



- 1/1 Happy New Year
- 1/1-6 Vacation Continues
- 1/6 Teacher Inservice
- 1/3-4 Holiday Tournament



Fort Calhoun Community Schools use an automated system to notify families of emergencies or weather-related closings. Make sure all your contact numbers, and e-mail addresses are correct by updating your Student Profile or calling your child's respective schools.

- at Howells Dodge
- 1/7 **School Resumes**
- 1/13 School Board Meeting
- 1/20 **NO SCHOOL- TEACHER INSERVICE**
- Martin Luther King Jr. Observance
- 1/16 Wrestling Parents' Night
- Post Prom Lasagne Dinner during Basketball Games
- 1/23 Local Fort Calhoun Spelling Bee
- 1/24 Junior High Dance
- 1/26 Hastings Honor Band & Choir
- Nebraska Middle School Choir
- 1/31 Wee Screen @ Elementary 8:30-12:00
- 1/31-2/1 UNO Honor Band & Choir
- 2/6-7 Wesleyan Honor Choir
- 2/7-8 UNL Band Festival
- 2/10 School Board Meeting
- 2/19 Parent Teacher Conferences-Both Schools
- 2/20 Parent Teacher Conferences- Elem Only
- 2/21 **No School**



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 which renews yearly each June 1st. If you have any questions contact Jamie Schleifer at 402-468-5591. **Our door accesses have changed. Stop by the high school office to switch your fob to a new one.**

OPTION ENROLLMENT 2025-26

The Option Enrollment application period for the 2025-26 school year is now open through March 15th. Forms are available on our website or at the school offices. The School Board sets class size and program parameters in February/March then applicants are taken on a first-come, first-serve basis. According to State law, all applicants must be notified one way or the other by April 1st.

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.

Visit our website at www.fortcalhounschoools.org



The Fort Dispatch

Volume 35 No 6

Fort Calhoun Community Schools

January 2025

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Expectations for 2025

It is hard to believe it is already January, second semester will get underway soon. As we experience all the items that life throws at us, we must continue to have high expectations in our education, activities, work and in life. What are our hopes and dreams moving forward, what does it mean to have high expectations?

Here is a top ten list of ideas that will help us have high expectations for ourselves in all that we do.

10. Leave behind the negativity – thoughts and people. No time for this.
9. Find solutions and resolutions. Put your work toward a positive outcome.
8. Be curious before critical. A question gets more response than a reaction.
7. Care more. Enough said.
6. How you view adversity and change will define how you grow.
5. Love and accountability are needed for growth.
4. Believe in your team. Empower your team.
3. You get what you allow.
2. It not the event or circumstance that matters, it's your state of mind.
1. Think BIG!

None of these are uniquely mine. This list comes from many experiences, classes, books read, and speakers witnessed. A reflection of my notes as we start a new year, a new semester, a new month, a new day. As we continue with second semester and move toward the end of another school year it is important to remember to be positive and have high expectations.

Jerry Green
Superintendent
Fort Calhoun Community Schools



Pioneers,

As we look forward to the new year, I want to express my excitement for the start of the second semester! Every day, we have opportunities to grow, learn, and support one another. I hope you all enjoyed a well-deserved holiday break filled with joy and rest. As we get rolling again this semester, I thought it would be a good time to share Jon Gordon's 10 Rules For The Ride of Your Life, from his book "The Energy Bus."

Mr. Schleifer
Assistant Principal/Athletic Director

10 RULES FOR THE RIDE OF YOUR LIFE

1. You're the Driver of the Bus.
2. Desire, Vision and Focus move your bus in the right direction.
3. Fuel your Ride with Positive Energy.
4. Invite People on Your Bus and Share your Vision for the Road Ahead.
5. Don't Waste Your Energy on those who don't get on your Bus.
6. Post a Sign that says "No Energy Vampires Allowed" on your Bus.
7. Enthusiasm attracts more Passengers and Energizes them during the Ride.
8. Love your Passengers.
9. Drive with Purpose.
10. Have Fun and Enjoy the Ride.



Happy New Year! We hope you had a safe and healthy Christmas Break, and that your holidays were filled with warm, happy and memorable moments with your children. Thank you for all of your holiday wishes and generous support before the break. Your kindness is truly appreciated by our staff.

I want to take a moment to highlight how important our school community is to me. We have dedicated parents, teachers, and staff, who show up each day in support of our students. As we embark on this new year, I am excited about the opportunities and growth that await us. Our collective efforts and commitment to nurturing a positive and inclusive environment make our school a special place. Let's continue to foster an atmosphere where our students feel valued, supported, and inspired to reach their full potential.



I eagerly anticipate our continued partnership in 2025, aiming to make it a year brimming with learning, joy, and accomplishments. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions you may have!

Warm regards,

~ Mrs. Horstman

Reminders:

- Morning breakfast ends at 8:00 am.
- If your child has alternate pick up plans after school, please contact the office so the message can be relayed to the classroom teacher.
- The new personal electronic devices policy will be in effect when students return to school for the remainder of the school year. Here is the policy as listed in the Elementary School Student/Parent Handbook: *Cell phones are not to be used at school at any time other than before school hours, after school hours, in cases of emergencies (which will be determined by the office), or as authorized by the principal or teacher to enhance the learning environment. The students will not be able to access their cell phones during normal school hours, which includes recess.* Cell phones are to be "OFF" and out of sight during school hours.
- Outdoor Recess: With the temperatures dropping outside, a reminder that per the elementary handbook, students will be going outside if the temperature is 15 degrees or higher. If you need assistance with finding cold weather gear

Upcoming Events

- January 6th - Last Day of Winter Break
- January 7th - 1st Day of the 3rd Quarter
- January 20th - No School
- February 6th - The Countywide Spelling Bee - 9 am @ the High School
- February 15th - Father/Daughter Dance
- February 19th & 20th - Parent Teacher Conferences
- March 7th - Donuts with Mom

Wee Screen



January 31, 2025
8:30-12:00

Fort Calhoun Elementary School

MR. NICK WEMHOFF
Principal

Welcome to 2025 and with it, the beginning of the second semester! I hope you all had a restful break and are ready to return to school. Starting the semester on a positive note is important as it sets the tone for success. Make this semester one of growth, achievement, and new opportunities.

Education is one of the most valuable tools we have in life. It opens doors to new possibilities, helps us discover our passions, and prepares us for the future. School is more than just assignments and tests; it's where we develop critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and relationships that shape who we are.

This semester, I appreciate your support in committing to maintaining a focused learning environment by limiting distractions, including phone use during school hours. While it may be challenging at first, this policy ensures students can fully engage in their education. Without the interruptions of social media and notifications, they'll have the space to focus on class discussions and collaborate with peers. This is all in our effort to create a more productive and enriching educational experience.

I am thrilled to begin this semester with all of you and look forward to the incredible growth and achievements we will see in the coming months. Let's all embrace the opportunities ahead with enthusiasm and determination. Here's to a fantastic start to the second semester!

The 2023-24 Nebraska Education Profile has been released. Fort Calhoun Schools received great rankings based on their performances. Both Fort Calhoun Elementary and Fort Calhoun Jr-Sr High School earned "Excellent" rankings which was above both the state average and the average of our peers (12 schools based on similar districts, schools and communities). These ratings measure proficiency in both Language Arts, and Math, as well as Science and the Juniors' ACT.



The Fort Calhoun Dance Team placed second in Pom at UNO.

Haley Conner, Connor Holmstedt, Riley Lingle, DeLloyd Robertson and Samantha Thomas were selected by audition for the Nebraska Wesleyan Honor Choir.

Samantha Thomas, Natalie Lammers, Connor Holmstedt, Haley Conner, Samantha Ladwig and DeLloyd Robertson received Superior Rating District Play recognition by the NSAA.

Nine of the 15 Junior High Girls Wrestlers ended their season with a winning record. They are Abbi McGill, Claire Husk, Cayden Raether, Dakota Celoha, Ella Dworak and Kaelyn Bryan. Abbi, Claire, Dakota, Kaelyn and Olive Hanford placed 1st in 2 competitions. The team ended the season with a winning record. The future is bright for these girls! Congrats.



Pioneer Families -

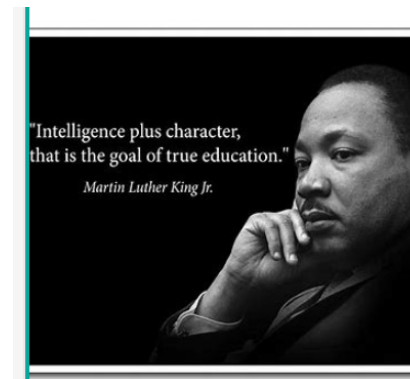
Happy New Year! The PFE finished the year strong and we were able to support multiple great causes including Christmas in Calhoun, board retirements, front row seats at the winter concerts and positive behavioral intervention and support (PBIS) for the elementary students. We will begin meeting and planning for the rest of the school year in January. See you in 2025!

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

Martin Luther King Jr. Observance
January 20, 2025



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. It is also published each year in the Parent/Student Handbooks.



Fort Calhoun Schools is currently accepting applications for a 5th Grade Teacher for the 2025-26 school year beginning August 2025 with inservice and new teacher orientation. Applications will be taken until the position is filled. Apply on fortcalhounschoools.org, About, Human Resources, Job Openings and follow the instructions for Applitrack. Subject to a veterans preference. EOE