



HAPPENINGS

- 10/7 Softball Subdistricts @ Fort Calhoun
- 10/9 Americanism Committee Board Meeting
- 10/12 LINKS Marching Festival-Band
- 10/14 School Board Meeting
- 10/18 End of First Quarter
Football Parents' Night
Youth Sports Football Night
- 10/21 Elementary Book Fair
- 10/23-24
Parent Teacher Conferences
Early Dismissals
- 10/25 No School
- 10/26 State Marching Contest

10/31 H ppy H alloween

- 11/1 No School - Teacher Inservice Day
- 11/4 Conference Choir
- 11/5 Picture Retakes
- 11/8 POPP Lock-in



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.

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.



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.

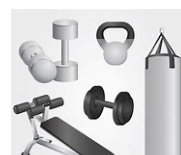
Policy 3053-Nondiscrimination

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.



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 Schleifer at 402-468-5591.



The Fort Dispatch

Volume 34 No 2

Fort Calhoun Community Schools October 2024

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

It Will Be What You Make of It

I get to hear a lot about what we are (not) doing right at school and make no mistake I understand we can always make improvements. But here is my thought process, it will be what you make of it. Challenges, difficulties, and sometimes bad calls are going to happen. You can complain, place blame and point fingers but the simple fact is it probably won't do much good. What can we make of these situations? First, let's determine the severity of the situation. Is it life and death; is it life-altering, will it change my path five or ten years down the road? What is my responsibility for the situation? Do I have all the information? What to make of it, ask good questions, ask in a responsible adult manner, seek clarification, be curious before critical, and offer a possible solution. Consider the action and not the attitude or emotion. Step outside the picture and look at the situation from outside. What does it look like from there?

This is not directed at any one person or any one issue. It is directed at the thought that we can all take a more positive approach to everything. We can work together for resolution, keeping in mind that we may not agree, and some things are just not possible. An equal effort to do what is best for all is what is best for all. In my opinion we have a great school with great families and great things happening but anytime you have over 800 students and all their parents' challenges will surface.

Please make sure that we all appreciate how hard our students, teachers, coaches, sponsors, and parents work as we watch our children grow. Surround them with positive thoughts and actions; positive people and lessons that will help them develop into great young people. The world can be hard enough, we all can make it better by being positive and supportive of everything we are privileged to be a part of. Please make the most of it.

Jerry Green
Superintendent
Fort Calhoun Community Schools

The mission of the Fort Calhoun Schools is to:

- F**oster learning in an inspiring, caring and safe environment; provide
- O**pportunities for all students to be successful; instill the attributes of
- R**espect and responsibility among staff and students alike; and present students with the
- T**ools to succeed in life.





Jamie Schleifer
Assistant Principal/AD

Pioneers,

I'm crossing my fingers, but I think the "fall weather" might finally be close! I want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible achievements of our student-athletes and the excitement surrounding the conclusion of our fall sports season.

Our Pioneer football team is off to a fantastic start this season with a record of 5-1! Their hard work and dedication have been evident on the field, and we look forward to supporting them as they continue to compete. They finish the regular season with home games on October 18th (Wahoo) and October 25th (DC West).

In softball, our team has made us proud with a remarkable record of 23-5. They recently defeated Gothenburg and Central City to secure the C-6 subdistrict championship. We're thrilled to announce that we will host Boone Central for the district championship on October 11th at noon! Let's rally behind them and show our support!

As we approach the end of the fall season, our cross-country and volleyball teams are gearing up for conference and district competitions this month. Their perseverance and teamwork have been inspiring, and we wish them all the best in their upcoming events. We are excited to see them finish strong!

Fort Calhoun is excited to announce the return of the Fall Fireworks show! The fireworks will take place after the conclusion of the varsity football game on Friday, October 18th (weather permitting).

Looking ahead, the winter sports season is just around the corner! Here are some important dates to note:

- **High School Basketball and Boys/Girls Wrestling:** Start on Monday, November 18th.
- **Junior High Boys Basketball and Girls Wrestling:** Start on Monday, October 28th.
- **Junior High Girls Basketball:** Starts on Monday, January 21st.
- **Junior High Boys Wrestling:** Starts on Monday, January 13th.

We also invite all parents to our Winter Sports Parents meeting on **Sunday, November 10th, at 6 PM**. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the upcoming season and how to support our teams. One parent/guardian must attend the parents meeting; if you attended the fall parents meeting, you are not required to attend, and you will only need to go to your sport-specific meeting. Additionally, winter sports pictures will be taken by Kim Therkildsen again on **Friday, November 22nd at 1:30 PM**. Order forms are available in the High School office.

Thank you for your continued support of our student-athletes. Let's finish the fall season strong and gear up for an exciting winter!

Mr. Schleifer

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.**



FORT CALHOUN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ENGAGING + LEARNING + ACHIEVING = PRODUCTIVE PIONEERS

A Note from the Elementary Principal

Our school routines have truly become ingrained for both our committed staff and enthusiastic students. I am excited about the wonderful month ahead with the students. Even though the past six weeks have been busy, it has been enjoyable to engage with the students in the classrooms and learn alongside them.

The Walk-A-Thon was a great success! Students had a fantastic time walking to the fort and back. I think Mr. Mallette would agree that getting hit in the face with a pie was a "SPECIAL TREAT" that helped kick off the event! Another shout out to Mrs. Hallberg's, Ms. Neubaum's, and Mrs. Royuk's classes for their outstanding efforts in raising the highest amounts of money. A heartfelt thank you to the PFE for organizing such a fun experience for our students.

Finally, I want to thank our families and community members for such a warm welcome and all the kind words of encouragement as I transition into principalship. I have learned very quickly that Fort Calhoun is a wonderful place to be and I believe, together, our elementary school will continue to be a place where our students can excel academically, grow personally, and develop a strong sense of community. I look forward to working closely with you all and celebrating our collective successes in the weeks, months, and years to come.

Take care,

Mrs. Horstman

Upcoming Events:

- Fire Safety Week - October 6th through October 12th
- Fort Calhoun K-2nd Grade Youth Basketball Fall Skills Camp & League - Begins October 13th
- Donuts with Dad - October 18th
- Scholastic Book Fair - October 19th through October 24th
- Parent Teacher Conferences - October 23rd & 24th
- No School - October 25th
- Halloween Classroom Parties - October 31st
- No School - November 1st

Student Handbook Verification

This is to verify that we, parent/guardian, and student, have received and read the 2024-25 student handbook, which includes the policies and other rules and regulations of the Fort Calhoun Elementary School.

If you have not yet seen the student handbook, click [here](#).

If you would like a hard copy of the handbook, please email Ruby @ rweaver@ftcpioneers.org

DR. NICK WEMHOFF
Principal

Parent-Teacher Conferences are quickly approaching. Parents/Guardians, please make plans to come to school and meet with teachers. If you are unable to attend in person, please reach out to your child's teachers via email. We want to make sure that the lines of communication are open and used often. Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for October 23-24. Teachers will be available in their classrooms from 2:00 - 8:00 pm on both nights. We will have a dinner break for staff from 5:00 - 5:45. Please plan accordingly.

We have seen an increase in student lunch account balances that are below zero. As a reminder, please check PowerSchool to see your child's lunch account balance. If you have any questions, please contact the HS office. You may deposit money either using E-Funds (electronic deposit) or have your child bring a check to school to place in their account. When depositing funds, please plan for the future and deposit more than the negative balance. This will ensure they have funds available for future breakfasts or lunches.

Fort Calhoun Skills USA will be sponsoring the Veteran's Day Program on November 11th at Fort Calhoun HS at 10:00 am. All community members are welcome to attend. The program will last approximately 1 hour. We would like to invite any Military Service Men and Women to our luncheon following the program. This is open to those who are currently serving or have served in the past. All Military Service Men and Women are also allowed to bring 1 guest with them to attend the meal. Please RSVP by calling the HS office at 402-468-5591. This will help us plan for how many people to expect. On behalf of the FORT — **THANK YOU for your service!**

*"As we express gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."
- John F. Kennedy*



This year's Homecoming Royalty are **Samantha Thomas** and **Max Halford** - Queen and King and **Taylor Stewart** and **Andrew Namuth** - Princess and Prince. Congratulations!!!!

The Fort Calhoun Softball Team culminated their regular season in such a way to be able to host Sub-District play. They emerged from Sub-Districts undefeated and are on to District play which will also be hosted by Fort Calhoun on Friday October 11th. **Congratulations to Coach Taylor and all the girls for their hard work to get to this spot. Go Pioneers!**

The **Fort Calhoun Boys Cross Country Team** has been having a great year. They are champions of not only the Fort Calhoun Invitational, but also Champions of the Aquinas Invitational and the Blair Invitational.

National School Lunch Week

October 14-18, 2024



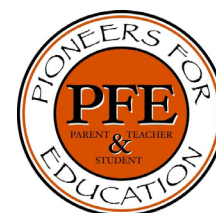
President John F. Kennedy created National School Lunch Week (NSLW) in 1962 to promote the importance of a healthy school lunch in a child's life and the impact it has inside and outside of the classroom. The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) serves nearly 30 million children every school day. Fort Calhoun's student meal prices did not change for 2024-25, but students must have money in their account in order to eat at school. 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.

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



Hard to believe it is Fall! Congratulations to our Pioneer families on a job well done for the money raised at our annual Walk-A-Thon. The elementary school raised an impressive \$10,480! The top three classes earned pizza parties and the top individuals earned awesome prizes. Special thank you to all of the families who donated/participated and to our volunteers. These events would not be possible without you!

We were also able to celebrate with an ice cream social for the students who completed their Summer Bridge Books. Way to go to these studious Pioneers!

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

- 10/18 - Donuts with Dad
- 2/15 - Father Daughter Dance
- 3/7 - Donuts with Mom
- 4/25 - Spring Carnival
- TBD - Mother/Son Event
- TBD - Golf fundraiser
- TBD - Original Works

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