



Ponca Public School
505 3rd Street, P O Box 568
Ponca, NE 68770
www.poncaschool.org
April Newsletter
2009



Upcoming Calendar Events

Easter Break: Friday, April 10, 2009 No School
Monday, April 13, 2009 No School

Ponca's Community Clean Up Day: Friday, April 17, 2009
The P.H.S. Student Council plans to assist!!!

Elementary Track & Field Day: Friday, April 24, 2009 1:00 Dismissal for K-12
Buses will run accordingly @ 3:30

Graduation: Friday, May 8, 2009 1:00 Dismissal for K-12

**Calendar
Change**

Last Day of School: Thursday, May 21, 2009



Hy-Vee School Bucks Program— I have some GOOD news and BAD news!

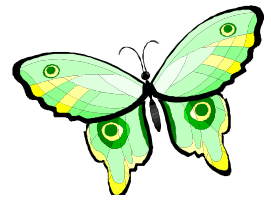
The **GOOD** news first –HyVee will be giving out the \$100,000 again this year to over 90 participating local schools. They are reaching their goal ahead of last year, so they have decided to **STOP** accepting receipts after **May 1, 2009** for the 2008-2009 school year or sooner if the \$100,000 is reached.

BAD News - last year they allowed everyone to collect receipts over the summer and turn them in, in August. For the 2009 - 2010 school year they are starting fresh and will only accept receipts dated **from Aug 1, 2009 - April 31, 2010.**

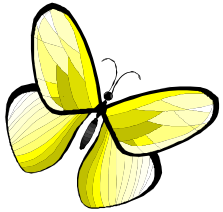
They suggest we have students turn in receipts by April 27th this year so that we can make the May 1st dead line. It is to our schools benefit to get all receipts turned in as soon as possible.

If you have any questions contact Kristie Hayes, (402)755-5725

Notes from Ms. Rinas...



Ponca Health and PE 1 students attended the Dixon County Health Fair on March 18, at Allen School. Students attended sessions on personal safety and self defense, internet safety, and methamphetamines. If you have not asked your 9th grade child about what they learned at the Health Fair, it is not too late to ask a few questions. Our students learned that the best option in self defense is to find the nearest exit and escape. They learned that the best place in the home for a computer is in a common room and not in their bedroom. In the session, “Meth—Don’t Make It Your Future”, students learned that a person can become addicted to methamphetamines after using it the first time. Throughout the Health Fair our students learned the benefits of making healthy and responsible choices.



Parents and students are reminded that the school only provides for supervision of athletes at track and golf meets. Therefore a student who is not on the team will only be released from school to attend the event if the student is with a parent or guardian. All students must be pre-excused before 9:00 A.M. to attend or participate in a school activity.



April is the month of the school year when students seem to be out of the classroom more than in the classroom. Spring activities such as golf, track, music contests, and field trips, take students away during the school day and ultimately from the academic content that continues to be taught in the classroom. Students participating in these activities as well as all students are challenged to stay focused on their academics and work hard until the last day school is in session.

Ponca Public School Going Green!

Ponca Public School is going green. Hannah Albrecht, sixth grade student at Ponca School, would like to encourage all students, staff members, community members and visitors to help collect aluminum cans and plastic pop bottles for recycling.

Two recycling bins, one for aluminum cans with five cent deposit and one bin for plastic pop bottles with five cent deposit have been placed in the front lobby by the concession stand.

An account has been set up at school for all recycling proceeds to eventually help build a new track and upgrade the football and baseball fields and add new bleachers.

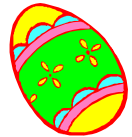
Hannah’s enthusiasm and excitement about recycling and helping make school improvements has caught on throughout the fifth and sixth grades. Hannah wants to encourage everyone to RECYCLE and GO GREEN!!

We are only able to recycle pop bottles – no water or Gatorade.

At five minutes and six seconds after 4:00 a.m. on the 8th of July this year.
The Time and date will be 04:05:06 07/08/09 This will never happen again!!



Jackson Elementary News



Notes from the principal,

Spring is here which means the end of school is right around the corner. The school year has gone so fast, it seems like yesterday we were preparing for the students to walk in the door.

Kindergarten round-up will be on Friday, April 17th. Kindergarten parent night will be on Thursday, April 16th from 5:30 to 7:00. The kindergarten list is in the newsletter; please check the list to make sure your child is registered for kindergarten next year. If your child is not on the list please contact the office at Jackson as soon as possible.

Pre-school open house is set for Monday, April 21st at 6:30pm. The school board has set a new tuition for next year at \$16.00/day. If you are considering pre-school for your child please plan to attend. The evening is designed to answer any questions you might have about pre-school.

On April 24th Jackson Elementary will be attending the elementary field day in Ponca. The field day begins at 1:00pm at the football field. The students will participate in a number of exciting events. Parents are encouraged to attend.

Our spring concert is April 27th at 7:00pm. The students have been working hard to make this the best concert ever. Please make plans to attend and see the future stars of American Idol!

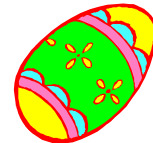
Although the weather is getting warmer, students should still be wearing coats to school and recess. We require coats until the temperature gets above 60 degrees.

Throughout the school year students have been practicing fire drills. Again this year we have added tornado drills to our safety program. Students will practice tornado drills during the months of April and May.

This is the time of year when some students seem to slough off with their school work. The weather is nice and because of daylight savings time the day is longer. Summer baseball and soccer are beginning and outdoor activities increase. Please make sure your child does not neglect their school work and continues to get enough sleep. It is important to finish the school year strong.

The next school board meeting is April 20th in the Ponca Elementary Library at 7:30pm.

We look forward to seeing you at the concert!!



Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
		1 Starfish	2 Angelfish	3 Starfish
6 Starfish	7 Angelfish	8 Starfish	9 Angelfish	10 No School Spring Break
13 No School Spring Break	14 Angelfish	15 Starfish	16 Angelfish	17 No Preschool Kindergarten Round Up
20 Starfish	21 Angelfish Preschool Open House 6pm	22 Starfish	23 Angelfish Parent Workshop	24 No Preschool Assessment Day
27 Starfish	28 Angelfish	29 Starfish	30 Angelfish 2 Hr Late Start Parent Workshop	

*April Preschool Schedule
Starfish = M, W, F Class
Angelfish = T, Th, F Class*

Positive Discipline Workshop

Don't miss this special workshop sponsored by Northeast Early Childhood Professional Partnerships and our school. It is designed for parents of children ages 1-4 years old. Learn about parenting styles, preventing problems, discipline, and encouraging positive behavior. The workshop will be at Jackson Elementary on April 23, 30, and May 7th from 6:30 to 8pm. The cost is only \$10 for the workbook. Hope to see you there!

Important Information from Mrs. Hassler, High School Guidance Office



ACT TEST DATE

The next administration of the ACT College Entrance Exam is set for Saturday, April 4, 2009. Any student who has registered for this test date is reminded to take time to prepare for the assessment. Tips for taking the ACT include: take a practice exam, "brush-up" on English and math basics, get a good night's sleep, wear comfortable clothing, be sure to bring your admit ticket (which you should have received from ACT through the mail when you registered), a photo ID (driver's license), and several sharpened #2 pencils. Think "POSITIVE"! GOOD LUCK!!

ACHIEVEMENT TESTING



During the month of march students at Ponca School participated in Spring Achievement Testing. This year Ponca School is administering the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) and the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT).

These standardized tests provide school personnel and parents with feedback concerning students' strengths and instructional needs. It provides a framework for evaluation of students' progress as well as evaluation of curriculum strengths and weaknesses.

Elementary students in grades 2-6 and students in grades 7, 8, 9, and 11 participated in these assessments. We are hopeful that testing results will be available before the end of the school year. Watch May's newsletter for further details

CCDC – Character Workshop for Grades 7-12

The *Community Character Development Coalition (CCDC)* of Norfolk, Nebraska will be presenting the third of three character workshops entitled, "**Living Smart: Consequences are Real.**" The workshop will address the following areas.



- *If you drink or use drugs, you give up the right to control the outcome of a situation.**
- *You become a different person when you "use".**
- *You deserve a full, bright life, free of the consequences associated with drinking and drugs.**

The 50-minute presentation will be performed in the Ponca School Auditorium on Wednesday, April 1, 2009. Students grades 7-9 will attend the first session scheduled at 8:30 A.M. while the 10-12 graders will attend the second session at 9:30 A.M. *Be sure to ask your son or daughter about this character-building workshop!*

The Ponca Public School requests your help in locating handicapped children. The school implements the Federal Handicapped Childrens' 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.

Notes from Ponca's School Nurse - Mrs. Herfel, R.N.

Dear Parents of the Senior Class,

Your child will soon be graduating and several students will be heading off to college in the fall. This is a perfect time to make sure your child's immunizations are current. The two vaccines that are recommended at this age are:

- 1.) **A tetanus booster (Td)**- which contains tetanus and diphtheria. Bacteria cause both tetanus and diphtheria. Tetanus enters the body through cuts or wounds, where diphtheria is spread from person to person.
- 2.) **Meningococcal Vaccine**-meningococcal disease is a serious illness, caused by bacteria. It is the leading cause of bacterial meningitis in children 2-18 years old. Meningitis is an infection of fluid surrounding the brain and spinal cord. Anyone can get meningococcal disease, although college freshmen that live in dormitories are at higher risk of obtaining it.

Many colleges require these vaccines prior to entrance. I strongly recommend your child receive these vaccines, even if they aren't required.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the school on Tuesdays or Thursdays at 755-5734.

Thank you,

Mrs. Herfel R.N., Ponca School Nurse

Attention Upcoming Kindergarten and 7th Grade Students

Students entering kindergarten or 7th grade in the 2009-2010 school year, are required to have **a physical** prior to the first day of school. Many clinics offer a reduced cost for physicals during the summer months. Call your physician's office for more information.

Kindergarten students are also required to have **a visual evaluation** by a physician, a physician's assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse or an optometrist within six months prior to the entrance of school. This test needs to include testing for amblyopia (lazy eye), strabismus (misalignment of the eyes), as well as external and internal eye health.

Kindergarten students are also required to obtain a certified birth certificate from the state they were born in, on or before the first day of school. We are required to see the **certified birth certificate** (the one obtained at a fee from the state the child was born in.) Generally it has a raised seal and state identification number on it. They are available over the internet or by going to the courthouse in the county your child was born in.

Students also are required to have **current immunizations**. For kindergarteners, this would include several vaccines, which children receive prior to starting kindergarten, and for 7th graders, this usually includes a tetanus booster and a varicella vaccine (if they haven't had the chicken pox disease). Please refer to the Summary of the School Immunization Rules and Regulations to follow, to view what shots your child needs.

If you have any questions about these requirements, please contact Mrs. Herfel at the school at 755-5734.

Attention Juniors, Seniors, and Parents.... After-Prom 2009!!!!!!

The Ponca After-Prom date is approaching quickly!!! This event will be held at Jackson Elementary School in Jackson. The deadline to register is Friday, April 17th with a \$5.00 charge per student. See Mrs. Walsh in the guidance office to register. Transportation will be provided, if needed. This must be indicated at the time the students register.

The prom dance ends at 12:00 and the students need to be at Jackson Elementary School and breathalyzed at the door by 1:00 a.m. We need your cooperation & assistance in relating this information to the students to avoid any misunderstandings. The post-prom committee has hired a caricaturist and a hypnotist to entertain at post-prom this year. Also, as in the past, there will be pizza and prizes.

Parents **WILL BE** notified if their child registered and did not attend. The Ponca After-Prom party will end at 5:00 a.m.

Please encourage your son/daughter to attend...we are looking forward to a GREAT NIGHT!!

*After-Prom planning meeting will be held:
7:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 15th Library*

Ponca School Newsletter
Ponca Public School
Ponca, Nebraska 68770

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #1
Ponca, NE 68770

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

ECRWSS
Postal Patron

Happy Easter 

Kindergarten Roundup *I* *School!*

CAUTION! Learning Zone!



Parents who have children five years of age on or before October 15, 2009, may wish to send their son/daughter to kindergarten during the 2009/2010 school year.

Kindergarten Roundup for these students is scheduled for Friday, April 17, 2009 at Jackson Elementary. Parents may register their child for roundup by returning the form below or calling the Jackson Elementary School office at 632-4276. More information concerning Kindergarten Roundup will be provided as we get closer to that date.

Please return this form to: Jackson Elementary P.O. Box 67 Jackson, NE 68743

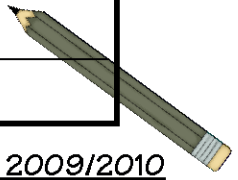
Child will attend _____ Child will NOT attend _____ Kindergarten in 2009/2010

Student Name: _____ Boy _____ Girl _____

Date of Birth: _____ Phone Number: _____

Parents or Guardian: _____

Address: _____



The following children are eligible to attend Kindergarten at Jackson Elementary during the 2009/2010 school year. This list is according to the current census and current preschool students. If your child is/is not on this list and will/will not be attending, please contact the office at 632-4276.

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Anthony, Owen | Korth, Taylor | Pick, Faith |
| Bacon, Madelin | Lander, Grant | Rogers, Gage |
| Cook, Aiden | Latimer, Hunter | Rush, George |
| Denker, Jarrett | Lentz, Matthew | Schlotman, Jaycee |
| Dorcey, Grant | Logue, Matt | Schram, Mackenzie |
| Duffy, Olivia | Martin, Markus | Taylor, Samuel |
| Durand, Christopher | McGill, Addie | Twohig, Lucas |
| Fernau, Zachary | Munroe, Cayden | Watchorn, Eli |
| Matthew Hayes | Niemeier, Mary | |
| Hoesing, Lucas | Peterson, Jaci | |
| Holgate, Josie | Eli Persinger | |

Parent Night
April 16th
5:30 - 7:00
More Info To Come!



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY



Ponca Public School's National Honor Society is a local chapter which is established according to the nationwide National Honor Society organization. National Honor Society was founded in 1921 as an organization which would recognize and encourage academic and citizenship qualities in students. National Honor Society continues its traditions in the 21st century.

Membership in National Honor Society is open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors who have a cumulative scholastic average of 85 percent or above and who demonstrate the qualities of service, character, and leadership. Students carrying a scholastic average of 85 or above are invited to an informational meeting to learn more about National Honor Society. Only those students who complete and return an information sheet by the deadline will be considered for nomination in the National Honor Society. A faculty council comprised of five teachers on staff, review and discuss each student's information sheet, attendance and discipline records, and teacher questionnaires. Private ballots are cast by the faculty council, and those students receiving three out of five "yes" votes are then received as members into National Honor Society.

Every spring, students have the opportunity to be nominated for induction into Ponca High School's local National Honor Society chapter. The constitution and selection guidelines were distributed to those eligible 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students who expressed an interest by attending the information meeting on March 11, 2009. In order to be considered for nomination, students returned their completed information sheets to Mr. Gehring by 4:00 p.m. on March 20, 2009.

On Thursday evening, April 23, 2009, new nominees will be recognized and inducted in a formal National Honor Society Ceremony at Ponca State Park.



Summer Driver's Education Program



Driver's Education class will be held at Ponca School this summer beginning in late May. The cost of the class is \$175 for students who are residents of the Ponca School District and \$240 for non-resident students. Dates for the class will be determined later.

A sign-up sheet is in the high school office and students should sign up and pay the \$87.50 deposit as soon as possible since enrollment is limited. Students need to be 14 years of age by this summer in order to take Driver's Education.

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) 755-5700

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

PONCA HIGH SCHOOL

3rd Quarter HONOR ROLL 2008-09

SENIORS

Marcus Burki
*Sarah Crosgrove
Colton Kastning
*Nick Watkins

JUNIORS

Kelsey Beacom
Jared Curry
*Ben Gehring
*Austin Hansen
*Brittany Heaton
Heather Husen

SOPHOMORES

*Aaron Bostwick
*Kash Etchenkamp
*Korah Kramper
Dale Krause
*Nichole Lux
Alex O'Neill
Marissa Peterson
Tyler Rasmussen
Lindsay Schnoor
Nathan Uhl
Jesse Way

FRESHMEN

Katie Anderson
Kayla Beacom
Josh Block
*Colin Brandt
Samra Eiler
Abby Goetz
*Tylar Greenleaf
Andrew Larsen
Nellie Logue
Seth O'Neill
Rylee Rich
Kelsi Stoos
*Jesse Walsh

8th Grade

Allie Albrecht
*Sam Burki
*Samantha Gill
*Josh Masin
*Christiana O'Neill
*Jacob Oswald
Krystal Richards
Dillon Rickett
Austin Schweers

8th Grade (cont.)

Mattie Schweers
Blake Smith
Patrick Watchorn

7th Grade

*Connor Brandt
Aaron Carlson
Hannah Cook
Tyler Davis
Anthony Gehring
Brandon Hamar
Abby Hayes
Zach Heaton
James Stark



***Denotes "A" Honor Roll Students**
(students must earn at least a 93 numerical grade)
"B" Honor Roll
(students must earn at least an 85 numerical grade)



April Music Performances



- April 8th Music Booster Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- April 14th Post Contest Concert 7:00 p.m.
- April 15th Jazz Band Performs @ Senior Citizen Center 12:15 p.m.
- April 24th District Music Contest @ South Sioux City 7:00 p.m.
- May 1st Elementary Spring Concert

Thank You 

We would like to thank Mrs. Hassler, Mrs. Brandt and the Wimmer family for their book donations to our library.

New Addition to our Library!!!

Students, staff, and community members at Ponca Public School now have the capability of viewing computer generated information and DVD/video movies on a large 47 inch TV screen located in the elementary library. This TV will eliminate having to set up a large screen and computer with a projector when viewing power points, information on the internet, computer applications, library resources, classroom materials, career information, and DVD/VCR movies.

Funding for this TV was made available through donations from the Ponca Elementary Student Council (\$1200), school technology money (\$2,249.00), and money donated by HyVee Food Stores (\$500.00) from collecting donated grocery receipts.

The Elementary Student Council helps provide money for service projects by selling lollipops for fifty cents each every other Friday throughout the year.

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INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES FOR PONCA HIGH SCHOOL'S PROM DANCE & AFTER PROM 2009



Parents: Please make sure your son/daughter has purchased a park sticker!

The purpose of the following information is to familiarize parents, guardians, Ponca students and outside dates with the guidelines and procedures for Ponca High School's Prom and After Prom Party. Our objective is for all of our students and guests to have an enjoyable, drug-free and safe evening.

1. A Prom Dance will be held at Ponca State Park Visitors Center on Saturday, April 18th from 8:00 P.M. to 12:00 P.M. for Ponca students in grades 11 through 12 and for their outside dates whose names are registered in the Principal's office by 4:00 P.M. on Friday, April 17th. A Grand March will be held for Seniors and Juniors and their dates at 7:00 P.M. at the Ponca High School Auditorium and everyone is welcome.
2. The Prom Dance will be chaperoned by the Junior class sponsors, the Principal, and other teachers. A police officer will also be on hand from time to time to check on the Prom Dance. If enough teachers are not available to help sponsor the dance, it may be necessary to ask some parents to help out.
3. A Ponca student who has an outside date will be responsible for explaining the rules to their date, and their date will be responsible for following these rules.
4. Juniors and Seniors and their dates will be admitted to the Prom Dance free of charge.
5. Juniors and Seniors and their dates who attend the Prom Dance are required to wear formal attire or they will not be admitted to the dance. This means a formal or dress for the girls and a tuxedo or suit and tie for the boys. This means no blue jeans, shorts, T-shirts, caps, etc.
6. All students who plan to attend the Prom Dance must be at the park by 9:30 P.M. or they will not be permitted to the dance. Any Ponca student or their date that leaves the Prom Dance before it's over, must sign out before they leave the dance and will not be permitted to reenter.
7. If a Ponca student or their date practices unacceptable behavior at the Prom Dance, their parents will be called, and the offender will be required to leave with their parents. If a student is told to leave the Prom Dance, they will not be permitted to attend the After-Prom Party.
8. Ponca students and their dates attending the Prom Dance will be subject to an alcohol breath test by an off-duty police officer prior to admission to the dance.
9. If any Ponca student and/or their date has been drinking or using any form of drug or tobacco, their parents or guardian will be called immediately to come to dance location to be present for a breathalyzer test on their son or daughter and to take them home if they have been drinking or using any form of drug or tobacco. Any student who tests positive for alcohol or drug use will be subject to prosecution by the law as well as being disciplined by the school for violating school rules which apply to the situation.
10. As of January 1, 1994 a new zero tolerance law went into effect in Nebraska which basically states that any minor who gets caught driving while they are under the influence of alcohol of any amount, can have their driver's license revoked on the spot for 30 days.
11. After-Prom Party will be held at the Jackson Elementary School in Jackson, Nebraska from 1:00 A.M. to 5:00 A.M. for students in grades 11-12 and their dates. Students must arrive & be breathalyzed at the door by 1:00 A.M. A student may attend the After-Prom Party even if he or she does not attend the Prom Dance. All students who plan to attend the After-Prom Party must register and pay \$5.00 per person in the Guidance Office with Nancy Walsh by 4:00 P.M. on April 17th.
12. Students who plan to attend the After-Prom Party will be given one hour to change clothes and drive to Jackson Elementary School.
13. If a student is registered to attend the After-Prom Party, and they do not show, their parents will be notified to let them know that their son or daughter did not arrive.
14. Any student who leaves will NOT be allowed to return, and parents will be contacted.
15. Every student entering Jackson Elementary School will be breathalyzed at the door. They will be subject to the same rules, procedures, and prosecution as a person attending the Prom Dance in case of drug, alcohol, or tobacco use or unacceptable behavior.
16. If you have any questions concerning these guidelines, please call the Ponca Public School telephone number at 402-755-5700.

Strength & Conditioning

As many of you probably know the Ponca Coaching Staff has recently made changes in its approach to the Strength and Conditioning aspect of our athletic programs. When changes are made there are naturally questions and concerns about why the change is occurring. Hopefully, this section of the newsletter will help answer questions you may have about the changes in our strength and conditioning program.

One of the things that the Coaching Staff has heard from students and adults alike is that the change to early morning strength and conditioning was to punish student-athletes that did not want to participate in Track. This is not the reason for the change. However, the Coaching Staff has become concerned as fewer and fewer student athletes have chosen not to participate in spring athletic activities. In addition the Coaching Staff has also noticed a trend of student-athletes taking a season off between competing in other athletic programs. Many of the students express their desire to take a season off and “lift weights” in preparation for the next upcoming season. In the past the coaches of the various programs have accommodated these students and opened the weight room. What the Coaching Staff has observed is that the off-season conditioning has become too sporadic and primarily only heavy weight lifting. There was only minimal cardiovascular, plyometric and flexibility training being done by out-of-season athletes.

Toward the end of the winter sports season the Coaching Staff began discussing the out-of-season training. As a Staff we determined that the often independent out of season training that the various athletic programs had been doing was becoming counter productive. There was a clear need for a consistent and cohesive policy for all programs to follow in the off-season. The workout regimen put together by the Coaching Staff is a more balanced workout that addresses the needs of all the athletic programs in the aspects of strength and power, cardiovascular conditioning and flexibility.

The Coaching Staff realizes that the change will cause many families to adjust their schedules and will also likely cause inconveniences and even hardships for some. After seeking how other area schools run their strength and conditioning programs the Coaching Staff put in place what we believe is the most equitable program for the student body as a whole. The early starting time helps us ensure that students who participate in early morning workouts can also participate in other programs such as Jazz Band, Swing Choir, One-Act and Speech that also have rehearsals and practices before the school day begins. While there may need to be adjustments made as the program develops, the Coaching Staff believes this new approach is a positive step toward keeping our athletic programs competitive and to keep up with other schools that already have similar strength and conditioning programs. This program is also a great way to keep our student athletes healthy. Thank you for your outstanding support of all of our programs at Ponca High School!

The Ponca High School Coaching Staff.