

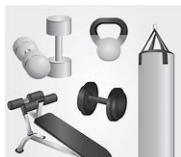


HAPPENINGS

- 11/1 No School - Teacher Inservice Day
- 11/3 Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 11/5 Picture Retakes
Election Day
- 11/5-6 Accreditation Visitation
- 11/10 Winter Sports Parents Meeting
- 11/11 Skills USA Veterans Day Program
School Board Meeting
- 11/12 Conference Honor Choir
- 11/18-22
American Education Week
- 11/20 All State Band and Choir
- 11/25 Conference One-Act Play Contest
- 11/27 Early Dismissal
- 11/28 **HAPPY THANKSGIVING**
- 11/28-12/1
No School - Thanksgiving Vacation
Offices will be closed
- 12/4 MCC Blood Drive
- 12/6 Winter Formal

OPTION ENROLLMENT 2024-25

The Option Enrollment application period for the 2024-25 school year opened 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.



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.

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.



The Fort Dispatch

Volume 35 No 3

Fort Calhoun Community Schools

November 2024

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Put the Team First

Great team players always put the team first. They work hard for the team. They develop themselves for the team. They serve the team. Their motto is whatever it takes to make the team better. They don't take credit. They give credit to the team. To be a great team member your ego must be subservient to the mission and purpose of the team. It's a challenge to keep our ego in check. It's something most of us struggle with because we have our own goals and desires. But if we monitor our ego and put the team first, we'll make the team better, and our servant approach will make us better. – Jon Gordon

This small idea works in enormous ways and across many areas. This works for sports teams, classrooms, students, teachers, administrators, parents, husbands, wives, bosses, workers, and well you get my point. Whatever your team is and if you want to make it successful then you must be PART of the team, not a member of the team. To be a part of the team makes you essential to the success of the team. Members of teams come and go and usually look at how the team can help them instead of how they can help the team. We have so many great opportunities happening at Fort Calhoun Community Schools. These opportunities happened because the school and community members are a great team, and many people take PART in these opportunities. Overall, we have positive people working hard to provide opportunities for our students. Thank You. My challenge to all of us is to be a positive PART of something and work for the success of the team.

Jerry Green
Superintendent
Fort Calhoun Community Schools

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.



HAPPY
Thanksgiving



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.

Jamie Schleifer
Assistant Principal/AD



Its been a great Fall season and there has been much to celebrate this year! Below are a few quick highlights of our Fall sports teams!

The historic Pioneer softball season came to an end at the State Tournament after going 2-2 in Hastings! There was much to celebrate this year for our softball girls. They were the first Pioneer team to win the NCC Tournament, Districts, and to qualify for the state tournament! I anticipate more individual awards coming, but the following Pioneers received All-Conference NCC honors:

- 1st Team All-Conference: Kaylee Taylor (Captain), Anna Taylor, and Tacey Belina.
- 2nd-Team All-Conference: Addison Benoit
- All-Conference Honorable Mention: Izzy Greenough, Izzy Nolan, Allison Prunty

The Pioneer Boys Cross Country team qualified for the state meet again this year after finishing 1st at Districts! The boys' team finished 5th overall at state! Raeann Massey and Lauren Lammers were the two qualifiers for the girls' team this year. Great job!

The Football team qualified for the state playoffs for the first time since 2021 and will travel to Central City on Friday, November 1st for the first round of state! They are currently 6-3 on the year, keep it up guys!

Volleyball started sub-districts on October 28th with a 3-0 win over Louisville. They will play Concordia on Tuesday the 29th! Good luck, ladies!

Winter Physical Form Information: I want to remind parents of students who plan to participate in athletics this winter in grades 7-12 need to submit their physical to the main HS office. The sports physical must take place after May 1, 2024, to qualify them for the 2024-2025 school year. The specific line we are looking for is "the athlete is cleared without restrictions to participate in athletics."

The Winter Sports season is right around the corner. Start dates for JH & HS are below.

- High School Basketball and Wrestling- Monday, November 18th
- Junior High Boys Basketball & Junior High Girls Wrestling- Monday, October 28th
- Junior High Girls Basketball- Monday, January 28th
- Junior High Wrestling- Monday, January 28th
- Winter Sports Parents meeting November 6th 6pm at the high school
- Winter Sports Pictures will be on November 22nd

Pioneer Fans: A live FREE streaming is offered 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 livestream.

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

We appreciate the support from the Fort Calhoun Community this Fall and we are excited for the start of the Winter season! **Go Pioneers!**

Mr. Schleifer

Golden Age Conference Passes are available **FREE OF CHARGE** to any patron over 60 who requests one.
*****FORT CALHOON SEASON PASSES DO NOT INCLUDE ADMISSION TO ANY CONFERENCE, DISTRICT OR STATE TOURNAMENT HELD AT FORT CALHOON OR THAT FORT CALHOON MIGHT HOST.**

ELEMENTARY NEWS

Dear Families,

This month has been a full of learning and growth within our elementary school. As I visit classrooms, I have witnessed the enthusiasm of our learners as they interact with new material and reinforce the skills they have already acquired.

Our recent parent-teacher conferences were a testament to the power of collaboration. Your engagement and insightful conversations have truly strengthened the bridge between home and school, fostering an enriching environment for our young learners. A heartfelt thank you goes to all the families who participated. Additionally, your generosity in supporting the Giving Tree has been awe-inspiring. We are immensely grateful for your continued support and dedication. We sincerely appreciate you for being a vital part of your child's journey at Fort Calhoun Elementary School.

~ Mrs. Horstman



Reminders

- Breakfast ends at 8:00 am. It is challenging for students to eat their full meal when they arrive at 7:55 am. Please help ensure your child is arriving to school with adequate time to eat, so they can start their learning when the school day begins at 8.
- Our transportation team would like your help with the corner of 12th and Adams. Please leave plenty of space to ensure the buses can safely make the turn onto Adams St.
- If you have not already done so, please complete the form that you have received and read the Parent-Student Handbook.

Upcoming Events

- November 1st - No School for Students
- November 5th - Picture Retake Day
- November 11th - Veterans Day Program (3rd - 6th Grade Students)
- November 19th - Thanksgiving Feast-Each student can invite up to two guests. The cost is \$9.00 and may be paid by cash, check or through e-funds at the Elementary Office. You may also register guests at the Elementary Office.
- November 27th - Early Dismissal
- November 28th & 29th - No School for Students

Student Council Food Drive

The student council is hosting a food drive from November 4th – 25nd. All items donated will benefit residents of the Fort Calhoun Community. Students will receive points for rewards for items donated.

§Acceptable food items: Canned tuna or chicken, packed in water, Canned stews and pasta with meat, Peanut butter, Canned fruits in light syrup, natural applesauce, Juice, Tomatoes and tomato sauce, Soups with meat and/or beans, Meals-in-a-can, Cereals and cereal bars, pasta, spaghetti, macaroni, noodles, packages of dry beans

§Toiletries (New & Any size): Shampoo, Conditioner, Skin Lotion, Hairbrushes, toothbrushes-toothpaste, Razors, Soap, Laundry Detergent, Dish Soap

Please note: The food pantry has an overabundance of canned vegetables – If at all possible, please refrain from donating these items.

American Education Week

November 18-22, 2024

Having safe and supportive schools, so all students can learn.



DR. NICK WEMHOFF
Principal

I want to say THANK YOU to all the students and parents who attended parent-teacher conferences on either October 23rd or October 24th. Communication between teachers, students, and parents is key to students' success at school. If you were unable to attend conferences, please know that you are welcome to contact your child's teachers any-time.

If you have not done so already, please consider connecting to PowerSchool through your parent access. If you need login information, please contact the JRH/HS office. We have your access code to get started. You can see grades, lunch balances, attendance in addition to other information regarding your child. PowerSchool gives you 24/7 access to how your child is doing academically.

I often hear this phrase "It takes a village to raise a child". Together with parents, friends, school, and community we have become the village for each other. We are happy to be on the journey with our students and their families. Although parent-teacher conferences only come twice a year, the door is always open. If you have a question, ask. If you need help, ask. If you need someone to listen, ask. If you don't know, ask. We are here for our students and families. We know that as parents, you are doing your best for your child. Working together is what makes the FORT a special place.

*"By working together, pooling our resources and building on our strengths,
we can accomplish great things"*
- Ronald Reagan



HEALTHY MEALS FUEL THE DAY



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



SKILLS USA VETERANS DAY PROGRAM



MONDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2024

10:00 AM

FORT CALHOUN HIGH SCHOOL MAIN GYM



Each veteran and a guest are invited to a luncheon following the program. Please call 402-468-5591 to RSVP for the luncheon.



PIONEER FAMILIES -



Happy Fall! Donuts with Dad was a huge success! Thank you to all of the families who prioritized this special event! Your PFE dollars have been able to support many great things including new books from the book fair for all elementary school classrooms, a donation to the high school to be used towards a speaker, gifts for our custodians for custodians day (thank you for all you do), a donation towards the bounce houses at the elementary school and snacks for Spirit Fridays.

Save the date for the below events:

- 11/18 - November PFE meeting
- 2/15 - Father daughter dance
- 3/7 - Donuts with Mom
- 4/25 - Spring carnival
- TBD - Mother/Son kickball tournament
- TBD - Golf fundraiser
- TBD - Original works

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



The **Boys Cross Country Team** with members **Matthew Kelly, Merritt Olberding, Travis Skelton, Will Dennis, Seth Waters and Chris Post Whiteowl** - is District Champ and advancing to State. **Raeann Massey** and **Lauren Lammers** also qualified for the State Tourney to be held in Kearney. **Congrats to the Boys Team who placed 5th in the State!**

The **Fort Calhoun Softball Team** finished District play undefeated and was **District Champ** advancing on to State. **Congratulations to all the coaches and the girls for their hard work throughout the season. Go Pioneers!** Post season NCC Conference selections are **Kaylee Taylor-Captain, Tacey Belina** and **Anna Taylor First Team; Addie Benoit-Second Team** and **Izzy Greenough, Izzy Nolan** and **Allison Prunty** - Honorable Mention.

The **Fort Calhoun Football** team qualified to play in the State playoffs. Continuing their winning ways will keep them advancing! **GO PIONEERS**