Community College
- Mollie Rose Dierks - Metro Community College
- Shelby Sue Dorau - Metro Community College
- Aaron Jameson Duros - Metro Community College, Fort Calhoun Community Schools Foundation WCB Scholarship
- Ethan Matthew Dye – Fort Calhoun Community Schools Foundation Paul and Bea Kruger Scholarship, University of Nebraska Lincoln, Hastings College, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Metro Community College, Omaha World Herald 2024 All Academic Program Honorable Mention
- Eric Alan Ertzner – Washington County Community Foundation, Metro Community College
- Harrison James Geiger – Nebraska Wesleyan University, University of Nebraska Lincoln, Metro Community College
- Zoe Margret Gillespie - Metro Community College
- Madi Kaylee Goranson - Metro Community College
- Adrian Renee Gutierrez - Metro Community College, Cody White Trade Scholarship
- Adriana MarLee Hernandez – Pioneers for Education Scholarship, Fort Calhoun Community Schools Foundation Pioneer Fund Foundation Scholarship, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Douglas County Farm Bureau, Buena Vista University, Fremont 4-H Expo Scholarships, University of Nebraska Omaha, University of Nebraska Kearney, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture Scholarship, Northwest Missouri State University, University of South Dakota, Fort Calhoun Community Schools Foundation GRIT Scholarship, Washington County Community Foundation Scholarship, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church Schwertley Scholarship, Knights of Columbus Council 10305 Scholarship
- Alyssa Marie Hill - Metro Community College
- Morgan Lee Ishii – First Responders Foundation, Fort Calhoun Community Schools Foundation Isaac Blizzard and GRIT Scholarships, Ameriprise Financial Scholarship, Metro Community College, Washington County Community Foundation Scholarship
- Andrew Paul Janecek – Metro Community College, Fort Calhoun TeamMates Mentoring Scholarship
- Addyson Lee Johnson – University of Nebraska Lincoln
- Brooke Lynn Johnsen – Hastings College, National Scholastic Art & Writing New York Life Award, University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Metro Community College
- Preston Andrew Johnson – Metro Community College
- Leah Ling Klabunde - Metro Community College, Fort Calhoun Presbyterian Church Scholarship
- Edward Patton Lautrup – University of Nebraska – Omaha, Gabriel Namuth Memorial Scholarship, Fort Calhoun Community Schools Foundation Solomon Lodge #10 Scholarship, Metro Community College
- Samuel Houston Lautrup – University of Nebraska-Omaha, Metro Community College

- Abigale Rose Lienemann – Fort Hays State University, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Fort Calhoun Community Schools Foundation WCB Scholarships, Iowa State University, Morning Side University, High Point University, Grand Canyon University, Grand View University, Wichita State University, University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Metro Community College, Ponca Elementary PTA Scholarship
- Olivia Dawn Mello – Cornell College, University of Missouri-Columbia, Metro Community College
- Colton Wayne Mick - Metro Community College
- James Thomas Miller - Metro Community College
- Jayden Andrew Miller - Metro Community College
- Owen Tate Miller – Fort Calhoun Presbyterian Church Scholarship, Hastings College, Metro Community College
- Gage Daniel Nixon - Metro Community College, Nebraska First Responder Pledge Award
- Taylor Fay Nolan - Metro Community College
- Jake Le - Metro Community College, Gabriel Namuth Memorial Scholarship, Fort Calhoun Community Schools Foundation GRIT Scholarship
- Declyn Jay Otte – Fort Calhoun Community Schools Foundation Zig Drywall Scholarship, Dakota State University, Morningside University, Wayne State College, Northern Illinois University, Metro Community College, Omaha World Herald 2024 All Academic Program Honorable Mention
- Lillian Gertrude Pfeilsticker – Hastings College, Metro Community College
- Jefferey Joseph Pringle – Morningside University
- Gunnar Lukas Push - Metro Community College, Ponca Elementary PTA Scholarship
- John Charles Reeh - Metro Community College
- Natalie Christine Reichert – Fort Calhoun Community Schools Foundation Seal-Rite and GRIT Scholarships, Pioneers for Education Scholarship, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Metro Community College
- Ty David Ringler – First Responders Foundation, Metro Community College, Fort Calhoun Rural Fire Department Scholarship
- Jacob Malcom Roe - Metro Community College
- Rowan Sibéal Roehr – Fort Calhoun Community Schools Foundation Class of 1984 Scholarship, Joseph Heimann Memorial Scholarship, TeamMates National Office Scholarship, Fort Calhoun TeamMates Mentoring Scholarship, Hastings College, Metro Community College
- Skylar LeRae Samway – Fort Calhoun Community Schools Foundation Fitzgeralds of Garryowen Scholarship, Northwest Missouri State University, Fort Hays University, Metro Community College
- Meadow Lynn Scharp – Nebraska Methodist College, Metro Community College
- Logan Joshua Schlotfeld - Metro Community College
- Johnathon Michael Schwarte – Fort Calhoun Community Schools Foundation Seal-Rite Scholarship, University of Nebraska – Lincoln, South Dakota School of Mines, Metro Community College
- Morgan Jeffrey Shaner – Fort Calhoun Presbyterian Church Scholarship, Nebraska College of Technical Ag Scholarship, Washington County Cattlemen Scholarship, Fort Calhoun TeamMates Chapter Scholarship
- Madelyn Marie Tinkham – Fort Calhoun Community Schools Foundation GRIT Scholarship, Knights of Columbus Council 10305 Scholarship, Metro Community College
- Lawson Eugene Tjardes – Nebraska Wesleyan University, Orion Archery Scholarship, Knights of Columbus Council 10305 Scholarship, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church Schwertley Scholarship
- Jay Kevin Stoa III – Midland University, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Metro Community College
- Kierra Ann Weaver - Metro Community College
- Kaitlyn Lily Welchert - Metro Community College
- Raegen Lynn Wells – Fort Calhoun Women’s Fitness Club Scholarship, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Kansas State University, Midland University, Metro Community College
- Brooke Mackenzie Wessel – University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Nebraska-Omaha, Kansas State University, Metro Community College
- Anthony Matthew Westphalen - Metro Community College
- Allyvia IvaMarie Wright - Metro Community College

82 Fort Calhoun High School students were recognized for the 2023-24 Nebraska State Colleges Multi-Activity Student Awards sponsored by the NSAA, Chadron State, Peru State and Wayne State Colleges. You may find their names at NSAAhome.org under “Fort Calhoun”.



Fort Calhoun’s **eSports Team** competed in the State Championship and placed 2nd. Congrats to Mr. Hansen and his team.

Seventeen athletes qualified for State Track. At State **Emilee Thayer-Mencke** medaled 8th in the High Jump. Our Unified Sport Medalists are **Will Maxon** and **Logan Brewer** in the Long Jump, and **Will** and **Andrew Namuth** in the Shot Put. Congrats to all!