



Fort Calhoun Community Schools use an automated system to notify families of emergencies or weather-related closings. Most of the schools' information is now sent by electronic means. It is imperative that all contact information for parents/guardians is up to date. Contact your child's school with any new or updated addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses or text information.

NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK MARCH 3-7



The first week of March celebrates the National School Breakfast Program and the many ways it gives kids a great start every day.



Volume 34 No 8

Fort Calhoun Community Schools

March 2025

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

GUNG HO!

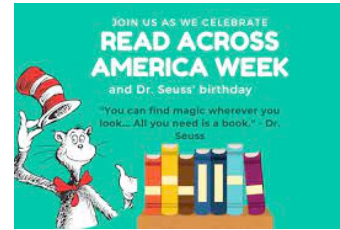
One of my favorite books is by Ken Blanchard and Sheldon Bowles called Gung Ho! It is an excellent book that talks about motivating and creating energy in every person in the workplace. The book is based on three principals observed in nature.

1. The Spirit of the Squirrel – Everyone's job is important; everyone's job has purpose related to the goal. If the squirrel doesn't gather food for the winter, they will die thus making all work critical to the success of the goal. Understanding your work is worthwhile gives people self-esteem.
2. The Way of the Beaver – This gives ownership to the workers on how to accomplish the goal. Leadership sets the rules on how the game should be played and who the players should be. The game is then left in the hand of the players to work together to accomplish the goal. Creating high obtainable expectations challenges your people to do their very best.
3. The Gift of the Goose – As a flock of geese fly over you hear honking; this is the geese cheering each other on. Complimenting each other and celebrating successes helps build enthusiasm in the workplace. True congratulations cannot be overdone. With everyone cheering everyone on you have created a workplace that will achieve great success.

I surely have not given these three principals justice but after reading the book it certainly has inspired a Gung Ho attitude in me. Remember all work is critical, build a strong team and let them execute the work and celebrate all success, small and large.

GUNG HO!!

Jerry Green
Superintendent
Fort Calhoun Community Schools



WELCOME TO FORT CALHOUN

Our community is growing and we want to be prepared for future needs.

Please help us with your household information by reporting any adults or children in your household. If you have not already notified us through the census (card below) or there has been a change in your household, 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 _____ Hrs/Wk _____ Chk/ty _____ Phone # _____

Other Adults Living at Same Address _____
 Date _____ For Office Use Only: _____ Census ID # _____

NAME OF CHILDREN: (3rd to 21 Years)	ID#	SEX	DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YY)	PLACE OF BIRTH (CITY/STATE)

OPTION ENROLLMENT 2025-26

The Option Enrollment application period for the 2025-26 school year is now open through March 15, 2025. Forms are available on our website or at the school offices. The School Board sets class size and program parameters 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.

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.

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.

Visit our website at www.fortcalhounschoools.org



Fort Calhoun Community Schools are currently accepting applications for 2025-26 for a Director of Technology. Apply through Applitrack on our website under, About, Job Openings, and follow the instructions. Applications will be taken until the positions are filled. Subject to a veterans preference. EOE

Mr. Schleifer
Asst Principal-Activities Director

Pioneers,

It's that great time of the year again, Spring sports season is right around the corner and in standard Nebraska fashion we have gone from -30 degree windchill to 68 degrees in a week! Hopefully, the warm weather is here to stay!

Activity Information & Dates:

- Boys Basketball: Our Boys basketball team ended the year in subdistricts losing to Westpoint-Beemer by 1 point.
- Girls Basketball: The Pioneers finished the year in the subdistrict championship falling to Malcolm. The girls hosted subdistricts for the first time in school history.
- Girls Wrestling: The girls wrestling team qualified 5 girls to the State Tournament: Annaleigh McLaughlin (5th), Madi Larrick (5th), and Beckah Gossman (3rd). The other qualifiers were Ali Dill and Anna Rae Hartline. The team finished 9th at state, great job girls!
- Boys Wrestling: Our boys wrestlers qualified 7 wrestlers for the State Tournament: Lucas DeMilt, Merritt Olberding, Presley Olberding, Levi Lasher, Ray Caruso, Alex Schuler, TJ DeMilt. Merritt medaled for 6th place.
- Dance/Cheer: Our Dance team competed in Orlando at Nationals again this year and at State in Grand Island! The Cheer team also competed at State in Grand-Island and finished 5th place their category. They were also winners of the Team GPA award again this year. Great job!

- **Spring Sports:**
 - o Practice starts on March 3rd for high school baseball, golf, and track.
 - o Practice starts on March 24th or junior high track.
 - o Spring Sports Pictures: Thursday, March 6th after school

Fort Calhoun Community Weight Room Information:

- A family fob can be purchased in the high school main office for \$50
- It is for immediate household family members only
- Guests are not allowed- family only
- To purchase a fob, you must be 18 years +, and be a high school graduate
- No students should be in the weight room at any time without supervision
- Open Monday-Friday 6:00pm-10pm & 8:00am-10:00pm on weekends

Thank you,
Jamie Schleifer
Assistant Principal/AD



The Vocal Music Department will unlock the imaginations of Fort Calhoun citizens when they bring the Cat in the Hat, Horton the Elephant, Gertrude McFuzz, Mayzie La Bird, the Whos in Whoville, and other Seuss favorites to life with their production of *Seussical JR.* *Seussical JR.* combines Dr. Seuss' tales (...and tails!) using the plinker-plunker of many musical styles – ranging from Latin to pop, swing to gospel, and R&B to funk – as colorful as the classic books. Horton will hear a Who and cheerful chaos will ensue on Saturday, April 12th at 7 pm and Sunday, April 13th at 3 pm at the high school gym. Tickets can be purchased for \$6 at the door or from any musical cast or crew member. Children 5 and under will be admitted for free.

Seussical JR. is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theatre International 423 West 55th Street, New York, NY 10019 (212) 541-4684.

THE PIONEER POST

Fort Calhoun Elementary March Newsletter

Hello to our Pioneer Families!

It has been truly delightful to step outside for pick-up duty this week without needing a coat. I am sure the teachers and staff would agree that allowing the students to enjoy recess outdoors has been a tremendous relief during this time.

It is hard to believe that we have already surpassed our second round of parent-teacher conferences. The progress and growth observed in our students have been remarkable, and conferences gave our students another glimpse of their success. Our elementary team is looking forward to the next twelve weeks of the school year as they will be lled with new learning opportunities mixed with a few extra fun activities for our students.

Here's to many more sunny days!
~ Mrs. Horstman

READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK

We are excited for our students to celebrate Read Across America from March 10th - 12th! The following dress up days have been planned:

- Monday, March 10th - Snuggle Up with a Good Book - Put on your favorite pair of pajamas!
- Tuesday, March 11th - Top Hat Tuesday - Wear a hat to school!
- Wednesday, March 12th - Reading Gives You a Bright Future - Dress in neon colors from head to toe!

Each Fort Calhoun Elementary student (PK-6th) was able to select 3 books through the Reading is Fundamental book program (RIF). Join us on March 10th from 5-7 PM for a **Literally Awesome Book Event**. Each family has been assigned a time slot based upon your last name to attend or may pick up their books the next day at school.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Morning 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 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. It is also helpful when you send an additional message through SeeSaw to the student's teacher.
- Parents, the bus lane needs to remain open for the buses. Please refrain from parking in the bus lane until after the buses have left school property.
- Please remind your child to utilize the side of the vehicle that is closest to the school sidewalk when entering or exiting a vehicle.

§ **Kindergarten Round Up** will now be held on Friday, April 25th and Friday, May 2nd at Fort Calhoun Elementary School. Kindergarten students will not be in session on these two days. There will be more information sent home in the next few weeks to preschool families.

March 7th - Donuts with Mom
March 10th - 12th - Read Across America Week
March 10th - PBIS 3rd Quarter Celebration
March 10th - Literally Awesome Book Event (5:00 - 7:00 pm)

April 17th - Spring Music Concert
April 25th - Kindergarten Round Up (more information to come)
May 2nd - Kindergarten Round Up (more information to come)



Preschool registration will take place from February 1-March 1, 2025. More information is available on our website.

The next Parent Advisory Committee will be April 9, 2025 3:15PM - Preschool Room at the Elementary.

MR. NICK WEMHOFF
Jr-Sr Principal

The Fort Calhoun Prom for Juniors and Seniors will be hosted on Saturday, March 22nd in the Skutt Center at Creighton University. The doors will open at 6:30 pm. The coronation of the Prom Royalty will take place at 7:15 pm. The dance is officially over at 10:00 pm. I want to take a minute to thank all those who assist in making prom a great experience for our students, in particular, Mrs. Johnson and Ms. Wellman. As the Junior Class Sponsors, they are critical in ensuring prom is a success.

Post Prom this year will begin at the High School and then transition to SpareTime in Omaha. There are a lot of activities our students can participate in while attending post-prom this year. The post prom is driven by a committee of parents who work very hard at organizing fundraising events, coordinating activities, decorating, purchasing gifts, and so much more. Countless other people volunteer, bring food, make food, and hang out with our students while staying up all night. Thank you to all parents who will assist with post prom this year. One more thank you to all patrons and businesses within our community and around our community who donated money, goods, or services.

Prom and Post Prom are great events for our students and wouldn't be possible without so many people's help and hard work. Thank you to all who are a part of the process!

Please mark your calendar! April 2, 2025, will be the ACT / Pre-ACT day for our Juniors and Sophomores. Information will be sent home with details regarding that day. It is important that all Juniors are here for the ACT test on that day!

"You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you."
- John Bunyan

PFE News

Pioneer Families -

The Father Daughter Dance was a huge success! We had about 250 guests dance the night away in Candy Land where they enjoyed music with a DJ, popcorn, hot chocolate and cotton candy! Thank you to everyone who attended and made this event special for these young ladies! We are finalizing details on the mother son event that we will share soon. We are excited for a great semester with many fun events to finish the school year. See below for upcoming events.



- 3/7 - Donuts with Mom
- 3/24 - March PFE meeting
- 4/25 - Spring carnival
- TBD - Mother/Son event
- In progress - Original works

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



- 3/1 End of Preschool Registration
- 3/2 Spring Sports High School Parents' Meeting
- 3/4 Senior High Winter Band Concert
- 3/6 Jr-Sr High Choir Concert
- 3/9 Daylight Savings Starts
- 3/10 Conference Honor Band @ Fort Calhoun School Board Meeting
- 3/12 End of Third Quarter
- 3/13-14 Spring Break- No School
- 3/15 Option Application Period Ends
- 3/17 Erin Go Bragh 🍀
- 3/18 Junior High Science Fair
- 3/22-23 Prom/Post Prom
- 4/2-3 Band Variety Show
- 4/4 No School - Teacher Inservice
- 4/10-12 Skills USA State Conference
- 4/12-13 Senior High Musical
- 4/14 School Board Meeting



Both the Boys and Girls Wrestling Teams were very successful in their District tournaments. The girls have five who earned berths to State---**Beckah Gossman, Madi Larrick, Anna Rae Hartline, Ali Dill and Annaleigh McLaughlin.** The boys have 7 who earned berths to State---**Merritt Olberding, Presley Olberding Ray Caruso, Alex Schuler, Levi Lasher, TJ DeMilt and Lucas DeMilt.** Alex was District Champ and the boys placed 4th overall.

At State **Beckah** earned a 3rd Place State Medal and **Annaleigh** and **Madi** both earned 5th Place Medals! **The Girls' team placed 9th overall at State!** **Merritt** earned a 6th Place medal. Congratulations to all these athletes and their team members for seeing all their hard work pay off.

Lilly Gossman was named to the Nebraska Scholastic Wrestling Coaches Association Hall of Fame this past month. In addition to being the Girls Wrestling Coach at the Fort, she also was the first Nebraska high school girl to qualify and compete during a Boys State Wrestling tournament .

Fort Calhoun Community Schools
2025-26 CALENDAR
Adopted 2-10-2025

August, 2025							September, 2025							October, 2025							November, 2025							December, 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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31																																		

January, 2026							February, 2026							March, 2026							April, 2026							May, 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31								29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			31						

Aug 11-13 Pre-school In-service
 Aug 14 School begins - E - 11:15; H.S. 11:30
 Sept 1 No School - Labor Day
 Sept 29 No School
 Oct 17 End 1st Quarter - 45 days
 Oct 22 Parent Teacher Conferences -- Early Out
 Oct 23 Parent Teacher Conferences -- Early Out
 Oct 24 No School - Fall Break -Comp Day
 Nov 7 Teacher In-service - No School
 Nov 26 Early out
 Nov 27-28 No School - Thanksgiving
 Dec 19 End 2nd Quarter - 41 days - Early Out
 Dec 19 End of 1st Semester - 86 days
 Dec 22-Jan 5 No School - Christmas Break
 Dec 24-28 NSAA Moratorium
 Jan 5 Teacher In-service - No School
 Jan 6 School Resumes
 Jan 19 Teacher In-service - No School
 Feb 18 K-12 Parent-Teacher Conferences Early Out
 Feb 19 Elementary Only Parent-Teacher Conferences
 Feb 19 Early Out Both Buildings
 Feb 20 Comp Day - No School
 March 11 End 3rd Quarter - 45 days
 March 12-13 No School - Spring Break
 Apr 3-6 No School Easter Break
 May 1 Teacher In-service - No School
 May 9 Commencement 2:00pm
 May 21 End of 4th Quarter - 46 days
 May 21 End 2nd Semester 91 days
 May 22 Dismissal E - 11:15; H.S. 11:30
 May 22 Teacher In-service
 May 25 Memorial Day

Emergency Days: May 26, 27, 28, 29

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