

December 2017/January 2018

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



As November comes to an end and the holiday season approaches, I can't help but think of all the great things that have occurred in the first four months of school. Whether it be our athletic teams making the state playoffs, 3 All-State Choir members, over 126 (59%) of our high school students with all A's and B's in classes, or the Veterans Day Program, there are definitely great things happening in the Ponca Public Schools.

I would like to thank our staff, parents, community, and supporters for their endless energy, enthusiasm, and commitment. It is because of you our students continue to excel, in and out of the classroom.

Below are a few announcements/reminders:

- As the winter season approaches, please know decisions regarding inclement weather and school will be made as quickly as possible. We will use local TV stations and School Messenger to communicate any delays, closings, or early dismissals
 - **If a 2 hour late start is necessary on a Monday morning, school will begin at 10:10 am in Ponca and 10:20 am in Jackson. The shuttle buses will leave Ponca at 10:00 am. These times will be communicated through School Messenger, should there be a late start**
- When parking along the street around school, please be mindful of our neighbors and their driveways. We've had a couple incidents of cars parked in front of driveways, making it difficult for them to access their driveway
- Continue to monitor your child's lunch account. If your child's account needs to be replenished, you may do so via PowerSchool. If you haven't already, you can still apply for free or reduced lunches. All information regarding free/reduced lunch is kept confidential. If you need a free/reduced lunch application, please contact the office

Important Dates:

Thursday, November 23rd and Friday, November 24 – NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Recess

Thursday, December 21st – EARLY DISMISSAL – End of first semester – Winter Break

Friday, December 22nd – Tuesday, January 2 – NO SCHOOL – Winter Break

Saturday, December 23rd – Wednesday, December 27th – NSAA MORATORIUM

Wednesday, January 3 – NO SCHOOL – Teacher Work Day

Thursday, January 4 – First Day of 2nd Semester

Friday, January 26 – NO SCHOOL – Mid-Winter Break

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. As stated above, all protected bases do not apply to all programs, "the first six protected bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability and sex are the six protected bases for applicants and recipients of the Child Nutrition Programs.

ELEMENTARY NEWS

Mr. Hayes, Principal

The holiday season has arrived and it is a busy time of year. We hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We are in a constant battle with the flu. **If your child is not feeling well please do not send them to school.** We have a number of students come to school running a temperature or complaining of stomach flu before school begins. If your child has vomited the previous evening or the morning of school it's probably an indicator not to send them to school. The standard rule from health care officials is: **a child should be fever free and have not vomited for 24 hours before returning to school.** Please make a special effort to check students before they return to school; this will help keep the flu from spreading.

Although it is a busy time of year, the end of the 1st semester is approaching very quickly. The semester ends on December 21st. Students need to remain focused on academics and finish the semester with a strong academic performance. The second round of MAP testing will be the week of Dec. 4th through Dec. 8th for the Jackson students and Jan. 8th through the 12th for the Ponca students, please make sure your child gets plenty of rest and if possible avoid appointments during that week that might keep them from attending school.

With the winter season upon us, we are asking parents to make sure their children have the following items with them at school: **boots, hat, coat, snow pants, and gloves.** Please dress students appropriately for a normal winter school day; flip-flops, shorts, spaghetti-strap tops, and no socks are not appropriate attire for winter weather. The students go outside for recess on most days and winter clothing items are essential.

Basketball season is upon us and we want to remind parents to help us keep students sitting down at the games. If students are allowed to run around it creates a dangerous situation for players, referees, students, and spectators. Please make sure your child is seated and watches the games. If your child is asked to sit down more than once during a game they will be required to sit with their parents. Please realize the safety of everyone in the gym is of the utmost importance.

Many different teams and individuals have reserved the gym for various activities in the next few months. Please remember to respect school property and supervise everyone that enters the building during your scheduled time. **When using the west gym please do not sit on the stage pads!!!** The school equipment will not be available during these times. Please bring your own equipment for practices and activities.

The Jackson gym is not open during the weekly library hours. You must get approval to use the Jackson gym!

HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

WINTER 2017-2018 Season Athletic Passes

Passes are good for all Ponca home regular season athletic events for the WINTER 2017-2018 Season.

Students	\$35.00	Adult	\$40.00
	Family		\$120.00

The passes cannot be used for conference tournament events.
Passes can be purchased during school hours 8:00am to 4:00pm
in the business office at Ponca School.



Senior Citizen Passes Available...

As in the past we have senior citizen passes available for those patrons of the district who are over 65.

The passes are free of charge and are good for any activities at the school.

Bob Hayes, Athletic Director

Thank You for Your Library Donations

We would like to thank the following people for book donations: Maureen Anderson, Jamie Hamar, Van Greer, and Jenna Irwin (Mrs. Irwin's daughter).

From Mr. Lahm's "Pen"

Once-in-a-lifetime experience! Proud to be an American! Thankful!

These are some of the first thoughts that came to me while writing this article. I had the opportunity to go on a Boss Lift educator flight with the 185th Air National Guard, and it is an experience that will never be forgotten. After an hour flight from the base near Sioux City and a few delays in the air, we actually experienced a KC-135 refuel a B1 fighter plane near Rapid City, South Dakota. It was AWESOME!

As we were flying, we could move around the plane and visit with other flight crew and educators. We could enter the cockpit and listen on the headset to the conversations. Best of all, I could lay down in the back of the plane and look down through the Boom window at all the landscape. (I actually wrote this article while laying down looking out the back end of the plane.)

As I looked out over the expanses of land, I was amazed at all the fields of corn just recently harvested. It made me think just how thankful I am for all the different gifts and abilities and interests of people who work so hard to provide goods and services to people like myself. It also helped me remember that this world is so big and I am only a small part of it. Yet, though I am only a small part, it takes each person doing their part to make this world a better place.

My hope is that during this Thanksgiving and Christmas season, each person might have some time to reflect on how much they have to offer in this world. Sometimes we feel small and unimportant. Some of us may feel no one would care if we were gone. What I know is that as I looked out over the landscape on that plane, I was thankful to the many men and women who have gone before and who are coming behind me. Each person doing their part - serving as President or sharing a smile - makes this world a better place. Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!!!

DECEMBER 2017 IS THE MONTH. . .

. . . TO SAY THANK-YOU FOR ANOTHER SPECIAL VETERANS DAY PROGRAM. Our Ponca Public Schools Veterans Day Program continues to be an event we all look forward to attending. This fine program would not happen without the hard work of our Elementary and Secondary Student Council students and their sponsors Mrs. Hassler, Mrs. Wenger, and Mrs. Anderson, our vocal and instrumental music students and their directors Dr. Webb and Mrs. Steckly, Mrs. Hayes who creates our slide presentation, Mr. Stark who runs the sound system, our custodial staff (Mr. Foulks, Mrs. Granato, Mr. Grant and Mrs. Hoffman) and you our guests. We hope our Veterans are as honored by this program as we are honored to perform it for them.

. . . WHEN WE ARE TREATED TO THE PERFORMANCES OF OUR MUSIC STUDENTS. We hope you can find time in your December schedule for some holiday music. Our elementary and secondary students have been working hard to show-off their hard work and musical talents. Please join us on December 8 (PK-2 @ 7:00 pm in Ponca), 14 (JH @ 6:30 and HS @ 7:30 – Fine Arts), and 19 (3-6th @ 7:00 pm in Ponca) and let us entertain you with some holiday music.

. . . WHEN WE ARE REMINDED OF THE VALUE OF GREAT SPORTSMANSHIP. Sportsmanship is a whole school and community effort. We expect all of our fans at sporting events to model the best sportsmanship in support of our teams. It is not about winning or losing, but rather about . . . playing fair . . . following the rules of the game . . . respecting the judgment of referees and officials . . . treating opponents with respect. . . displaying pride in your actions at every opportunity.

. . . WE END OUR FIRST SEMESTER. As we move through the busy days of December, there are many holiday distractions. Help your Ponca School student(s) to stay motivated in school by encouraging them to work hard and making sure they get adequate sleep. Grades 7-12 students end their first semester by writing semester tests. The semester test schedule can be found in this newsletter. Encourage your child(ren) to start reviewing early for their semester tests and this in turn may help lower the stress they experience during this busy time of the year.

JANUARY 2017 IS THE MONTH. . .

. . . FOR THE LEWIS AND CLARK CONFERENCE MUSIC FESTIVAL. On January 20, 2017, Ponca Honor Band students will be spending their day at the Lewis and Clark Conference Music Festival. The festival concert begins at 4:30 p.m. in the Ramsey Theater on the Wayne State College campus. Everyone is invited to the concert. Your concert attendance can help Ponca Schools bring home the traveling trophy for the most community members in attendance. Because this is a conference event the admission to the concert is \$5.00 for adults and \$4.00 for students.

DECEMBER AND JANUARY ARE THE MONTHS. . .

. . . WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

High School Semester Test Schedule

WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 20)

08:10-09:10	PERIOD 1	TEST
09:15-10:05	PERIOD 2	
10:10-11:10	PERIOD 3	TEST
11:15-11:42	PERIOD 4	
11:45-12:59	PERIOD 5	TEST
01:02-01:35	PERIOD 6	
01:40-02:40	PERIOD 7	TEST
02:45-03:05	HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS	
03:10-03:40	PERIOD 8	

THURSDAY (DECEMBER 21)

08:10-09:15	PERIOD 2	TEST
09:25-10:30	PERIOD 4	TEST
10:40-11:42	PERIOD 6	TEST
11:42-12:09	PERIOD 5/FIRST LUNCH	
12:09-12:36	PERIOD 5/SECOND LUNCH	
12:39-01:30	PERIOD 8	TEST

Concession Stand Work Schedule

Dear Music Booster Parent:

Included in this mailing is the winter work schedule for the Concession Stand. You are receiving it because your name is on it! We send the schedule out in advance in order for you to have the chance to switch with someone if your time does not work. We ask that both parents, if scheduled, please come as the stand works best when everyone is there! Game times are listed on the school website. Please arrive at least 15 minutes before the start. We know some of the games start early and it is impossible to get there on time, especially if you work outside of Ponca. If you know you will be late, please let your contact person know! Thanks for supporting YOUR music student!

Nov 30 G&B B Ball

Contact Christina Luebe Cell# 712 899-2520
Madonna Nelson Jeanne Kneiff
Troy & Amy Evans

Dec 4 JV Wrestling

Contact Wendy Masin Cell # 402 312- 9042
Reed & Amy McGill Doyle & Jenny VanDyke

Dec 7 G&B B Ball

Contact Cheri Jansen Cell # 612 749-2398
Kevin & Angie Niemeier Joe & Barb Hayes

Dec 21 G&B B Ball

Contact Stacey Swick Cell # 402 380-6170
Brad & Codi Hroudz Michelle Carlson
Susie Day

Jan 2 B&G B Ball

Contact Julie Harding Cell # 402 404-0017
Ben & Julie Schamp Aaron & Rachel Dutcher-Bessmer

Jan 9 G&B B Ball

Contact Julie Kramper Cell # 712 223-4277
Jeff & Mishelle Fields Brian & Kerri Lentz

Jan 12 B&G B Ball

Contact Christina Luebe Cell # 712-899-2520
Doug & Lynette Bauman Ryan & Liz Dohma

Jan 23 B&G B BALL

Contact Stacey Swick Cell # 402 280-6170
Eric & Patti Goodier Mike & Lisa Carlson

Jan 25 Wrestling

Contact Wendy Masin 402 312 9042
Donnie & Michelle Berg Paul & Jennifer Mahler

Feb 9 G&B B Ball

Contact Julie Harding Cell #402 404-0017
Todd & Carol Kratke Will & Kelly Kasting
Beth & Tyson Bodlak

Holiday Cake Raffle Time!!

PHS Student Council Elves will be at it Again!

It's that time of year again...**Holiday Cake Raffle time!** For several years now the Student Council Elves have hosted a decorated holiday cake raffle at a home basketball game prior to Christmas. The money raised at the cake raffle is donated to the *Student Council's Special Use Endowment of the Ponca Community Educational Foundation*. **This year our goal is to raise \$500 for our endowment.**

Here's where we need your help...

- Make plans to attend the doubleheader basketball games on Thursday, December 7, 2017, when the Ponca Indians host the Randolph Cardinals in the Ponca School Gymnasium. Games begin at 4:45 p.m.
- Fans will be able to purchase tickets for \$1.00 a piece or 6 tickets for \$5.00 starting at 4:30 p.m..
- We will have 20 holiday cakes ready to be raffled (Half of the cakes will be raffled during halftime of the varsity girls' game and the other will be raffled during halftime of the boys' varsity game.)

Once the drawing has taken place, then the elves (with the help of the student council sponsors) will "gift wrap" the holiday cakes using decorated cellophane paper. At the conclusion of the games, the winners will then get to take a gift wrapped holiday cake home.



Thank you very much ahead of time for helping make our holiday cake raffle a success!

PS.... You will want to attend the games to see "Santa and Mrs. Claus" ask their "elves" to display the holiday cakes at halftime of each of the varsity games.

Updated Food Pantry Hours in Ponca...

Ponca Area Food Pantry

Contact: Pastor Jeff Peters, Christ the King Church, [121 N. Iowa Street, Ponca, NE 68770](#). Phone: [402-755-2959](#).

Hours: The 3rd & 5th Thursdays during the month of November and the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of December. (8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)

During the other months of the year the Food Pantry is open during the 2nd and 4th Thursdays during the times listed above.

Dixon County Food Pantry (Ponca Office)

Contact: Ken Johnson, United Methodist Church, 223 W. 2nd Street, Ponca, NE 68770. Phone: [402-755-2742](#).

Hours: Appointments to pick up food can be arranged by calling Ken Johnson at the number listed (24/7).



FOOD DRIVE

The Ponca Elementary Student Council and Thrivent Financial will host a food drive to help restock the shelves of the Ponca Community Food Pantry and the Dixon County Food Pantry during the Christmas season.

Please bring donated food/paper items to Ponca Public School during school hours beginning November 28th through December 15th. Please place items in the covered boxes on the tables located in the main hallway outside of the elementary office.

Currently, the pantries are low on the following food items:

Cold/hot cereal (large and small boxes)	Kid friendly foods	Boxed/Complete meals
Pork & Beans	Complete pancake mix (add water)	Canned fruit
Canned/dry soup	Canned stews	Peanut Butter
Canned meat (tuna, chicken, etc.)	Pudding cups	Juice
Rice	Canned tomatoes/tomato sauce	Toilet paper
Paper towels	Kleenex	Laundry soap
Comet cleaner	Shampoo	



Tis' the Season... Ponca Public Schools Christmas Concerts

December 8th – Jackson Elementary PreK-2nd Grades (Ponca's West Gym at 7:00 pm)

December 14th – Ponca Jr. High at 6:30 and High School at 7:30 (Fine Arts Theater)

December 19th – Ponca Elementary 3-6th Grades (Ponca's West Gym) at 7:00 pm



Junior High & High School Pep Band Schedule:

Students are to be at the school at 5:30 to prepare for pep band.

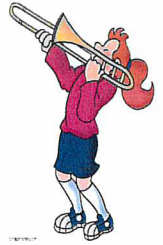
Thursday, December 7th

Friday, January, 12th

Thursday, December 21st

Tuesday, January 23rd

Tuesday, January 9th



Upcoming Honor Bands

The Lewis and Clark Honor Band will be held on Saturday, January 20th at Wayne State College.

The following students will participate:

Sophie Kramper, Carin Mellick, Colson Watchorn, Garrett Anderson, Morgan Janssen, Katie Meister, Claire Hoelsing, Kai Seneviratne, Shana Seneviratne, Meg Keller, Sarah Beach and Ben McDuffee

USD Quad State Honor Band (High School) – Sunday & Monday, January 21st and 22nd

*Results will come out at the end of December.

Wayne State Honor Band– Saturday, January 27th

*Results will come out at the end of December.

Strong Foundations 6th Grade Honor Band

Congratulations to the following students who were selected to participate in the 6th Grade Strong Foundations Honor Band!

Brady Carnell and Grant Sprakel

It will be held on Monday, January 8th at Sioux City East High School



Congratulations to the Following Ponca High Choir Students for Receiving Conference Medals



Sopranos

Carin Mellick
Olivia Hrouda
Claire Hoelsing

Altos

Sophie Kramper

Basses

Colson Watchorn
Nathan Bauman



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

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

E C R W S S
Postal Patron

PONCA PUBLIC SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2017 AND JANUARY 2018



NOTICE TO PARENTS OF PONCA SCHOOL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENTS WHO MAY BE CONSIDERING ENROLLMENT OPTION FOR THE 2018 – 2019 SCHOOL YEAR

Parents or guardians considering the use of the enrollment options program to enroll their child/ren in another public school district in the state of Nebraska should be aware of the following date:

March 15, 2018 – The Nebraska Department of Education deadline for filing enrollment option application for the 2018-2019 school year unless a waiver of dates is granted. (If the enrollment option application is filed before March 15th, 2018, the application does not need to be taken to the school the student is leaving.

Limitation - The enrollment option shall be available only once to each student prior to graduation unless:

- (a) the student relocates in a different resident school district,
- (b) the option school district merges with another district.

Eligibility – Eligibility will be considered for transfer students who have transferred from one school to another when there is not a change of domicile by the parents. Those students who have their transfer papers signed and filed on or before March 15 shall be eligible immediately in the fall. According to Nebraska School Activities Association, those students who do not have their transfer applications signed and filed on or before May 1 shall be ineligible for 90 school days.

Transportation – The parents of the optioned student shall be responsible for required transportation to the option district.

If you have questions regarding the enrollment option program, please contact the Ponca Superintendent's Office at (402) 755-5700.