

Fort Calhoun Community Schools
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Fort Calhoun, Nebraska 68023

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www.fortcalhouschools.org



The Fort Dispatch

Volume 34 No 1

Fort Calhoun Community Schools

Back to School 2024

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Welcome Back to School

On August 15th we will welcome back over eight hundred students, fifty-three teachers and multiple support staff. Getting the school year started can be the cause of many emotions and I believe excitement is the most abundant. I look forward to working with our teachers, staff and students as we embark on this new journey.

Students, we are excited to have you back in the classrooms and hallways. Whether you are returning or joining us for the first time, we can't wait to see the energy, creativity, and enthusiasm you bring to our school. This year, we encourage you to explore new subjects, make new friends, and take on new challenges. Remember, learning is not just about grades; it's about discovering your interests, developing new skills, and growing as individuals.

As we start this school year, let's remember the importance of kindness, respect, and inclusivity. Our school is a place where everyone should feel safe, valued, and supported. Let's work together to create a community where everyone can thrive, learn, and succeed.

We also want to remind everyone to take care of their health and well-being. Whether it's staying physically active, taking time to relax, or reaching out for help when needed, your well-being is important to us. Let's make this school year not only academically successful but also healthy and fulfilling for everyone.

Thank you for being a part of our school community. We look forward to an amazing year filled with growth, learning, and memorable moments. Welcome back, and let's make this year our best one yet!

Sincerely,

Jerry Green
Superintendent, Fort Calhoun Community Schools

OPTION ENROLLMENT 2024-25

The Option Enrollment application period for the 2024-25 school year opens on September 1, 2024 and runs through March 15, 2025. Forms are available on our website or at the school offices. The School Board set class sizes and program parameters in February. Applicants are taken on a first-come, first-serve basis within the guidelines set by our Board of Education and according to State law. All applicants must be notified one way or the other by April 1st.

The Elementary Supply List is on the schools' website: fortcalhouschools.org under "School", "Elementary", "School Supplies" and click where indicated.



Fort Calhoun Community Schools use an automated system to notify families of emergencies or weather-related closings by call, text or e-mail. Make sure all your contact numbers are up-to-date and let us know your preferred way of notification by returning your Student Profiles.



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

The mission of the Fort Calhoun Schools is to:

Foster learning in an inspiring, caring and safe 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.





HAPPENINGS

- 8/5-7 High School Band Camp
- 8/11 Fall Sports Parents Meeting
- 8/12 School Board Meeting
- 8/14 Elementary Back to School Night & Popsicles with the Principal 6-7 PM
- 8/15 First Day of School
11:15 Dismissal @ Elementary
11:30 Dismissal @ High School
NO MEALS SERVED

- 8/19 First Day of Preschool
- 9/2 Labor Day - NO SCHOOL
Band @ Septemberfest Parade
- 9/9 School Board Meeting
- 9/13 Skills USA Hog Roast
Homecoming Football Game
- 9/14 Homecoming Dance
- 9/17 5-6 Grade Band Parent Meeting
- 9/23 Fall Sports Kick-Off
- 9/24 Picture Day at all Schools
- 9/30 No School



Welcome back Pioneer families!

The PFE spent the summer planning events for the upcoming school year. We are bringing back some of your favorites and are excited to introduce some new events as well.

SAVE THE DATE for some of the events sponsored by Pioneers for Education (PFE) for the 2024-2025 school year!

- 8/16 – Back to school movie night
- 9/20 – Elementary school activity (similar to walk-a-thon)
- 10/4 – Split the pot at the home football game
- 10/18 – Donuts with Dad
- January – Art after school
- 2/15 – Father daughter dance
- 3/7 – Donuts with Mom
- 4/25 – Spring carnival
- TBD – Mother/Son kickball tournament
- TBD – Teacher vs student event at the high school
- TBD - Golf fundraiser
- TBD - Original works



Please remember to get your PFE membership sign ups completed.

Visit: <https://givebutter.com/pfemembership2024>

If you are interested in becoming a corporate sponsor for the year please email pioneersforeducation@gmail.com.

We are looking forward to a fantastic year!

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



FORT CALHOUN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ENGAGING + LEARNING + ACHIEVING = PRODUCTIVE PIONEERS

A Note from the Elementary Principal

In true back to education form, I have to say, where has the summer gone? Whether you are ready for the school year to begin or you wish we had a few more weeks of summer, I cannot wait for the doors to open and school to be filled with busy bodies of students and the sounds of learning.

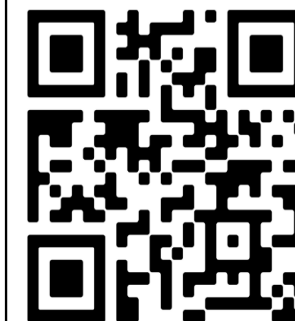
Now, it is time to look forward to a wonderful new school year. Our school wide theme is "Pioneers are Incredible". What does that mean for our students, staff, and parents/guardians? As a pioneer at Fort Calhoun Elementary School, we will be working diligently, each and every day, to follow our school-wide expectations; to be **safe, brave, respectful** and **responsible**. Just like Mr. Incredible from the movie *The Incredibles*, we must be strong and use what we have learned to make the best decision we can in order to keep others **safe**. Mr. Incredible has stamina; so, we must always work hard and be **responsible** for our learning even when things are challenging. Finally, Mr. Incredible is dependable and honorable. Therefore, we must do the right thing when no one is looking and continue to be **brave** in tough situations to make sure we are always showing others **respect**. When we incorporate these expectations into our time at school, I know we will function at a high level.

I hope you and your family have enjoyed your summer together. I look forward to seeing you very soon for our back to school night on August 14th!

Take care,

Mrs. Horstman

Scan the QR Code below to view our Teacher's Wishlists:



Upcoming Events:

- August 14th - Back to School Night & Popsicles with the Principal from 6 pm - 7 pm
- August 15th - First Day of School - Early Out - 11:15 am Dismissal
- August 19th - First Day of Preschool
- August 26th - PFE Meeting at 6:30 pm at the Longhorn

Pop on over and chill with us!



New Staff Members:

We are excited to have these new faces in our building for the upcoming school year.

- Kinsey Knorr - Vocal Music Teacher
- Katy Kelsey - Kindergarten Teacher
- Eric Jones - 5th Grade Teacher
- Chelsea Ewart - Special Education Teacher
- Candace Hutchson - Paraprofessional
- Amber Howell - Food Service
- Deia Prucha - Food Service
- Laura Bailey - Food Service

Finally, we congratulate Miss Rice on her special day this summer. She will now be going by Mrs. Harmon.

DR. NICK WEMHOFF
Principal

I hope this newsletter finds you all enjoying your last few days of summer break. As we eagerly count down the days, I am thrilled to welcome you back to school soon!

One of the things I like most about a new academic year is that it presents a wonderful chance to start fresh and explore new horizons. This year I challenge each of you to embrace the newness around you. Try something you've never done before, step out of your comfort zone, and take the leap to meet new people. Don't be afraid to face your fears; let them become stepping stones to growth and success. This academic year is an opportunity to learn, grow, and become who you want to become.

I want nothing more than for each of you to have a successful school year. At this time, I strongly encourage parents and students to sit down and have open, honest conversations about their expectations for the school year—both the parents' and the students' expectations. This will help create a supportive and understanding environment for everyone.

Furthermore, I want to reassure you of our commitment to supporting your child's education. We understand the importance of finding a routine that emphasizes being at school every day. If you find your child struggling to come to school, don't hesitate to call our guidance counselors at the school. We will do our best to help parents and students navigate the challenges of coming to school.

As your family begins this school year, remember to set goals, knowing that success is measured in different ways. By setting goals as a family, you will find that success isn't solely measured by academic accomplishments. Success encompasses the student's personal growth, happiness, and the positive impact they make on others.

I cannot wait to see you all back at the FORT. I am confident that this is going to be a great year for all of us!

*"If it doesn't challenge you, it doesn't change you."
- Fred DeVito*



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Missing a day of school here and there may not seem like much, but absences add up!

<p>When a student misses 2 days a month..</p> <p>They will miss 20 DAYS a year.</p> <p>They will miss 30 HOURS of math over the school year.</p> <p>They will miss 60 HOURS of reading & writing over the school year.</p> <p>They will miss over 1 YEAR of school by graduation.</p>	<p>When a student misses 4 days a month..</p> <p>They will miss 40 DAYS a year.</p> <p>They will miss 60 HOURS of math over the school year.</p> <p>They will miss 120 HOURS of reading & writing over the school year.</p> <p>They will miss over 2 YEARS of school by graduation.</p>
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POLICY 3053-NONDISCRIMINATION

The School District does not discriminate on the basis of prohibited factors in employment and educational programs/activities. The School District affirmatively strives to provide equal opportunity for all as required by:

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 - prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin
- Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin
- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 - prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex
- Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA) as amended - prohibits discrimination on the basis of age with respect to individuals who are at least 40
- The Equal Pay Act of 1963 as amended - prohibits sex discrimination in payment of wages to women and men performing substantially equal work in the same establishment
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 - prohibits discrimination against the disabled
- Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) - prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in employment, public service, public accommodations and telecommunications
- The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) - requires covered employers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to "eligible" employees for certain family and medical reasons
- The Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions
- The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA) – requires covered employers to provide reasonable accommodations to qualified employee's or applicant's known limitations related to, affected by, or arising out of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions
- The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) – provides job protections and reemployment rights to military reservists and National Guard members called to active duty
- The Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act which prohibits discrimination against groups that wish to access district facilities
- The Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act (FEPA) – prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy), disability, marital status, and retaliation
- Nebraska Age Discrimination in Employment Act (Age Act) – prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of age for those individuals who are over 40 years of age
- The Equal Pay Act of Nebraska – prohibits discriminatory wage practices based on sex
- The Nebraska Equal Opportunity in Education Act – prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex (including pregnancy) by any educational institution
- Veterans Preference Law (NEB. REV. STAT §§ 48-225 to 48-231) - stipulates categorical preferences for employment for military veterans and for the spouses of disabled veterans

Additional School Board policies prohibit harassment and/or discrimination against students, employees, or patrons on the basis of sex, race, color, ethnic or national origin, religion, marital status, disability, age, pregnancy, and any other legally prohibited basis. Retaliation for engaging in a protected activity is also prohibited.

Any person who believes she or he has been discriminated against, denied a benefit, or excluded from participation in any district education program or activity may file a complaint using the district's complaint procedures.

Inquiries regarding compliance with any of the laws referred to in this policy may be directed to the superintendent or to the district's Title IX and/or Section 504/ADA Coordinator.

FORT CALHOUN CENSUS INFORMATION

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.

FORT CALHOUN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
DISTRICT CENSUS RECORD

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

Spouse _____ Residence Address: (if different) _____

Occupation _____ County _____ Phone # _____

He/She _____

Other Adults Living at Same Address _____

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

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

Looking to change a life? Teammates may be the place for you.



Become a member by going to Teammates.org or call 402-237-9558 for more information.

MR. JAMIE SCHLEIFER
Assistant Principal/AD

Pioneers,

Welcome back to another exciting school year! We hope you all had a wonderful summer filled with relaxation and adventure. As we gear up for an incredible year ahead, I want to remind you of the many opportunities available to our students to get involved and make the most of their school experience at Fort Calhoun. Our diverse range of clubs and extracurricular activities offers something for everyone, whether your interests lie in sports or the arts, Fort Calhoun has something for your child!

Getting involved in clubs and activities is not only a fantastic way to explore new passions but also to build lasting friendships and develop valuable skills. Participation in these programs enriches students' educational experiences, enhances personal growth, and helps foster a strong sense of community. It's through these activities that students can discover their talents, take on leadership roles, and make a positive impact both within and beyond the walls of "the Fort."

Below are a few important dates that I would like to highlight this fall, and I encourage you to join us at these events!

- Homecoming Football Game: September 13th
- Softball Parents/Senior Night: September 24th
- Home Cross-Country Meet/Senior Night: September 26th
- Cheer/Dance/Football Senior Night & Fireworks Show: October 18th
- Volleyball Parents Night: October 22nd

Reminder to all Pioneer fans: All home events in the Main Gym and Football field will be streamed FREE through HUDL. Fans can download the HUDL fan app or go to hudl.fan.com and search "Fort Calhoun" to find all the events available for live streaming.

Fort Calhoun Season Passes are still available at Jr./Sr. High games and in the High School office:

- Family- \$150
- Single Adult- \$70
- Student (K-12)- \$50

Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm. We look forward to a year filled with learning, growth, and community spirit. Let's make this school year the best one yet by embracing all the opportunities for involvement and making a difference in the Fort Calhoun community.

Sincerely,
Jamie Schleifer
Assistant Principal/Athletic Director
Fort Calhoun Jr./Sr. High School



ADMISSION PRICES 2024-25*

Individual Admission Prices – Varsity Home Contests	Individual Admission Prices - JV and Lower
\$5.00 Students K-12	\$4.00 Students K-12
\$7.00 Adults	\$5.00 Adults

*Pass prices have not increased for 2024-25
Golden Age Conference Passes are available **FREE OF CHARGE** to any patron over 60 who requests one.

*****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.**

SCHOOL MEALS

Fort Calhoun Schools serve nutritious meals to students during the school year. If you have already received notification of 2024-25 benefits granted through direct certification, your student(s) will begin receiving them on the first day of school. If you received benefits in 2024-25 those will carryover until September 27, 2024. If you did not, we urge you to complete the necessary paperwork immediately if you believe you qualify. Forms will be sent home the first day of school and can be found on the school web-site under "Food Service". Students will have to pay for meals until such time this is received. Benefits are not retroactive. School board policy states "The district's policy on charged meals is: "If a student has no funds available to pay for a meal, the student will be permitted to charge up to five meals. Thereafter, if a student has no funds available to pay for a meal, no food will be provided." If you have any questions, please contact the District Office at 402-468-5591.



Student meal prices did not change for 2024-25.

PRICES FOR 2024-25

ELEMENTARY K-6

Student Breakfast	1.75
Adult Breakfast	2.75
Student Lunch	2.75
Second Lunch	2.75
Milk	0.50
Reduced Breakfast	.30**
Reduced Lunch	.40**
Adult Lunch	4.75

SECONDARY 7-12

Student Breakfast	2.25
Adult Breakfast	2.75
Student Lunch	3.10
Second Lunch	3.10
Milk	0.50
Reduced Breakfast	.30**
Reduced Lunch	.40**
Adult Lunch	4.75

** Required by Federal Legislation



BOOSTER CLUB SPONSORSHIP:

Please Circle

STUDENT \$25 Senior Athletic Banner/s

ORANGE \$50 1 Popcorn Punch Card

BLACK \$100 2 Popcorn Punch Cards

THE FORT \$250 Name/Business Card Displayed in all Programs

PIONEER \$500 Pre/Post Game Rotating Ad on Video Scoreboard, Marquee Sponsor, and Name/Business Card Displayed in all Programs

PREMIER \$1000 1 Year Commitment, Video Board Digital Content, Marquee Sponsor, and Name/Business Card Displayed in all Programs

All Sponsorships Include:

Senior Athletic Banner/s
Recognition on FC Schools Website
Tax Deductible

THANK YOU!
LET'S GO PIONEERS!

PLEASE FILL OUT:

Name to be Displayed: _____

Contact Person: _____

Email Address: _____

ATHLETIC ACTIVITY PASSES

Provided by Fort Calhoun Community Schools

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL ATHLETES!
Please Circle

K-12 STUDENT \$50
ONE ADULT \$70
FAMILY PASS \$150

Passes allow entry into all Jr/Sr high sporting events at home. Does not include conference or state games.

THE BOOSTER CLUB CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING:

(2) annual \$500 College Scholarships
Senior Banners
Coaches Clinics
Sport Team Posters
Various Needs For All Athletic Programs

Fall Sports Kick-Off Meal:

\$7 Burger/Chips/Water
\$5 Extra Burger
\$1 Extra Chip
\$1 Extra Water



Booster Club Sponsorship \$ _____
Activity Pass \$ _____
Donation \$ _____
Meal \$ _____
Check # _____
Cash \$ _____
Square \$ _____
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID \$ _____