

Ponca Public Schools

www.poncaschool.org

August Newsletter 2008



From the Desk of the William F. Thompson, Superintendent

Welcome to the start of the 2008-09 school year! The Ponca Public School District is truly a community school system unique among school districts in Nebraska and in the Midwest. Residents of this community - from Jackson, Martinsburg, Ponca and Waterbury - have shown an ability to work together to provide district children with the most effective educational opportunities possible. But, that which worked so well in the past may not be good enough for the future. We must continually assess and improve our system to best prepare the children of our district for the challenges of the “world” they will, all too soon, face.

As we begin this new school year, the District has developed new programs to better serve the educational needs of all children.

Early Childhood/Pre-School Program – With the new school year brings a new and exciting development in early childhood education for the Ponca Public School District. In the previous years, early childhood services in this area have been limited and separated throughout the district. With the 2008-09 school year, the District is moving forward meeting the needs of the community to include an Early Childhood Education program. This will allow school district to expand services to include a new Preschool program that is better able to serve children in this age group.

The Preschool is a full day program serving children four (4) years of age. There will be two Preschool classes that alternate Friday’s (M,W,F class and Tu,Th,F class). Parents are able to use the bus system for convenience of transportation to and from Preschool if they desire. The Preschool program will be located in Jackson Elementary providing Preschoolers with familiarity with the building and staff, thus a smooth transition into Kindergarten. Creative Curriculum will be utilized; a state recognized curriculum based on active learning. Preschoolers will enjoy music, P.E., library and all the exciting “extras” that can be provided by being a part of the school system. Tuition is \$22.00 per day with a discount of 20% if free or reduced lunch applies.

Through the preparation of the new Preschool program, it is motivating to see both the school and the community working together. Dedicated to the Preschool’s mission, the school has gone forward with the preschool without grant funding for this first year. The community has also shown their support through the Better Ponca Foundation equipment grants, snack donations, and various business providing student monthly scholarships.

This year is full of opportunity! It will be exciting to watch a new program grow and develop for the children in our community.

Life Skills Program – A new Life Skills program will be introduced with the 2008-09 school year for secondary students at Ponca High School. The focus for this program will be on teaching and developing independent living skills for special needs students. In addition to their academic classroom curriculum, students will have the opportunity to practice independent living skills using new kitchen and laundry appliances in the newly remodeled Life Skills classroom. Students will be practicing safety, social and work skills along with their academic subjects of math, science, social studies, and technology. Parents of students in the Life Skills program are greatly encouraged to stop by and meet with Mrs Mary Kock, classroom teacher.

Information from Superintendent's Office continued....

District Grading Patterns – During the 2006-07 school year, the District organized an advisory council, comprised of parents, teachers, Board members, and administration to review the grading pattern for the District elementary centers in Ponca and Jackson. From the very out-set, the goal of this committee was to create a better school system to meet the needs of District students. Methods to achieve this goal were identified as an ability to provide for a more consistent curriculum presentation; to provide for a more consistent instruction for students; and to utilize district facilities more efficiently and effectively. Recommendations from this community council resulted in all 5th and 6th grade students attending school together in Ponca last year. Continuing with recommendations from the council, grading patterns at the District's two elementary centers will take on a whole new look starting with school in August.

Jackson Elementary will serve the District's kindergarten through second grade students, in addition to the Early Childhood/Pre-School class. Grades 3,4,5 and 6 will attend school in Ponca.

Elementary Parent Night – Parent Night for elementary students at Jackson Elementary and Ponca Elementary will be on **Thursday, August 14th**. The schedule for **Jackson Elementary is from 6:00 to 7:30**, while **Ponca Elementary is 7:00 to 8:30**. This evening will give parents and children the opportunity to meet and greet classroom teachers prior to the start of the school year. Teachers will have the chance to get to know parents informally with less concern about academic concerns. Students will be able to find their rooms, desks, and lockers. Students are greatly encouraged to bring their school supplies with them on this night to be placed in their desk and locker. This will eliminate a lot of confusion on the first day of school and greatly reduce the chance of losing any supplies while on the bus, or before school. -- Pre-school and kindergarten parents will receive a letter from your teacher notifying you of a scheduled time for your visit. Teachers want to take 10-15 minutes to specifically meet you and your child to explain some of the procedures and expectations for your child's first year in school. Letters will be arriving shortly. Hope to see all of you at Parents Night.

Hot Lunch Prices/Free & Reduced Priced Lunch Applications - The Ponca Board of Education has taken action to increase the prices charged to students and adults who take advantage of the District's hot lunch program. You will note the increase from last school year for the 2008-09 year. This increase is the result of the high cost for food products and the cost of delivering food and milk products to the school.

Ponca Schools participates in the federally subsidized National School Meals Program that allows children from families meeting certain income guidelines to receive free or reduced price meals. Application materials for the District's Free & Reduced Priced Lunch program are provided with this newsletter. The process involving application, approval notice, and the student going through the lunch line is strictly confidential. Reimbursement rates provided to the District from the state and federal government are higher than the price currently charged for a regular priced meal. These reimbursement dollars are important to the school's hot lunch account. They benefit the entire District by helping to keep prices charged for regular-priced meals low. The District encourages families to complete this application, even if the chances to qualify may seem remote.

It seems as if the summer has gone by more quickly than ever. A very special welcome to those of you who are new to our communities and/or school district. I am confident that you will find your choice to be part of our school district to be a good one. I encourage you to get involved in our communities and school and help us make them even better! As always, stop by anytime you have questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Have a great year!



PONCA SCHOOL BUS RIDER RULES

Any activity, which worries or distracts the driver is objectionable and may endanger the lives of the students. Besides the safety factor, transportation equipment is expensive. Students are expected to cooperate in the maintenance and preservation of district owned transportation vehicles. In order to operate a safe, efficient and economical transportation system, it is absolutely necessary that all passengers observe the following rules:

General Conduct Rules:

1. Students are under the authority and charge of the bus driver at all times. Students must obey the driver promptly and courteously.
2. Students shall be courteous to the driver, to fellow students, and to passers-by.
3. Students must be on time for the bus both morning and afternoon. The bus cannot wait beyond its regular schedule for those who are tardy.
4. Students should never play or loiter on the roadway when waiting for the bus.
5. Students shall cross the road in accordance with instructions from the driver.
6. Students should enter and leave the bus at school loading sites and at highway bus stops in an orderly fashion and in accordance with instructions.
7. Each student should go directly to his or her seat upon entering the bus.
8. Books and other property should be properly stored out of the way and the aisle should be clear at all times.
9. Students should refrain from crowding or pushing other students while on the bus.
10. Students shall not extend their hands, arms, or head through the bus windows.
11. Students shall remain seated while the bus is in motion.
12. No horseplay, roughhousing, and throwing of objects in the bus or out through the windows is permitted.
13. Students should keep their feet off the seats and sharp objects off the upholstery. Any student responsible for damage to a bus will pay for the damage.
14. Students should keep the bus clean. Trash buckets are placed on each bus for refuse and other throw away articles.
15. In order for the bus driver to allow a student(s) off the bus at places other than the regular bus stop at/near home, proper communication or authorization from parents is required.

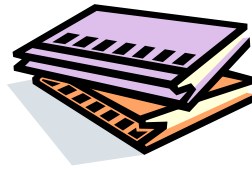
Riding Privileges Revoked Immediately:

1. No smoking, tobacco, or alcohol use on the bus at any time.
2. Profanity will not be tolerated. Any profanity or obscene gestures used on the bus, or directed towards the driver, will result in immediate suspension of bus riding privileges. This will be strictly enforced.
3. Physical attacks, threats, intimidation or bullying of other students on the bus will result in suspended privileges.
4. Other misconduct, as deemed inappropriate by school administration, will be reviewed as necessary.

In the past parent cooperation has been exemplary and we trust it will continue. Students who cannot behave while riding the bus and whose actions distract the driver from his/her job of safely transporting students, will have riding privileges suspended or revoked. We sincerely hope you will help us make our school buses safer for both students and drivers. We would appreciate all parents taking a few minutes to review these few rules, and to go over them with your child.

Thank You.

Notes from Ms. Rinas...



Everyone remembers the excitement and anticipation of starting a new school year. Being back together with our friends on a regular basis, finally getting to try out all of our new school supplies and wearing our new clothes makes the beginning of a new school year fun. Wondering who our teachers will be, what our final schedule will be like and how our teams will perform may make the beginning of a new school year unsettling. The staff at Ponca School is ready to help our students successfully make it through that first day of school as well as each day thereafter. In no time the school routine will be in place and it will seem like we never left.

Our first day of school is Monday, August 18, 2008. The school staff will greet and meet the students at 8:00 a.m. Elementary students will report to their Jackson and Ponca classrooms and secondary students to the west gym for a general assembly. Expectations for student conduct will be reviewed at the general assembly. Following the assembly secondary students will report to class meetings. This will be followed by students attending a shortened schedule of classes. Students will be dismissed at 2:00 p.m.

During the general assembly on the August 18, several district policies and procedures will be reviewed with secondary students. Student misuse of cell phones disrupts the school day. As stated in the Ponca School district policy, the introduction of cell phones into study halls or classrooms, may constitute grounds for disciplinary detention or action appropriate to the conduct, and if repeated, may result in short term suspension. Students can avoid the loss of a cell phone, detention or a school suspension by practicing the following rules for responsible cell phone use at school:

1. The cell phone is off during the school day (8:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.).
2. The cell phone is out of sight during the school day. (It may be in the student's locker, book bag, or pocket.)
3. The cell phone may be used by permission in an administrator's office in the presence of office personnel.
4. Students are responsible for their own cell phone even if the cell phone is taken from someone to whom it was loaned. The district will not be responsible for lost or stolen cell phones.

Following are the actions the student faces when the rules for cell phone use at school are not followed

First Offense: The cell phone is taken from the student and given to an administrator. The student meets with the administrator after school and the cell phone may be returned

Second Offense: The cell phone is taken from the student and given to an administrator. Parent or guardian must pick-up the cell phone from the administrator.

Third Offense: The cell phone is taken from the student and given to an administrator. The administrator may keep the cell phone until the end of the school year and/or the student may be short term suspended.

Note: A student observed with a cell phone during an exam will be considered cheating on the exam and the consequences for cheating will be applied.

The dress code will also be reviewed with secondary students. Students will be informed that clothing or jewelry with lettering or graphics which are sexually suggestive, derogatory or exploit a gender group or race, or advertise a controlled substance, are not permitted at school or

...continued notes from Ms. Rinas...

school sponsored events. Student dress is to be modest and not reveal under garments. The casual, immodest dress of summer most likely does not comply with the more conservative school dress code. This would be a good time to have a discussion about school attire and to remind your child to choose clothing that complies with the school dress code.

"Parent's Back to School Night" for grades 7-12, is scheduled for Monday, August 25, 2008. Parents of 7-12 students are asked to meet in the west gym at 7:00 p.m. You will be given a copy of your child's schedule and a few instructions. At 7:10 you will pass to your first class. Parents will have 5 minutes in each classroom before moving to the next class. This is a great opportunity to meet your children's teachers and find out a little bit about the classes in which they are enrolled. We hope you can join us in the halls of PHS on August 25!

Secondary students receive several forms the first days of school that require a parent signature. Please review the information on the forms with your child, sign where indicated and have your child return the signed forms to the Principal's Office. All students must have on file by Wednesday, August 27, 2008, the signed signature pages indicating they received copies of "Expectations for Student Conduct and Attendance", "A Student's Rights to Due Process" and "Guidelines for Extra-Curricular Activities". The "Guidelines for Extra-Curricular Activities" requires a separate signature page to be completed and returned to the Principal's Office. A student who does not have the signature pages on file by August 27, 2008, will not be eligible to participate in or attend school activities until such time the signed signature page is received in the Principal's Office.

I hope you can squeeze out a little more summer fun and relaxation before the beginning of the 2008-09 school year! We are looking forward to educating your children and working with you to provide all students the best education possible to prepare them to be productive citizens in a diverse society.

The Ponca Public School requests your help in locating handicapped children. The school implements the Federal Handicapped Children's Act (PL 94-142) and Nebraska statute, which guarantees a free appropriate educational program for all children between birth and 21 years of age. If you have students or know of any young person who meets these criteria, please contact Superintendent's office.

To all Parents of students enrolled at Ponca Public School... As a parent of a student at Ponca School, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to ask for certain information about your child's classroom teachers, and requires us to give you this information in a timely manner if you ask for it. Specifically, you have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers:

1. Whether the Nebraska Dept. of Education has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subject he or she teaches.
 2. Whether the Nebraska Dept. of Education has decided that the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances.
 3. The teacher's college major; whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if, the subject so of the degrees.
 4. Whether any teachers' aides or similar paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.
- If you would like to receive any of the information, please contact the Superintendent's office.

The Ponca Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, marital status, disability, or age in admission or access to, or treatment of employment in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding complaints, grievance procedures, or the application of these policies of nondiscrimination:

Ponca Public Schools
Superintendent of Schools
505 3rd Street
Ponca, NE 68770
(402) 755-2241

Appeal procedures beyond the local level need to be addressed to the following office:

Office for Civil Rights
8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037
Kansas City, MO 64114
(816) 268-0550

FAX (816) 823-1404; TDD (800) 437-0833

HEAT SCHEDULE - August 18th to August 29th

The 2008-09 school year will be the 6th year for the heat schedule to begin the school year for the Ponca Public School District. To create a consistent schedule for school attendance, regardless of the daily weather, students will be dismissed on a special schedule for the first two (2) weeks of the school year.



With the 2003-04 school year, the District implemented this schedule at the start of the school year because the high school building, as it is not air-conditioned, became very uncomfortable for students and staff. Heat and humidity affected the learning process in this three-story brick building. Dismissing school early on specific days due to the heat caused

problems and inconveniences for parents. Living in Nebraska, we are all aware of the inconsistent nature of our weather, and the impact that it does have on our daily lives, both in the summer and in the winter.

From Monday, August 18th, through Friday, August 29th, school will begin at 8:00 a.m., and will be dismissed at 2:00pm. During this special “heat” schedule, school buses will run their routes thirty (30) minutes earlier than last year. For example, if a bus picked up your child at 7:30 a.m. last year, that student would be picked up at 7:00 a.m. for the first three weeks. Dismissal time from classes will be at 2:00 p.m. each day with buses departing shortly afterwards.

Beginning Tuesday, September 2nd, the school day will return to its regular time schedule for the year. School will begin at 8:25 a.m., and will dismiss at 3:25 p.m., barring unforeseen circumstances due to weather, breakdowns, or other emergencies. As in previous years, your cooperation is greatly appreciated calling the school to report whether your child is riding or NOT. Please call the District office at 755-5700 to report. Messages will be relayed by radio to your bus driver.

ELEMENTARY PARENT NIGHT

Elementary Students and Parents of Jackson and Ponca will have an opportunity to meet and greet their teachers on....



Thursday, August 14th
6:30 – 7:30 in Jackson
7:00 – 8:30 in Ponca

(Students are encouraged to bring all their school supplies with them on this night to be placed in their desk or locker.)

Kindergarten Parents

The Kindergarten teachers would like to meet with your child and get a chance to visit with him or her for a few minutes during the Elementary Open House on Thursday, August 14th. Students and Parents will be assigned a time slot when they will have an opportunity to see the room, find their locker and put supplies away. Kindergarten parents will receive a letter from the teachers notifying them of the assigned time to visit your child's teacher and classroom.

**Ponca Elementary
Class Assignments
2008-2009**

Third Grade Ms. Wierda	Third Grade Mrs. Miller	Fourth Grade Mr. Stroud	Fourth Grade Mrs. Fields
Albrecht, Joe Anderson, Jacob Brickett, Sam Collins, Elyssa Cook, Cullen Fields, Kelsey Gill, Elexia Groth, Alexis Hegge, Michael Krohn, Levi Krusemark, Colton Lieber, Steven Maise, Braeden Masin, Max Mellick, Carin Nolan, Dallas Schroeder, Stockton Schweers, Abby VanDyke, Alexa	Beach, Emma Berg, Isaac Brentlinger, Casey Brockhaus, Jacob Criddle, Kristie Crosgrove, Mackenzie Gallardo, Alexis Huls, Dylon Kingsbury, Logan Kramper, Sophie Messlerlie, Walter Nelson, Zach Nelson, Rachel Perales, Elijah Persinger, Emily Romero, Jose Schweers, Hudson Statema, Zachary Volkert, Hunter Watchorn, Joel	Beacom, Joel Chavarria, Victor Heiner, Tim Kneifl, Ashley Lamprecht, Andrew Millard, Abby Munroe, Tristan O'Neill, Tre Peterson, Seth Reed, Sadie Rush, Maya Salmen, Emily Schweers, Hunter Sullivan, Lauren Touney, Derrek VanDyke, Abie Watchorn, Elizabeth	Bennett, Bailey Bennett, Jacob Bentz, Rachel Bentz, Ryan Bostwick, Tristan Carmona, Justin Charlson, Jack Chase, Michael Gallardo, Dylan Graves, Tayler Hohenstein, Rachel McDowell, Brenden Nelson, Cortney Niemeier, Madison Rich, Quincy Rickett, Shelby Stowe, Cassandra Zavadi, Keoka
12= Boys 7=Girls	13=Boys 7=Girls	9=Boys 8=Girls	10=Boys 8=Girls
Fifth Grade Mrs. Carnell	Fifth Grade Mrs. Stewart	Sixth Grade Mrs. Kephart	Sixth Grade Mrs. Husen
Anderson, Alexis Boyle, MacKenzie Conrad, Parker Fethkenher, Kelsea Hamar, Kaylee Janssen, Megan Krueger, Kyley Manning, Travis Markworth, Leo Perkins, Tanner Reilly, Kyle Rooney, Kari Schweers, Holden Walker, Jordan	Beaston, Crystal Gill, Ashley Gill, Emilye Hayes, Timothy Kastning, Nicholas Lundin, Brooklyn Lux, Rachael Romero, Christian Ryker, Corey Stapleton, Trey Sullivan, Abigail Utech, Shelby Wimmer, Reid	Albrecht, Hannah Antonio, Angelica Baker, Chase Bass, Kari Blackwell, Mick Brockhaus, Nathan Criddle, Spencer Greenleaf, Jaden Krusemark, Brady Kvidera, Lindsey Markworth, Jordan Millard, Tara Niemeier, Mackenzie Peterson, Brady Rickett, Alex Rush, Jada Swick, Ethan Uhl, Sean	Brewer, Emilee Brickett, Lauren Crosgrove, Kayla Eifert, Alexis Gill, Tommy Granato, Zach Hartman, R.J. Holgate, Sean Kramper, Kianna Maise, Bailey Manning, Dean Markworth, Mario Masin, Jake O'Neill, Taylor Oswald, Colton Sullivan, Alisha Walsh, Michael
7=Boys 7=Girls	6=Boys 7 =Girls	11=Boys 7=Girls	10=Boys 7=Girls

DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION

Shuttle Bus to Jackson Elementary – The District will operate a special shuttle bus route to Jackson Elementary for students from the town of Ponca, and for rural students who are transported to Ponca by means of a regular bus route. This shuttle bus will leave from Ponca Elementary, for Jackson Elementary, after the rural route buses have completed their morning route. The shuttle bus is scheduled to leave Ponca at **8:15AM**. **Bus #00** will serve as the shuttle bus and will be located on the west side of Ponca Elementary. Pre-School, kindergarten, 1st grade and 2nd grade students who will be attending Jackson Elementary will need to be on the bus by the **8:15** departure.

At approximately **3:15pm**, the shuttle bus will leave Jackson Elementary and return students to Ponca for dismissal, and in time for their rural route bus departure. In order to help the rural students recognize their bus after departing the shuttle, the District will develop a bus specific color-coding system for each of the District's four (4) rural route buses. Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade students will receive a tag, to be attached to their back pack, in order to help them recognize their bus at the end of the day. This tag will match the color of their bus. In addition to bus drivers, the District will have additional personnel available to help facilitate a smooth transition for students.

A District associate will be on the bus to Jackson to supervise students, on both the morning and afternoon shuttle routes.

Jackson Students – Students within the Village of Jackson should meet their bus at Jackson Elementary. The District will not be stopping at the AmPride convenience store as was done last year. Jackson Elementary will be the only pick-up and drop-off point in Jackson.

Rural Bus Routes - Rural students are transported to their attendance center through the District's normal regular route system. The District has seen an increase in the number of students who need bus service. In order to comply with bus capacity and riding time constraints, the District is still working to develop these routes and pick-up times for the coming year. During the week of August 4-8, bus drivers will be contacting families along their routes to notify of pickup times. Some routes for this coming year will change from last year. It is no guarantee that students will be riding the same bus as last year, or that pick up times will be the same. We ask for your patience as these routes are developed and times become consistent during the start of the year.



STUDENT COUNCIL TO SELL SCHOOL SUPPLIES!!



Customized Ponca School assignment notebooks will be sold during registration week at PHS and before and after school during the first week of classes. Be sure to purchase your supplies and support the Student Council! Cost for assignment books will be:



Assignment notebooks \$2.00



Buddy Pizza Party!!!

All 7th graders and their high school buddies are invited to a kick off pizza party to celebrate the new school year!! The party is scheduled for Saturday, August 23, 2008 at Pizza Hut in South Sioux City, NE. All students should meet at the school at 3:00 p.m. Each student will need to bring \$4.00 to help cover costs of the fun. Be sure to mark your calendars!



See you then!!

STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

WHAT: Organizational Meeting
WHEN: Wednesday, August 13th, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.
WHERE: I.T. Building
AGENDA: Planning School Kick-Off & Preliminary Homecoming ideas



PHS Marching Band Back to School Band Day Tuesday, August 12th 2008



9:00-9:30 a.m.	Flags Sectional
9:30-10:00 a.m.	Percussion Sectional
10:00-11:00 a.m.	8 th Grade Orientation/Marching Basics
11:00-11:15 a.m.	Section Leaders Meeting
11:30-12:00 a.m.	Marching Music Reading (Full Band)
12:00-12:30p.m.	Read Chart for Heartbreak Hotel (Full Band)



Come and get a head start on the new school year!!!

Do you need a cause to support? The Ponca School Band Program is always in need of new instruments to update our program. If you wish to support us in the way of a new instrument, please contact Superintendent Thompson or the Ponca Community Educational Foundation. This can also be a gift that is tax deductible. We appreciate your support.



Note: Other items brought to school will be returned home.

**2008-2009
Ponca Public School
K-6 Supplies**

Note: Teachers may request other items to be brought later.

**Reminder: Each student must have gym shoes that can be left at school for P.E. use only.
All students should also bring: 1 small bottle of hand sanitizer and 1 container (35 count or larger) of Clorox (antibacterial) wipes.**

KINDERGARTEN: Dickens/Hill

1 school box (the smaller size) – please label
2 boxes of 24 count crayons
2 bottles of school glue (no gel glue)
2 boxes of Kleenex
5 pencils (#2)
1 pair of scissors – please label
1 box of washable markers
1 pair of P.E. shoes – please label
1 back pack – please label
1 resting mat – please label
1 extra outfit in case of accident

FIRST GRADE: Swetnam/Todd

Facial tissue – 200 count
Old shirt for art
2 – 24 count colors (no larger)
12 pencils & 2 large erasers
2 Elmer’s School Glue – 4 oz (white)
8 Glue sticks
Scissors (Fiskars are best)
2 Folders
School supply box (6 x 9)
Colored pencils (12 count)
2 spiral notebooks /70 pg wide-ruled
Swetnam: 1 box qt. sized Zip-loc baggies
Todd: 1 box gal. sized Zip-loc baggies

SECOND GRADE: Dewald/Hogan

(Put names on all items)

Crayons-24 count (no larger)	Colored pencils (12 count) or washable markers
School supply box (8 X 5)	Scissors (Friskars are best)
2 large boxes Kleenex	10-#2 pencils (no mechanical)
1 bottle white glue	2 wide ruled spiral notebooks (70 page) different colors
3 pocket file folders (blue, yellow, red)	2 large erasers
2 dry erase markers (blue)	1 old clean dark sock (for eraser)
1 inch 3-ring binder	1 yellow highlighter
1 wooden ruler	2 red ink pens
1 plastic shoebox with lid to hold supplies (approx 12 x 7 x4)	

THIRD GRADE: Miller/Wierda

(Put names on all items)

1 spiral wide ruled notebook /120 pg.	2 pocket folders
2 spiral wide ruled notebooks /70 pg.	Glue Stick
Eraser	1 Black or blue pen
Markers (basic colors)	Crayons – 24 ct.
Facial tissue – 200 count	Wood ruler (inches/cent.)
Scissors (Fiskars)	Pencil Box (6 x 9)
Colored Pencils (basic colors)	
Index cards 3x5 (100–not spiral bound–white only) (NO trapper keepers or 3 ring binders)	
2 Dry erase markers (blue or black)	
4 - #2 pencils (not mechanical)	

FOURTH GRADE: Fields/Stroud

3 college rule notebooks/70 pg	2 pocket folders (1 solid color)
#2 pencils (not mechanical)	
1 blue or black ink pen	1 red pen
1 wooden ruler (inches/cent.)	1 - 4 oz glue bottle
1 scissors	Colored pencils (basic colors)
Facial tissue – 200 count	Pencil box (6x9)
3x5 note cards	1 old sock – dark color
1 dry erase marker (blue/black)	1 trapper keeper/hard cover

FIFTH & SIXTH GRADE: Carnell/Stewart Husen/Kephart

5 book covers	2 Facial tissue – 200 count
1 pkg. 3x5 ruled note cards	1 pkg. 4 x 6 ruled note cards (Mrs. Husen)
1 medium glue bottle	Markers (basic colors)
2 glue sticks	5 notebooks - college ruled/ 70 pg.
#2 pencils	5 pocket folders
1 ruler (inches/centimeter)	1 old sock (dark color)
1 large eraser	4 dry erase markers (dark colors only)
1 Scissors	1 – 2” three ring binder or trapper keeper (hardcover)
Colored pencils – large packet	2 Red pens
2 Highlighters	3 pens (black or blue)
Water Bottle	

Dear Parent/Guardian:

2008-2009

Children need healthy meals to learn. Ponca Public School offers healthy meals every school day. Lunch costs are **\$2.00/\$2.25**. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price is .40 for lunch. If your child(ren) qualified for free or reduced price meals at the end of last school year, you must submit a new application by August, 18, 2008 in order to avoid an interruption in meal benefits.

Frequently asked questions and answers:

1. Do I need to fill out an application for each child?

No. Complete the application to apply for free or reduced price meals. Use one Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. **Return the completed application to:** Supt. Bill Thompson, Ponca Public School, P O Box 568, Ponca, NE 68770

2. Who can get free meals?

Children in households getting Food Stamps or TANF and most foster children can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free price meals if your household income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Guidelines.

3. Can homeless, runaway and migrant children get free meals?

Please call Ponca School at 402-755-5700 to see if your child(ren) qualify, if you have not been Ponca School @ 402-755-5700 informed that they will get free meals.

4. Who can get reduced price meals?

Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits on the Federal Income Chart, shown on page 2 of the application.

5. Should I fill out an application if I got a letter this school year saying my children are approved for free or reduced price meals?

Please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. Call the school at 402-755-5700, if you have questions.

6. I get WIC. Can my child(ren) get free meals?

Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please fill out an application.

7. Will the information I give be checked? Yes, we may ask you to send written proof.

8. If I don't qualify now, may I apply later?

Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year if your household size goes up, income goes down, or if you start getting Food Stamps, TANF or other benefits. If you lose your job, your children may be able to get free or reduced price meals.

9. What if I disagree with the school's decision about my application? You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: Richard Dohma, Board President 402-755-2606.

10. May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen?

Yes. You or your child(ren) do not have to be a U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduced price meals.

11. Who should I include as members of my household?

You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends). You must include yourself and all children who live with you.

12. What if my income is not always the same?

List the amount that you normally get. For example, if you normally get \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only got \$900, put down that you get \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you get it only sometimes.

13. If I qualify for free or reduced price meals will my children be eligible for *Kid's Connection: Nebraska Children's Health Insurance Program*?

For more information on this program that provides health care coverage for children up to age 19, please call toll free 1-877-632-5437.

14. We are in the military, do we include our housing allowance as income?

If your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. **All other allowances must be included in your gross income.**

If you have other questions or need help, call 402-755-5700.

Sincerely,

Instructions for Completing the Free and Reduced Priced School Meals Application

If your household gets FOOD STAMPS OR TANF, follow these instructions:

- Part 1:** List child(ren)'s name, school, grade and a Food Stamp or TANF case number.
Check the appropriate box, if any.
- Part 2:** Skip this part.
- Part 3:** Skip this part.
- Part 4:** Sign the form. A Social Security Number is not necessary.
- Part 5:** Answer this question if you choose to.

If you are applying for a FOSTER CHILD or an institutionalized child, follow these instructions:

- Part 1:** Use a separate application for each foster or institutionalized child. List the child's name, school, and grade.
- Part 2:** Check the box and list the child's personal use monthly income or zero if none.
- Part 3:** Skip this part.
- Part 4:** Sign the form. A Social Security Number is not necessary.
- Part 5:** Answer this question if you choose to.

ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS, including WIC households, follow these instructions:

- Part 1:** List each child's name, school and grade.
- Part 2:** Skip this part.
- Part 3:** Follow these instructions to report total household income from last month.
Column 1–Name: List the first and last name of **each** person living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends). You must include yourself and all children living with you. Attach another sheet of paper if you need to.
Column 2 –Gross income last month and how often it was received. Next to each person's name list each type of income received last month, and how often it was received. For example, *Earnings from work:* List the **gross income** each person earned from work. This is not the same as take-home pay. **Gross income is the amount earned before taxes and other deductions.** The amount should be listed on your pay stub, or your boss can tell you. Next to the amount, write how often the person got it (weekly, every other week, twice a month, or monthly). *All other income:* List the amount each person got last month from welfare, child support, alimony, pensions, (second column) pensions, retirement Social Security (third column) and ALL OTHER INCOME SOURCES (fourth column). In the All Other column, include Worker's Compensation, unemployment, strike benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran's benefits (VA benefits), disability benefits, regular contributions from people who do not live in your household, and ANY OTHER INCOME. Report net income for self-owned business, farm, or rental income. Next to the amount, write how often the person got it. If you are in the Military Housing Privatization Initiative do not include this housing allowance.
Column 3–Check if no income: If the person does not have any income, check the box.
- Part 4:** An adult household member must sign the form and list his or her Social Security Number, or mark the box if he or she doesn't have one.
- Part 5:** Answer this question if you choose to.

Junior High School Supplies!!

To help with organization skills, we are asking that each 7th grade student have the following items ready for the first day of classes. For the **prong folders**, we ask that students have the **stronger plastic material**, as these folders are used quite often throughout the year. **Notebooks** should be **college-ruled**.

7th graders will need:

- English
 - Green prong folder
 - Green 2 pocket folder
 - 2 Green notebooks (1 subject only)
- Science
 - Red prong folder
 - Red 2 pocket folder
 - Red notebook
- Math
 - Blue prong folder
 - Blue 2 pocket folder
 - Blue notebook
- Social Studies
 - Black 2 pocket folder
 - Black notebook
- Study Skills
 - Large binder (trapper keeper/it is helpful, if it zips) In Study Skills, students will focus on organizational skills immediately. This is a great tool to be a successful student.
- Red pen
- Blue/Black pen
- Pencil
- Highlighter
- Calculator – scientific optional

8th graders will need:

- English
 - Yellow prong folder (same plastic material as needed for 7th graders)
 - Yellow 2 pocket folder
 - Yellow notebook (1 subject only)

SCIENTIFIC CALCULATORS NEEDED FOR 7-12 GRADERS



Math Students in grades 7-12 need to bring a scientific calculator to class. At times, students will not be allowed to use them such as when learning how to add, subtract, multiply and divide. Calculators that have two lines of display are recommended. This allows students to see what they entered and to edit their work, if necessary, without reentering duplicate information. A scientific calculator of this type will be used in all junior and senior high math classes except Pre-Calculus. Scientific calculators can be purchased for about \$15.00. In Pre-Calculus, students will be allowed to check out and be responsible for a graphing calculator.

PHONE CARDS FOR 7-12 STUDENTS

There may be times when a student needs to make a long distance phone call during the school day. Students are encouraged to carry a phone card. If parents prefer, the card can be kept in the high school office. (Please place your name on the card).

Help your School as a Volunteer

Becoming a school volunteer can be one of the most rewarding experiences in life. Sharing a special talent, reading a book to a kindergartner, helping an elementary student with reading, assisting the school librarian, helping to put up an interesting bulletin board for the classroom teacher, acting as a crossing guard to help children across a busy street, and helping chaperone on a field trip are all ways that one can serve as a school volunteer. School volunteers enhance the effective use of teachers in the classroom, broaden the educational experience of our students and, generate greater community involvement and good will in our schools.

Volunteers are made up of parents, business people, retirees, high school students, and community organization members. People may volunteer regularly, on special occasions, or serve as special resource speakers.

If you would like to volunteer your time, abilities, or talents, simply call your principal's office at 755-5700.

Ponca School Newsletter
Ponca Public School
Ponca, Nebraska 68770

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
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Ponca, NE 68770

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**Free and Reduced
Application Enclosed**