

Callaway Public School

2026-2027

Open House: Come help us celebrate back to school Wednesday, August 19, 2026 from 5:30-7:00pm. Incoming seventh graders will have orientation from 5:00-5:30pm in the Learning Center. Please have a parent attend with the student at orientation. Meet your teachers and bring supplies. Supper will be provided. Come check out what's new at school! Back to school packets will be available for pick up.

Welcome Back: The first day of school for Pre-K-12 students will be on Thursday, August 20, 2026. School will start at 8:00am and end at 3:39pm for K-12 grades. Breakfast and lunch will be served. Buses will run their regular routes. Regular school hours for K-12 will be 8:00am to 3:39pm, Monday through Thursday. Friday dismissals will be at 2:40pm. Preschool age 3 will be from 8:00am to 11:00am Monday through Thursday and Preschool age 4 will be from 12:15pm to 3:39pm Monday through Thursday with a 2:40 dismissal on Fridays.

Students are expected to arrive at school no more than 15-20 minutes prior to the first class or school program in which they are participating. Prior to that time, the school is not responsible for supervision of the students.

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION FORMS: If your child must take over the counter and/or prescription medication while at school, please fill out a "Caretaker Authorization for Administration Over the Counter Medication of Student" and return to the school office along with the original manufactured bottle with labeling. Each bottle should contain no more than 50 tablets/capsules. Each child needs their own bottle. If your child must take a prescription medication at school, please obtain a form entitled "Provision of Medication to Student Physician's Request for Administration of Prescription Medication by School Personnel." This form must be signed by your medical provider and returned to the school office with the pharmacy labeled medication. Forms are available at the Callaway Public School office.

If your child is able to self manage their own health conditions such as Diabetes, Asthma, Anaphylaxis, etc., please contact the school office for the appropriate forms that need to be kept on file.

SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION RULES AND REGULATIONS: If your child receives immunizations throughout the year, please make sure to report the date of the immunization to the office to be kept in your child's records.

STUDENT ABSENCES: If your **child can not** come to school for any reason, please make sure to **contact the school office at 308-836-2272 before 8:00 a.m.** If the school office is not contacted, then your child will be considered **UNEXCUSED**. An absence which is not excused is unexcused. If a student's absence is **UNEXCUSED** the student may receive **ZEROS** for any class work missed during the absence, and may be required to make-up work and the time missed.

School Lunch Program: Breakfast and lunch will be served on the first day of school for students in grades K-12. Each Student/Staff will have a 4 digit lunch code that they will need to know in order to go through the lunch line.

Lunch prices for the 2026-2027 school year will be K-6 \$3.00, 7-12 \$3.15, and Adults \$4.30. Breakfast price \$2.55. An extra carton of milk will be \$.55. Seconds will cost an additional \$.80. An extra juice will be \$.40. Parents with Pre-school, Kindergarten and First grade students will be charged an additional \$10.00 per month for snacks.

All meals should be prepaid... charges will not be accepted. Payment for lunches must be made in advance.

FEDERAL LUNCH APPLICATION: Everyone is strongly encouraged to fill out an application. If you did not receive an application or have questions filling out the application, please call the school at 836-2272. Families may apply any time during the school year. As required by law, all information is completely confidential.

Charge Policy for Callaway Public Schools: Callaway Public Schools is a provider of the USDA's School meal program. Parents are expected to keep their students' lunch account balance up to date. Notifications will be sent home when lunch balances reach \$10.00 or below. Once a student has a negative balance notifications will be sent daily until the balance is brought back to positive balance.

Households can apply for **Free and Reduced Meal** benefits at anytime throughout the year. Applications are available at the school.

For lunch balances over \$500.00 parents will be notified that they need to make payment arrangements with the school. If payment arrangements are not made and followed through on the negative accounts will result in legal action.

The School Food Authority or the Administration will make exceptions to this policy on a case by case basis.

Charges to a family's account include; breakfast, lunch, snacks(prek-1st) and seconds. **Please note that seconds and snacks do not fall under the Free and Reduced lunch guidelines.**

The Callaway School Administration reserves the right to pursue legal action to collect on overdue accounts. Past due accounts may be modified at the discretion of administration.

This will be the policy for grades Pre-K -12.

Student Handbook: Both parents and all students in the family who are in school, should sign the form included with the handbook. High School students will be required to return all completed paperwork before being allowed to take their chromebook home. Paperwork will be handed out on the first day of school to the youngest child in your family. All paperwork must be received by Tuesday, August 25th.

School Insurance: Students will also be receiving an insurance flyer the first day of school explaining the 24-hour, school-time, dental, life, and football coverage. If you would like to be covered under this policy, please follow the link on the flyer.

Picture Day: Picture Day will be held on August 25, 2026.

Chromebook Loan Agreement and User's Fee: The computer loan agreement will be part of the packet of forms and information that you receive from the school. Parents are to read and sign the agreement if you wish to have your student or students have the use of a computer in and out of school. This would be a great time to talk to your student about your expectations while they are online. Students will read and go over their part of the agreement with Mrs. Gaffney the first day of school; they will also sign the agreement if they would like to use the school's computer during the school year. There is a \$25 user fee for all computers and chromebooks that are issued to students. This fee will cover the use of a computer for one school year.

Callaway Public Schools has purchased software which will allow the Chromebooks to be filtered and monitored 24 hours a day. Classroom teachers will also be able to monitor the use of Chromebooks in their classrooms.

Bus Notes: Students not on regular routes who will be riding the bus, students transported to another stop, or town students wishing to use the school transportation must turn in a written note, from their parent or guardian, to the office to be approved prior to the time transportation is needed. Students, who do not have a note, will not be able to ride. This is in compliance with state law and school policy.

Locked Doors: For the safety of the students, the School Board decided to leave all doors locked during the school day. After 8:00am all doors will be locked and you must use the front doors. You will need to be buzzed into the school. Please ring the buzzer and wait for the office to let you in. All visitors are required to check in at the office.

Asbestos in the School: This notice is being written to inform you that our school district does have a limited amount of asbestos in our facility. All the areas with asbestos are covered and in good shape. The building will be inspected on a regular basis to ensure no asbestos exposure. A management plan to contain or remove the asbestos has been developed and sent to the Nebraska Department of Health. If you should have more questions concerning the asbestos plan, please feel free to discuss your concerns with the Superintendent. The asbestos management plan is located in the central office.

Lost and Found: Throughout the year we get an accumulation of clothes, shoes, coats, jewelry, house keys, etc. If your child has lost or misplaced anything, please check at the main office or at the athletic office. Parents, it would also help if you put your child's name on clothing, especially coats, as we end up with an assortment at the end of the year. Any item not claimed at the end of the year, will be taken to Goodwill.

2026-2027 School Physicals: Students entering Kindergarten, 7th, and 9th grades or new to the school district are required to have a school physical prior to the beginning of the school year. All 7th through 12th graders who plan on participating in any extra curricular activities, weights, or PE classes must have a school physical completed before participating.

Superintendent's Corner:

Let me start this month's superintendent corner with a great big welcome back for our kids, parents, and community members for the 2026-27 school year. The beginning of every school year is exciting. The floors are polished, the new paint has

dried, and the classrooms are coming together. We have done a lot of work in the building this summer and I think the kids are going to love the changes.

I am going to try and tackle two themes in this month's article. The first theme is "embrace the new." I am so excited this year to welcome new teachers and students. It wasn't that long ago that Christi, Caleb, and I were welcomed into the community of Callaway. I hope that our new staff members get the same warm welcome to our community that we received. It is really easy for me to brag about our staff, school, and community to newcomers. So part of "embracing the new" is to make the extra effort to welcome all the new faces, but there is so much more to the idea. We have also made some internal changes that I am really excited about. Mrs. Cathy Leibhart is teaching 7-12 ELA this year. What a great challenge, and it is really fun to see her jumping into the new role; asking questions, learning new curriculum, and changing rooms. Ms. Kailey Bonde is moving from a para position to the head cook in the kitchen. Learning all the rules in the state nutrition system is also very challenging, but Kailey has really committed to her new role and is looking forward to the noise of an active lunch room.

Along with the old faces in new places we have changed rooms around to better utilize our educational space. Mrs. Maddie Dockweiler now has her own speech room in the elementary. Mrs. Suzi Campbell's art room has moved to the high school side of the building and it feels like a totally new space. This change precipitated moves for our business classroom, 6th grade classroom, and the counselor's classroom. So Mrs. Brianna Gaffney, Mrs. Jadyne Weber, and Mrs. Denise Sughayar are all exploring new spaces and redesigning their classrooms.

The success of all of these changes hinges on "embracing the new." With a positive attitude and an adventurous spirit these changes will really enhance our students' experiences. It is easy in life to find comfort in the steady unchanging traditions, but growth doesn't happen without change and friction. One of the biggest keys to any great educator is to be a life-long learner; a person who is always in search of a new way to skin an old cat. So here is to hoping that we can all "embrace the new" the way many of our staff have demonstrated as we prepare for the new year.

On to the next theme...

In previous years I have adopted a motto for the year. A phrase that keeps me pointed in the right direction and helps me to remember how blessed I am to work in a school system for our kids. I was at a TeamMates conference this summer listening to a lady who was a school counselor in an alternative school in the Omaha public school system. So she had the opportunity to work with kids who the regular schools had expelled for various reasons. Many of her students had criminal records and volatile homelives. In her talk she expressed how important it was as a mentor to meet kids where they are and to help them see who they could be. She said it doesn't matter if you are working with inner city troubled teens or small town kids with stable homes, if

you are mentoring a child you are a “hope dealer.” The term “hope dealer” really stuck with me. I am going to challenge our staff this year to frame their job as being a “hope dealer” to all of our kids. If Callaway Public Schools is performing at its best our kids will feel like they are lucky to be our students, because we are giving them a chance to become...That because they are our students they get to try and fail, and then try again. That Callaway is helping them to be resilient. In the YouTube video “Shift Happens 2025” it lists all of the top emerging jobs in today’s economy and for the most part none of those jobs existed 10 years ago. Things like drone pilot and crypto counselor would have never been a thought to a 15 year old kid 10 years ago. With this in mind it makes school’s purpose much harder to define. I think it makes flexible thinking, resilience, and courage to fail very powerful qualities, but the most powerful is an inborn, infinite supply of **HOPE!** If we can fully embrace our true role as “Hope Dealers,” we will be giving all of our students their best chance at future success.

Welcome to the 2026-27 school year Callaway thank you for all of your support and investment in our students.



BOOSTER CLUB



CALLAWAY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Callaway Booster Club is a nonprofit organization, consisting of parents, grandparents, alumni, community members, businesses, and school personnel. The Booster Club has been supporting our students for over 25 years.

Our Booster Club Supports all aspect of our Callaway students through raising funds and coordinating events.

The Booster Club is dedicated to fundraising, to support all Callaway Students Pre-K through 12th grade. We need your support, so the Booster Club can continue to make financial contributions to our Callaway Students. Please join today!! Your membership is valid for the 2026-2027 school year.

Please fill out the following and return with money!! Thanks for your support!!
Callaway Booster Club, PO Box 281, Callaway, NE 68825

- *FIELD TRIPS
- *BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT
- *TEACHER APPRECIATION
- *YOUTH BASKETBALL, WRESTLING & VOLLEYBALL
- *TRUNK OR TREAT
- *HOMECOMING FOOD
- *FUND GRADUATION DECORATIONS
- *ICE CREAM MACHINE AT SCHOOL
- *ONE ACT STAGE
- *WEIGHT ROOM
- EQUIPMENT & PROTEIN SNACKS
- *STUDENT SNACKS FOR DISTRICT & STATE EVENTS
- *SPONSORED KIDS ON WASHINGTON DC & FCCLA NATIONAL TRIPS
- *SPONSORED AUTHOR VISIT AT SCHOOL
- *BAND ROOM INSTRUMENTS
- *Comfort dog Laney, in the 2024/2025 school year as a student support initiative
- *2025 Elementary Inflatable Day, celebrating improved test scores

Membership Levels

\$15-49- Bronze Booster Member

\$50-99- Silver Booster Member

\$100-up- Gold Booster Member

NAME: _____

BUSINESS NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/ZIP _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL _____

Board members are:

President: Rhonda Pandorf, 308.325.4493

Vice President: MaKayla Doggett, 308.636.8595

Secretary: Roni Boeser, 308.636.8947

Treasurer: Erin Reiff, 308.289.3060

School Representative: Jenn Hickenbottom

26-27 SUPPLY LIST

PRE-SCHOOL

- Backpack
- Extra set of clothes to stay in backpack
- 8 pack of crayons
- 4 glue sticks

KINDERGARTEN

- Book bag
- Pencil box
- Water bottle
- Box of 24 crayons
- Headphones no ear buds
- Gym shoes

FIRST GRADE

- Backpack
- 4x6 plastic pencil box
- 1 box of 12 colored pencils
- 1 box of 24 crayons
- 1 pk of yellow #2 pencils
- 1 pair of child scissors
- 2 pink erasers
- 6 glue sticks
- 1 - 4 pack of fine point black dry erase markers
- Headphones (no ear buds)
- Extra pair of clothes (socks also) in a labeled Ziploc bag
- Gym shoes
- Water bottle

SECOND GRADE

- Only Yellow #2 Pencils (6 or more)
- 1 package of pencil top erasers
- 1 pencil box
- 1" - 3 ring binder with clear outside cover
- Box of colored pencils
- 1 package of Crayola markers
- 2 Composition notebook - wide ruled
- 6 small glue sticks
- Headphones no ear buds
- Gym shoes
- 1 package dry erase markers (chisel tip)
- 4 pocket folders
- 1 zipper pouch

THIRD GRADE

- 12- Yellow # 2 pencils
- 4 glue sticks
- 4x6 pencil box
- 3 composition notebooks (wide ruled)
- 1 box colored pencils
- 1 - 1" 3 ring view binder with pockets
- 1 wide-ruled spiral bound notebook
- 1 box of markers
- 5 plastic folders with pockets
- 1 package of pencil top erasers
- 4 fine tip dry erase markers
- Headphones, no earbuds
- Gym shoes

FOURTH GRADE

- 10 Pencils (not mechanical)
- 1 eraser
- 1 green pocket folder
- Pencil bag or box
- Glue stick
- 1 red pen
- Headphones/ear buds
- 2 spiral 70 count notebooks
- 1 pk colored pencil
- 1 thin black expo marker
- 1 highlighter
- White clear view 3 ring binder 1 inch
- Gym shoes

FIFTH GRADE

- 5 Pencils
- 1 red or blue pen
- Eraser
- Scissors
- Colored pencils
- Ruler
- 2 pocket folder
- Pencil bag
- 1 notebook
- Headphones
- Gym shoes
- 2 highlighters
- 1 pkg of dry erase markers thin tip

SIXTH GRADE

- 1 package of Pencils
- 12 count Colored pencils
- 2 big erasers
- 2 highlighters - different colors
- Pencil box/bag
- 2 college-ruled spiral notebooks
- 3 pocket folders
- Scientific calculator TI-30XIIS
- Wired Headphones

APPRECIATED DONATIONS

- Kleenex
- Clorox wipes

MISS POPP

- 2 yards of cotton fabric

MRS. ELLIS

- 1 - 3 ring binder with loose paper
- TI-30XIIS calculator

MRS. LEIBHART - 7-12 ENGLISH

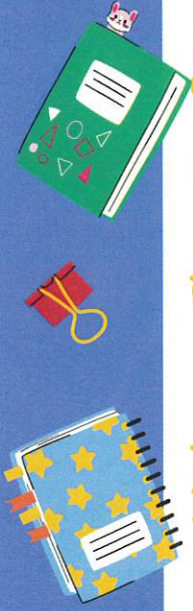
- loose leaf paper
- highlighter

MRS. SUGHAYAR

- 1 accordion style binder (seniors)
- 1 box of resume paper (seniors)
- 1 box of plastic report covers (seniors)
- 1 binder with loose leaf paper

AUGUST

2026



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 TORNADOS HAMBURGERS	21 GREEN EGGS & HAM SPAGHETTI	22
23	24 BISCUITS & GRAVY TACOS	25 LONG JOHNS CHICKEN ALFREDO	26 BREAKFAST SANDWICH TATOR-TOT CASSEROLE	27 SAUSAGE & TRI-TATOR MINI CORN DOGS	28 PANCAKE ON A STICK CHICKEN NUGGETS	29
30	31 CINI MINNI POPCORN CHICKEN BOWL					



Breakfast includes: milk, juice, or fruit and main breakfast item. Breakfast will not be served on 10:00am starts.

Lunch includes: veggies/fruit bar and milk.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Breakfast: \$2.55
Prek-6th - \$3.00
7-12th - \$3.15
Adults - \$4.30
Extra Milk - \$.55
Seconds - \$.90
Extra Juice - \$.40



PLANNING DAYS FOR CONSIDERATION 26-27

SUPPORT YOUR STUDENT'S SUCCESS BY REDUCING ABSENCES! PLAN
AHEAD FOR VACATIONS OR APPOINTMENTS DURING SCHOOL BREAKS.

LABOR DAY

3 DAY OPPORTUNITY
9/5/2026 – 09/07/2026

PTC BREAK

3 DAY OPPORTUNITY
9/25/2026 – 09/27/2026

FALL BREAK

3 DAY OPPORTUNITY
10/23/2026 – 10/25/2026

THANKSGIVING BREAK

5 DAY OPPORTUNITY
11/25/2026 – 11/29/2026

CHRISTMAS BREAK

13 DAY OPPORTUNITY
12/23/2026 – 1/3/2027

PTC BREAK

3 DAY OPPORTUNITY
2/12/2027 – 2/14/2027

SPRING BREAK

4 DAY OPPORTUNITY
3/11/2027 – 3/14/2027

EASTER BREAK

4 DAY OPPORTUNITY
3/26/2027 – 3/29/2027

NSAA MORATORIUM

WEDNESDAY 12/23/26 –
SUNDAY 12/27/26

MANDATORY 5-DAY HOLIDAY BLOCK DURING
CHRISTMAS

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!
PLANNING FAMILY TRIPS DURING SCHOOL
BREAKS HELPS STUDENTS STAY ENGAGED
IN LEARNING.

CALENDAR

VIEW THE FULL 2026-2027 SCHOOL
CALENDAR ANYTIME AT
CALLAWAYPUBLICSCHOOLS.ORG

August/September 2026 Calendar

***Subject to change**

6	Aug, Thu	8am	Teacher In-Service
13	Aug, Thu	4pm	Sports Pictures
17	Aug, Mon	8am	Teacher In-Service
18	Aug, Tue	8am	Teacher In-Service
19	Aug, Wed	5:30pm	Open House
		8am	Teacher In-Service
20	Aug, Thu	8am	First Day of School
		6pm	Volleyball @ Callaway vs Burwell
21	Aug, Fri	All day	FFA Kickoff
24	Aug, Mon	12:30pm	FFA Officer Meeting
25	Aug, Tue	8:00am	Picture Day
26	Aug, Wed	12:30pm	FFA Chapter Meeting
27	Aug, Thu	10am	Cross Country @ Burwell
		6pm	Volleyball @ Ainsworth
28	Aug, Fri	7pm	Football @ North Platte St. Pat's
31	Aug, Mon	5pm	JV Football @ Mullen
1	Sep, Tue	12:30pm	FCCLA Officer Meeting
		5pm	Volleyball @ Merna vs AM/Mullen
3	Sep, Thu	9am	Cross Country @ Cozad
		9am	JH Cross Country @ Cozad
		12:30pm	FCCLA Chapter Meeting
		4:30pm	Volleyball @ Arnold vs Sandhills Valley
		7pm	Football @ Arnold vs Sandhills Valley
7	Sep, Mon	All day	No School
10	Sep, Thu	6pm	Volleyball @ Arnold vs Gothenburg
11	Sep, Fri	7pm	Football @ Eustis
12	Sep, Sat	9am	Cross Country @ Broken Bow
		9am	JH Cross Country @ Broken Bow
		9:30am	Valley's Volleyball Invite @ Callaway

14	Sep, Mon	2:30pm	JH Volleyball @ Arnold vs Anselmo-Merna
		4:30pm	JH Football @ Arnold vs Anselmo-Merna
		4:30pm	JV Volleyball @ Arnold vs Anselmo-Merna
		6pm	JV Football @ Arnold vs Anselmo-Merna
15	Sep, Tue	5pm	Volleyball @ Brady vs Brady/Bertrand
16	Sep, Wed	All day	FFA Husker Harvest day
17	Sep, Thu	4pm	Cross Country @ Ravenna
18	Sep, Fri	3pm	Football @ Hemmingford
21	Sep, Mon	All day	FFA Farm Safety Week (Day 1/5)
		4:30pm	JH Football @ Ravenna
		6pm	JV Football @ Ravenna
22	Sep, Tue	All day	FFA Farm Safety Week (Day 2/5)
		5pm	Volleyball @ Elm Creek vs AM/Elm Creek
23	Sep, Wed	All day	FFA Farm Safety Week (Day 3/5)
24	Sep, Thu	All day	FFA Farm Safety Week (Day 4/5)
		12:30pm	Dismissal
		1 – 6:30pm	Parent Teacher Conferences
		7pm	Football @ Callaway vs Franklin
25	Sep, Fri	All day	No School
		8 – 11am	Teacher In-Service
26	Sep, Sat	10am	Volleyball Tournament @ Sutherland
28	Sep, Mon	12pm	Cross Country @ UNK
		12:30pm	FFA Officer Meeting
		2:30pm	JH Volleyball @ Callaway vs Twin Loup
		4:30pm	JH Football @ Callaway vs Twin Loup
		4:30pm	JV Volleyball @ Callaway vs Twin Loup
		6pm	JV Football @ Callaway vs Twin Loup
29	Sep, Tue	6pm	Volleyball @ Ansley
30	Sep, Wed	12:30pm	FFA Chapter Meeting

Boxholder
The Bobcat
Callaway Public Schools
P.O. Box 280
101 N Needham
Callaway, NE 68825
Phone: 308-836-2273
Fax: 308-836-2771
Website: callawaypublicschools.org



First Day of School August 20, 2026

