

April 2017

PONCA PUBLIC SCHOOL

505 3rd Street, P O Box 568
Ponca, NE 68770

www.poncaschool.org

223 North John Street, P O Box 67
Jackson, NE 68743



Information from Joan M. Reznicek, Superintendent of Schools

The 2016-2017 school year is near completion, yet, many important educational days are ahead us with emphasis on the NeSA (Nebraska State Accountability) and MAP test dates. Not only are the test scores publicized, the test scores can be used as an indicator for the amount of funding Ponca Public Schools receives from the Federal and State governments. As ALL patrons of the Ponca Public Schools District, we want ALL of our students to be well prepared to perform well on those crucial test days. **The preparation starts at home with the correct amount of sleep (8 to 10 hours) plus a nutritional breakfast in the morning.** As educators, we value our students and will continue to encourage each student to come prepared for the tests and to perform well.

As Prom and Graduation quickly approach, please tell your child how important it is to make good decisions and choices during these end-of-the-school-year activities. We all have such high expectations for our students/children after they have graduated from high school. We just have to make sure they have the opportunity to seek their goals throughout their life.

As of the March 20th school board meeting, the last day of school will be Tuesday, May 23rd for the students AS LONG AS NO OTHER SNOW DAYS ARE USED. Missing the day of school on Friday, March 10th due to the Boys State Basketball Tournament was dismissed by the board members as a make-up day.

If you believe your child would benefit educationally by being enrolled in summer school, please call the respective school and speak with Mr. Hayes. **Summer school is not child daycare;** summer school will assist students to stay familiar with math and reading concepts. The students will also remain focused on a routine schedule which also includes the discipline of completing projects and homework on time.

Planning for next year's senior class: Graduation 2018 is Friday, May 11, 2018.

Dates to Remember:

Thursday, April 13th: Early Dismissal 1:10 Jackson / 1:30 Ponca – Easter Vacation

Friday, April 14th & Monday, April 17th: NO SCHOOL – Easter Vacation

Friday, May 12th: GRADUATION – Early Dismissal 1:10 Jackson / 1:30 Ponca

Tuesday, May 23rd: LAST DAY OF SCHOOL AS LONG AS THERE ARE NO MORE SNOW DAYS!!!

Elementary Track Meet

Friday, May 5th 1:15 p.m. Ponca Sports Complex



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.

High School News

The month of April is showered with state assessments. Students in grade 3-8 will be writing their NeSA (Nebraska State Assessments) before and after our Easter break. This will be the first year that grade 11 students do not write the NeSA. Instead all grade 11 students across the state of Nebraska will be writing the ACT. All Ponca School eleventh grade students will be writing the ACT on April 19. Teachers are busy preparing students at all grade levels to perform their best on the NeSA and ACT tests. The school will be providing breakfast for the students on the days they are testing.

As we finish our 2016-2017 school year, our thoughts turn to the 2017-2018 school year. Pre-registration for students in grades 8-11 will take place during the month of April. Students will select classes for the 2017-2018 school year. It is from their class selections that the schedule for next year will be built. Each student will complete a pre-registration form. The pre-registration form must be reviewed and signed by a parent. The signed form then must be returned to the school before the classes selected by the student will be considered for his/her 2017-2018 class schedule.

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.

Plan ahead to attend the 7-12 Academic Honors Program on Monday, May 8, 2017. The program will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center. Students earning academic awards will be receiving invitations to the program, but everyone is invited to attend.

To: Ponca driver education students and parents

From: Dan Loofe, Driver Ed Instructor

SUBJECT: Ages and requirements to participate.



This information is to inform you of the many changes in the driver ed program. The major items are as follows:

In July, 2016, Governor Ricketts signed a legislative law approving the removal of the "mile and a half rule for all students living outside of communities of 5001 people". This means that all students under 16 years and three months of age may get a school permit to drive to school functions. Students not getting a school permit (LPE) must get a learners permit (LP) at age 15 and above.

At age 14, students must go to the courthouse and pass a vision test and a written test over the Nebraska Drivers Manual. They need to study the manual as most students fail the test on the first try.

Students under 14 (13) may take the class and drive with a certified driver ed teacher without a permit as long as they will turn 14 by October 20 of this year. Example: The student has a birthday on Oct 21. They will have to wait until next summer.

If a student turns 14 during the class period, they must then get the LPE permit from the courthouse to finish the driving portion of the class. Example: Two driving lesson are complete and the student has a birthday the next day. They must get the LPE from the courthouse to complete the driving portion.

A school permit may be obtained at age 14 years and two months after successfully completing a driver ed class and having their LPE for at least two months.

Also, the Ponca School Board established the price of enrollment as \$230 per student in the district and \$300 for students from other school districts.

Checks are to made out to the Ponca Public School and given to the high school office when the student signs up/enrolls in class. The tentative date for the classroom is Wednesday, May 24 and will run 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. through Saturday, May 27. Driving times will be set up for the remainder of the summer.

If further questions remain, please feel free to contact me at 712-870-4541. Texting works best rather than voice mails, as I may be driving and unable to answer. If necessary, leave me a voice mail and I will get back to you when possible.

Thanking you in advance,

Daniel G. Loofe

**Sign up by May 5th
in the High School office.**

**At time of sign up,
students must
pay a \$115.00 deposit.**

Notes from Mrs. Hassler...

ACT Test Date

The next administration of the ACT College Entrance Exam is set for Saturday, April 8th, 2017. 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!!

New Horizon Tutoring Dakota Dunes, SD

My name is Manoj Patil, Chemistry Instructor at Western Iowa Technical College in Sioux City, Iowa, and Owner of New Horizon Tutoring at Dakota Dunes, SD. A little bit about New Horizon Tutoring - We had over 500+ students getting tutored in various courses in ACT, SAT, PSAT, MCAT and other high school courses. We have also collaborated with area high schools for ACT prep courses.

Our highest score is 35 and average increase is between 3-4 points.

Please let me know how New Horizon Tutoring can help and enhance students in your school.

My cell phone number is (712) 204-6876.

Scholarship Contests for Middle School Students

Nebraska's [NEST 529 College Savings Plan](#) is sponsoring two contests that can result in scholarship dollars for your students.

The "[Draw Your Dreams](#)" scholarship contest is for students in kindergarten through 8th grade. Twelve winners will each receive a \$1,000 contribution to a college savings account. Entries must be postmarked by **April 30**.

The "[Why I Want to Go to College](#)" essay contest is for 7th and 8th graders. The deadline is coming up quickly - **March 17!**

Winners could receive a \$2,000, \$1,000, or \$500 contribution to a college savings account.

Questions? Call the Nebraska State Treasurer's office at [402.471.2455](tel:402.471.2455).

National Honor Society



On Monday, April 3rd, 2017 at 7:30 PM in the Fine Arts facility, nine new nominees will be recognized and inducted into Ponca High School's National Honor Society chapter.



Selection guidelines and expectations were presented to those eligible 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students who carry a scholastic average of 85 or above and expressed an interest by attending an informational meeting on February 2nd. In order to be considered for nomination, students presented their completed information sheets to the NHS advisor by 4:00 pm on February 27th, 2017. A faculty council comprised of five teachers reviewed and discussed each student's information sheet, attendance and discipline records, and teacher questionnaires. Private ballots were cast by the faculty council, and those students receiving three out of five "yes" votes then become new nominees to the National Honor Society.

Elementary News

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

In April the elementary students will be participating in NeSA testing and MAP testing. These tests give us valuable data about the education being provided by Ponca Public School. Please visit with your child about the importance of the testing. Please help your child be prepared for the tests by getting a good night sleep. The school will provide breakfast on the day of the test.

On May 5th we will be having the annual field day at the Sports Complex in Ponca at 1:15pm weather permitting. The students will participate in a number of exciting events. Parents are encouraged to attend. We will try to make an early decision if we plan to postpone due to weather.

Our spring concerts are May 4th at 7:00pm for the Jackson Elementary students and May 15th at 7:00pm for the Ponca Elementary students. Both concerts will be held in the west gymnasium in Ponca. 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!

Class field trips will be coming up in April and May. Students are expected to be on their best behavior during these trips. Please remind them they are representing Ponca Public School and their actions speak louder than words. Please remind them these trips are a privilege and not a right.

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 17th in Ponca at 7:30 p.m.

KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP

Parents who have children five years of age on or before July 31, 2017, may wish to send their son/daughter to kindergarten during the 2017/2018 school year.

Kindergarten Roundup for these students is scheduled for Monday, April 21st at Jackson Elementary. Parents may register their child for roundup by returning the form below or calling the Jackson Elementary School office at (402) 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 2017/2018

Student Name: _____ Boy _____ Girl _____

Date of Birth: _____ Phone Number: _____

Parents or Guardian: _____

Address: _____

MUSIC NOTES

Upcoming Music Events:

March 31st & April 1st	Student Showcase @ 7:00 p.m. Doors open @ 6:15 p.m. (purchase tickets at Ponca School)
April 10th	HS Band and Chorus Concert and Awards @ 7:00 p.m.
April 21st	District Music Contest @ South Sioux City ALL DAY
May 1st	5th & 6th Grade Pender Honor Band - Concert @ 5:30 p.m.
May 4 th	PreK - 2 nd Music Concert @ Ponca School 7:00 p.m.
May 12th	Graduation (HS Chorus and HS Band)
May 15th	3-6 Elementary Music and Band Concert @ 7:00 p.m.



UPCOMING CAMPS

Summer will be here before we know it and that means summer athletic camp forms will be sent home with students very soon!!

Please keep your eye open for camp sign-up sheets in your student's backpack.

Camp forms can be found online at www.poncaschool.org as they become available.

If you have any questions, please contact the school at (402) 755-5700.

Congratulations to our Ponca Speech Team!



The Ponca Speech team had a strong season. We gained several new faces this year and had a total of 24 members. Our 2016-2017 Speech team consisted of: Brianna Goodier, Carin Mellick, Emily Persinger, Jacob Anderson, Emma Beach, Lexi Gill, Sydney Harding, Brianna Scott-Rodriguez, Emma Webb, Claire Hoelsing, Medi Fethkenher, Hailey Bellows, Olivia Eifert, Colson Watchorn, Katie Meister, Shana Seneviratne, Brooke Solomon, Bree Gill, Gracie Voss, Olivia Hrouda, Katie Janssen, Rachel Angle, Mia Stroud, and Dana Kratke. The team competed in 3 invitationals, conference, and district competition. Many superior ratings and medals were earned throughout the season. Fantastic Job Speechers!

Attention Juniors, Seniors, and Parents...After-Prom 2017

The Ponca After-Prom date is approaching quickly!!! This event will be held April 8th at the Ponca Gym. Juniors and Seniors need to register your dates in the High School office by Friday, April 7th at 4:00 p.m., if you are planning to attend.

The prom dance ends at 12:00 and the students need to be at the Ponca Gym and breathalyzed at the door by 12:30 a.m. We need your cooperation & assistance in relating this information to the students to avoid any misunderstandings. There will be inflatables, photo booth, hypnotist, and lots of food and fun!

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!!

Preschool Open House

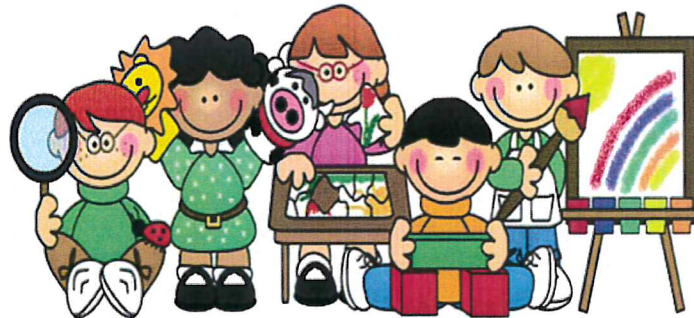


Bring your treasured preschooler to our Open House to register for next year and visit their new classroom! They will go on a treasure hunt discovering their new school and the things they will be doing each day.

**Tuesday, April 11th
6:00 pm at
Jackson Elementary**

Students enjoy a unique curriculum with many exciting events throughout the year. *Preschool is a 4-year-old program that is a full-day, every other day program that includes shuttle bus transportation from the Ponca School for your convenience.* (Student must be four on or before July 31, 2017)

I can't wait to share all the details with you!
Mrs. Mennenga, teacher



If you are unable to attend but would like to request a registration packet, please call Jackson Elementary at 632-4276.

It is necessary to complete all of the enrollment forms and submit the registration fee in order to be on the official roster.

The following students reached their AR Goal for the 3rd Quarter. They were rewarded for their efforts with up to \$10 worth of books at the recent Scholastic Book Fair. Good job students!



- Cora Jackson
- Avery McAfee
- Ellesyn Hrouda
- William Stroud
- Isabella Eifert
- Isabell Gallardo
- Tucker McGill
- EllaRay Nelson
- Chance Petrick
- Treston Pulley
- Addison Stewart

- Alexa Swick
- Heydon Velez
- Miguel Balvantin
- Ben Bodlak
- Andrew Brinkmann
- Brady Carnell
- Abby Fernau
- Myles Fethkenher
- Taylor Fleury
- Grace Hansen
- Nolan Janssen
- Zoe Kastning

- Dalton Lamprecht
- Brooklynn Lowe
- Julien Buckles
- Skylar Fletcher
- Claire Burrell
- Abbie Hrouda
- Cole Jackson
- Ellie McAfee
- Julia McKinney
- Alyssa Schamp
- Anthony Sigaty

Dream
Big
READ!

HUNTER SAFETY COURSE

Please register online @ www.HuntSafeNebraska.org to attend the Hunter Safety Class.

Classes will be held April 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th at the new Martinsburg fire hall.

Students must be 12 years or older to attend and must attend all 4 sessions.

Students must have the parental release form filled out & bring it to 1st session.

Any questions, please call Monte Roeber 402-635-2334

Doug Smith (office) 402-635-2129 (home) 402-945-2833

Charlie Mahler 402-945-2951, Bob Kumm 712-253-9807,

Doug Ellis 402-635-1636



Lewis & Clark Conference Art Exhibition

Congratulations to all of the Ponca High School art students who had artwork selected for this year's Lewis and Clark Conference Art Exhibition at Wayne State College. There were 16 area high schools participating with over 400 pieces of artwork on display. Ponca students did a fantastic job representing Ponca School.

The following students received a ribbon at the exhibition:

12th grade:

Abby Millard – 1st place scratchboard

1st place mixed media

Maddie Niemeier – 3rd place charcoal drawing

10th grade:

Katy Kastning- 1st place acrylic painting, 2nd place mixed media

Taylor Lamprecht – 1st place acrylic painting, 1st place mixed media

Morgan Swick – 1st place acrylic painting

Emma Webb – 1st place acrylic painting, 2nd place mixed media

11th grade:

Jacob Brockhaus – 2nd place scratchboard

Cullen Cook – 2nd place mixed media

Mackenzie Crogrove – 1st place acrylic painting

Brooklynn Dutcher – 2nd place watercolor painting

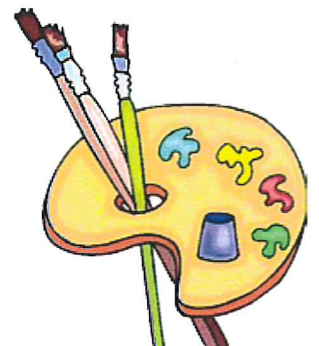
Emma Kneifl – 3rd place scratchboard

Colton Krusemark – 2nd place acrylic painting

9th grade:

Breanna Gill – 1st place acrylic painting

Katie Janssen – 1st place acrylic painting





INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES FOR PONCA HIGH SCHOOL'S PROM DANCE & AFTER PROM 2017

Parents: Please make sure your son/daughter has purchased a
park sticker prior to the dance date/time!

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 8th from 8:00 P.M. to 12:00 A.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 7th. 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 Ponca School Gym from 12:30 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 12:30 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 in the High School Office by 4:00 P.M. on April 7th.
12. Students who plan to attend the After-Prom Party will be given a half hour to change clothes and drive to Ponca School Gym in Ponca, Nebraska.
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 Ponca School Gym 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 Ponca Public School (402)755-5700.

Ponca School Newsletter
Ponca Public School
P O Box 568
Ponca, Nebraska 68770

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PONCA PUBLIC SCHOOL

APRIL 2017



Are you new to the Ponca School District or have a new baby in your household?

The school district is required to conduct an annual census every June for children age 0-21. These census numbers are used by the Nebraska Department of Education for state aid and for federal funding. This list is also used to invite children who are at the age to begin school to the Spring Kindergarten Roundup.

Please contact Sue Gill at Jackson School (402) 632-4276 or
Lisa Hohenstein at Ponca school (402)755-5700
with the children's names, birth dates and genders.



Looking for Volunteers



The athletic department is looking for volunteers to help with the **home** track meets on Thursday April 20th, Tuesday April 25th, and Saturday, April 29th.. There are various jobs available and training is available.

If you have some time and would like to help please contact Bob Hayes (712) 490-4713, Troy Evans (402) 672-7678, Jamie Hamar (712) 203-5974 or call school at (402) 755-5700. Thanks!!!