

February 2019

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 Jody L. Phillips, Superintendent of Schools

Second semester is in full swing and winter has officially hit!

The spring semester is time in which state testing is conducted for the majority of our students. Students in grades 3-8 will participate in the NSCAS (Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System) and all Juniors will participate in the ACT test. This is a great opportunity for our students to showcase their progress, skills, and knowledge. It is very important our students take these assessments seriously. Be sure your child gets plenty of sleep the night before tests and a good breakfast the day of.

Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled on Thursday, February 7th from 2:00 to 8:00PM. Dismissal for ALL students will be at 1:10 for Jackson and 1:30 for Ponca. Please plan on attending your child(ren)'s conferences, as it is a good time to have individualized conversations about academic progress.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

Thursday, February 7th: Parent/Teacher Conferences 2:00 – 8:00. Dismissal at 1:10/1:30

Friday, March 15th: End of 3rd Quarter

Friday, March 1st – Monday, March 4th: NO SCHOOL – Spring Break

Thursday, April 18th: EARLY DISMISSAL

Friday, April 19th: NO SCHOOL – Easter Break

Monday, April 22nd: NO SCHOOL – Easter Break

Friday, May 10th: EARLY DISMISSAL – GRADUATION

Tuesday, May 21st: Last day of school (Tentative)

The Ponca Community Educational Foundation (PCEF) announces it's 2019 Funding Opportunities for Ponca Graduates, School District Employees, and Patrons of the District.

One of the purposes of the PCEF is to promote and support educational opportunities for the students of the Ponca Public School District. The main avenue of support has always been funding scholarships to Ponca High School graduating seniors.

Because of recent growth from the generous support of its members, the PCEF is excited to sponsor additional funding opportunities. Listed below is a brief description of those opportunities. After reading these descriptions, be sure to encourage a P.H.S. connected student, parent, employee, or community member to apply for these resources.

Guideline information, cover sheets, and applications for each program may be found on the following website: www.pcef.net (For graduating seniors and PHS alumni, click on icon with the same name. For district employees, click on Staff Awards.) Additionally, the information and forms may be obtained by contacting the high school guidance office at Ponca Public School (402-755-5702).

Completed applications and supporting documentation must be returned to Fran Hassler, PCEF Scholarship Selection Committee Chairperson by Wednesday, March 6, 2018, 4:00 P.M., in person or via email at: franhassler@poncaschool.org (Please note: Due date deadlines will not be adjusted in the event of technology difficulties.)

Funding categories presently include:

1. Awards for P.H.S. Graduating Seniors
2. Awards for P.H.S. Alumni
3. Awards for Certified Staff Members at Ponca Public School
4. Awards for Non-Certified Staff at Ponca Public School

Should an individual, family or business wish to contribute to the PCEF, please contact:

Foundation President Richard Dohma, (402) 755-2224. Thank you.

Funding Opportunities Article (updated: 1-9-2019)

From Mr. Lahm's "Pen"

I was always told that the older you get, the faster time will go. I can honestly say that this wisdom and insight seems truer now than ever. Where is the time going?

Though, for some of you, it may seem that time is dragging. Others might be experiencing situations that seem will never end. It may even be the case that we have people experiencing pain, grief, and even verbal and physical abuse who feel that they will never get out of this time. For these people, the world keeps spinning, and they feel like no one understands what they are experiencing.

Every day at school I get to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to start the morning for all students in 7th-12th Grade. I say the announcements for the day, and I add in a short quote or general reminder. At the end of the announcements, it is always stated: "Be kind always. Make today a great day..." It is my hope that everyone is always kind though they will not be. I desire that all things in life are always good for you, but we know this will not always be the case. What I know is that each of us can control our own attitude, actions, and words, and when we are able to control our own self, life seems to work out all right even in the midst of turmoil, despair, and/or pain. When we choose to be kind and when we choose to make good even in tough situations, our lives become richer as we seek the good of others rather than just our own self.

Time keeps moving on, and we know that life will not always be joyful or perfect. My sincere desire for each person is that they may be able to make every day a great day and that they would be kind to others. If I can manage to do this on a daily basis, no matter how fast time flies, I can rest assured that I have spent my time well.

7-12 QUARTER 3 MIDTERM REPORTS will be available in hard copy if requested by parents on Thursday, February 7, at Parent/Teacher Conferences. Please remember that you have 24/7 access to grades on Powerschool, and these are more updated than what is printed. Give us a call and ask for Mrs. Hayes if you are unsure how to login to Powerschool or if you need a username and password.

IT IS SPELLING BEE TIME FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 5-8! Wednesday, January 30, students in grades 5-8 will be administered a 25-word written test. The students who earn the top spelling scores on the Ponca Schools written Spelling Bee test will advance to the oral spelling bee. Ponca Schools Oral Spelling Bee is scheduled for Tuesday, February 5, at 2:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts center. The top five spellers will then advance to the Dixon County Spelling Bee held at Allen Consolidated Schools at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 13. The public is invited to attend both the Ponca Schools and Dixon County Spelling Bees. If you have a speller in the family you may access the "2019 Spell It" at www.myspellit.com. In addition, students were given a word list to study in preparation for these events, so take time and study.

REMINDER TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS... Even though February is full of winter activities, spring activity practices are scheduled to begin on Monday, February 25. Parents and students are reminded that the district only provides for supervision of athletes or participants at school activities scheduled during the school day. A student who is not on the team, will only be released from school to attend the activity if the student is with his/her parent or guardian. All students must be pre-excused before 9:00 A.M. the day of the event to attend or participate in a school activity.

ACT TEST FOR ALL 11th GRADE STUDENTS... The state of Nebraska has mandated that every 11th grade student in the state of Nebraska should take the ACT test. The ACT test is the main examination that 2- and 4- year colleges and universities in the Midwest use to determine acceptance as well as scholarship money at their institutions. This year, EVERY 11th grade student will be taking the ACT on Wednesday, April 3 at Ponca Public School. The state will be paying for this test, so it is **free** to your student(s) (generally a \$46 test). The ACT has 4 sections including English, Math, Reading, and Science, and the state of Nebraska has also made it a requirement for students to participate in the writing portion of the test. Certain accommodations are available for students with an IEP or 504, and they must be approved by ACT. OnToCollege (direct instruction and immediate feedback on ACT testing) is a free resource available 24/7 to all high school students. In addition, all 11th grade students will be participating in a 6-8 week program named OnToCollege (formerly John Baylor Test Prep) during school hours to prepare them for the ACT exam. All students will have access to these free online resources at home, so please feel free to take advantage of all these materials.

NSCAS SUMMATIVE STATE TEST... This year **all 3rd-8th grade students** will be required to participate in the NSCAS (Nebraska Student-Centered Accountability System) Summative test on **April 24-26**. Google NDE Profile. Click on "Nebraska Education Profile – Nebraska.gov." On this page you can click on State Data and/or you may type in and find Ponca School Data.



Music Notes



Congratulations to the following students for being selected to the following highly competitive honor bands:

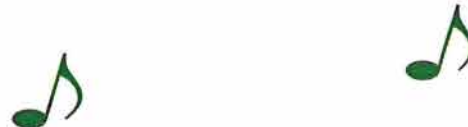
Wayne State Festival of Bands:

Junior High: Brady Carnell - Trumpet

Symphonic Band: Sarah Beach – Clarinet, Grace Rooney – Clarinet, Morgan Janssen – Trumpet, Katie Meister – Tenor Sax, Colson Watchorn - Tuba

Wind Ensemble: Nate Ruhrer – Bass Clarinet, Matthew Lentz - Trombone

Alternates: Austen Janssen - Baritone



University of South Dakota Quad State Honor Bands:

Symphonic Band: Morgan Janssen – Trumpet, Sarah Beach – Clarinet, Matthew Lentz – Trombone, Grace Rooney - Clarinet

Congratulations to the following students for being selected to participate in the Class C All-State Honor Band!!!

Class C will be held in Kearney on March 23rd.

Junior High: Abbie Hrouda - Flute; Brooklynn Lowe - Clarinet; Karen Mendez - Clarinet; Abby Fernau - Bass Clarinet (1st Chair); Zoe Kastning - Tenor Sax; Brady Carnell - Trumpet (1st Chair)

Symphonic Band: Shana Seneviratne - Flute; Grace Rooney - Clarinet (1st Chair); Meg Keller - Clarinet; Nate Ruhrer - Bass Clarinet; Cayden Phillips - Alto Saxophone; Jacob Statema - Alto Saxophone; Lucas Hoelsing - Tenor Saxophone; Claire Hoelsing - Bari Saxophone (1st Chair); Morgan Janssen - Trumpet; Tommy Chase - Trombone; Austen Janssen - Baritone; Chase Kastning - Tuba

Wind Ensemble: Sarah Beach - Clarinet; Katie Meister - Tenor Saxophone; Matthew Lentz - Trombone; Colson Watchorn - Tuba



Upcoming Concerts and Other Events:

February 26th – 7th-6th Grade Band and Choir Concert

March 5th – Middle School Contest @ WSC

March 12th – USD Jazz Festival @ Vermillion

March 25th – Class C All-State Band @ Kearney

March 26th – Northeast Jazz Festival @ Norfolk



Save the Dates!!

Pep Band:

February 15th (Friday)

There is the potential of playing for District Finals, and State Championships.

More information will come as it gets closer.



The Music Department is putting on a Pops Concert on March 29th and 30th @ 7:00!



We will have our large groups perform and we're looking for solos and small groups. 7-12 grade students are encouraged to audition for solos or small groups on Monday, Feb. 18 after school in the choir room.



HOBY Leadership Workshop

Ponca School Sophomore Parents: Great Leadership Opportunity for your Son or Daughter

It is time for Ponca School to nominate two outstanding sophomore leaders to participate in the Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership (HOBY) Workshop scheduled for May 31 - June 2, 2019, at Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska.

As the nation's foremost youth leadership development organization — with more than 345,000 alumni — HOBY invites schools from every state in the nation to select a young student (sophomore) to attend a three-day interactive conference on leadership. During the conference students are introduced to distinguished leaders of business, technology, education, arts, science, media, and non-profit. HOBY participants enhance their leadership skills and discover that they are not alone in their desire to lead and to make their schools and communities better places.

Ponca High School sophomores are indeed fortunate as the participation in the conference is sponsored by the Bank of Dixon County. The BDC pays the \$620 registration fee and also provides \$50 to help defray travel expenses to the conference.

All sophomores are given an application to complete. Those students who return the completed application by the deadline are eligible for selection. A panel of P.H.S. teachers review and score the applications. The applicant with the highest score is nominated to attend the conference. Ponca School can select the nominee and one alternate.

Ponca sophomores will receive the applications on Thursday, January 17, 2019, and completed applications are due to Mrs. Hassler by Friday, February 1, 2019, at 3:45 P.M. Late applications will not be accepted. Parents please encourage your son or daughter to apply for this great leadership opportunity.

Reference Website: www.hoby.org



**YOUTH
LEADERSHIP**

NOTICE TO PARENTS OF PONCA SCHOOL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENTS WHO MAY BE CONSIDERING ENROLLMENT OPTION FOR THE 2019 – 2020 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, 2019 – The Nebraska Department of Education deadline for filing enrollment option application for the 2019-2020 school year unless a waiver of dates is granted. (If the enrollment option application is filed before March 15th, 2019, 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.

Ponca Public Schools Anti-Discrimination Statement

The Ponca Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race, color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Students: Mr. Jody Phillips, Superintendent of Schools, PO Box 568, Ponca, NE 68770 (402) 755-5700 (jodyphillips@poncaschool.org).

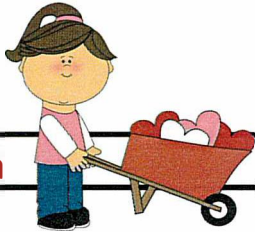
Employees and Others: Mr. Jody Phillips, Superintendent of Schools, PO Box 568, Ponca, NE 68770 (402) 755-5700 (jodyphillips@poncaschool.org).

Complaints or concerns involving discrimination or needs for accommodation or access should be addressed to the appropriate Coordinator. For further information about anti-discrimination laws and regulations, or to file a complaint of discrimination with the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education (OCR), please contact OCR at One Petticoat Lane, 1010 Walnut Street, 3rd Floor, Suite 320, Kansas City, Missouri 64106, (816) 268-0550 (voice), Fax (816) 268-0599, (800) 877-8339 (telecommunications device for the deaf), or ocr.kansascity@ed.gov.

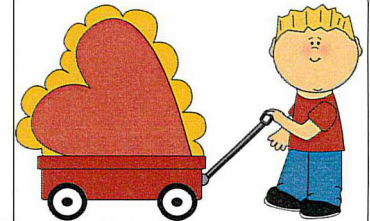
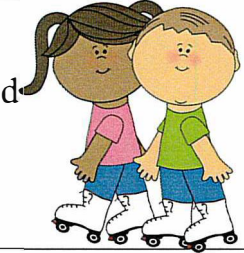
The Ponca Public School requests your help in locating handicapped children. The school implements the Federal Handicapped Children's Act (PL 94-142) and Nebraska statute which guarantees a free appropriate educational program for all children between birth and 21 years of age. If you have students or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



Jackson Elementary ~ February 2019



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<p>February 7th: - Early Dismissal 1:10 in Jackson, 1:30 in Ponca - Preschool - 12th Grade Parent-Teacher Conferences 2:00 pm - 8:00 pm at the Ponca Gym</p> <p>February 8th - No School February 11th - No School, Staff Development</p>	<p>ROLLERSKATING PARTY!</p> <p>Our skating party is tentatively scheduled for Valentine's Day, February 14th. We will send a note home with the confirmed date soon.</p>			<p>1</p> <p>PIZZA LETTUCE & TOMATOES CORN FRUIT</p>
<p>4</p> <p>CHICKEN DRUMMIES MASHED POTATOES & GRAVY PEAS PINEAPPLE</p>	<p>5</p> <p>CHEESEBURGER FRENCH FRIES SLICED PICKLES BAKED BEANS PEACHES</p>	<p>6</p> <p>RAVIOLI GREEN BEANS CORN BREAD & BUTTER STRAWBERRIES</p>	<p>7 EARLY DISMISS/CONFERENCES</p> <p>TURKEY & CHEESE WRAPS LETTUCE CARROTS & BROCCOLI with RANCH DIP FRUIT</p>	<p>8</p> <p>NO SCHOOL</p>
<p>11</p> <p>NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>12</p> <p>PANCAKES SAUSAGE TATER TOTS CARROTS & RANCH</p>	<p>13</p> <p>MAC & CHEESE PEAS BREAD & BUTTER MIXED FRUIT</p>	<p>14 ROLLERSKATING FIELD TRIP!</p> <p><i>Let's Roll!</i></p> <p>PB & J SACK LUNCH</p>	<p>15</p> <p>PIG IN A BLANKET BAKED BEANS PICKLE SPEAR CHEESESTICK FRUIT</p>
<p>18</p> <p>CHICKEN SALAD ON A BUN COLESLAW FRENCH FRIES APPLE</p>	<p>19.</p> <p>PORK CHOP ON A BUN SLICED PICKLES CHEESY BROCCOLI RICE MANDARIN ORANGES</p>	<p>20</p> <p>CHICKEN & NOODLES CALIFORNIA BLEND VEGGIES LETTUCE DINNER ROLL & BUTTER PEARS</p>	<p>21</p> <p>MEATLOAF MASHED POTATOES & GRAVY COOKED CARROTS ORANGE WEDGES</p>	<p>22</p> <p>HARD SHELL TACO LETTUCE, TOMATO, CHEESE, REFRIED BEANS, SALSA FRUIT</p>
<p>25</p> <p>QUESIDILLA LETTUCE CORN PEACHES</p>	<p>26</p> <p>CHICKEN PATTY ON A BUN AUGRATIN POTATOES PEAS MIXED FRUIT</p>	<p>27</p> <p>SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS GREEN BEANS BREAD STICK APRICOTS</p>	<p>28</p> <p>CORN DOG NACHO CHIPS WITH CHEESE CARROTS & RANCH DIP FRUIT</p>	







FEBRUARY 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1 Boys Conference Basketball @ Ponca 6:00 p.m. Wrestling @ Pender 4:30 p.m.	2 Boys Conference Basketball Semi Final @ Randolph 6:00 p.m. Girls Conference Basketball Semi Final @ Hartington 2:00 pm Wrestling @ Wakefield 9:30 am Speech @ Wayne Jr. High Girls & Boys BB @ Hartington 9:00 am Boys & Girls Reserve BB Home vs Hinton Girls @ 9:00 am/Boys @10:15	
3	4 Conference Basketball Finals @ Laurel Girls @ 6:00 p.m. Boys will follow Girls game 1 hour late start Staff Professional Development	5 Ponca Spelling Bee @ 2:00 Fine Arts	6 NECC Field Trip Copes, Caps, Cops Leave @ 7:45 a.m. Music Booster Meeting Fine Arts 7:00 Post Prom 5:30	7 EARLY DISMISSAL Jackson Dismissal @ 1:10 Ponca Dismissal @ 1:30 K-12 Parent-Teacher Conferences 2:00 - 8:00 held at Ponca School	8 Speech @ Wakefield District Wrestling @ Battle Creek Girls/Boys BB @ Homer Girls & Boys JV @ 4:45 Girls Varsity @ 6:15 followed by Boys Varsity NO SCHOOL	9 District Wrestling @ Battle Creek Girls & Boys Jr. High BB Home vs Wynot 9:00 a.m. Basketball @ Wayne JV Boys @ 4:30 followed by Boys Varsity	
10	11 NO SCHOOL Staff Development Day	12 Girls Basketball Sub-District @ Wayne Time TBA	13 Dixon County Spelling Bee @ Allen 1:30 p.m.	14 Girls Basketball Sub-District @ Wayne Time TBA <i>Happy Valentines Day</i>	15 Boys Basketball Home vs. Creighton JV @ 4:45 followed by Varsity PARENT'S NIGHT	16 Speech @ Wisner Show Choir Choreography 10:00 am-2:00 pm	
					State Wrestling 2/14-2/16—Omaha		
17	18 School Board Meeting 7:00 pm 1 hour late start Staff Professional Development	19 Boys Basketball Sub-District @ Wayne Time TBA	20	21 Boys Basketball Sub-District @ Wayne Time TBA	22 Girls Basketball District Final TBA	23 Boys Basketball District Final TBA	
						Conference Art Show @ WSC 2/18 - 2/22	
24	25 6th Grade Parent Meeting @ 6:00 High School Commons 1 hour late start Staff Professional Development	26 7th & 8th Grade Concert Band and Choir 7:00 Fine Arts	27	28	1 NO SCHOOL	2	
					Girls State Basketball 2/28-3/2—Lincoln		

Poncea Menu

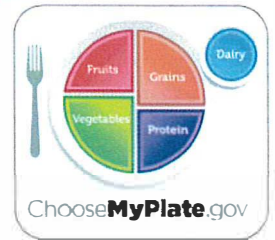
February 2019

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
 <p>Milk Served with Meal Meal Subject to Change USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY</p>				<p>1 Mr. Webb's 6th Grade Choice Chicken Potato Casserole Green Beans Roll Fruit and Veggie Bar</p>
<p>4 Tomato Soup Grilled Cheese Fruit and Veggie Bar</p>	<p>5 Mandarin Chicken Rice Carrots Fruit and Veggie Bar</p>	<p>6 BBQ Pork Sandwich Au Gratin Potatoes Fruit and Veggie Bar</p>	<p>7 Corn Dog Baked Beans Fruit and Veggie Bar</p>	<p>8 NO SCHOOL</p>
<p>11 NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>12 Fiestada Mixed Veggies Fruit and Veggie Bar</p>	<p>13 Chicken Fries Scalloped Potatoes Roll Fruit and Veggie Bar</p>	<p>14 Super Nachos Ice Cream  Fruit and Veggie Bar</p>	<p>15 Cheeseburger Mac Green Beans Roll Fruit and Veggie Bar</p>
<p>18 Pork Fritter Mashed Potatoes Gravy Roll Fruit and Veggie Bar</p>	<p>19 Mrs. Field's 4th Grade Choice Hot Dog Chips and Cheese Fruit and Veggie Bar</p>	<p>20 BBQ Rib Patty Tri Tater Roll Fruit and Veggie Bar</p>	<p>21 Chicken Fajita Spanish Rice Fruit and Veggie Bar</p>	<p>22 Biscuits w/ Sausage Gravy Potato Cubes Fruit and Veggie Bar</p>
<p>25 Hamburger French Fries Fruit and Veggie Bar</p>	<p>26 Quesadilla Corn Scooby Snacks Fruit and Veggie Bar</p>	<p>27 Chicken Nuggets Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy Roll Fruit and Veggie Bar</p>	<p>28 Breakfast Pizza Treat Fruit and Veggie Bar</p>	<p>1 NO SCHOOL</p>

10 tips

Nutrition
Education Series

liven up your meals with vegetables and fruits



10 tips to improve your meals with vegetables and fruits

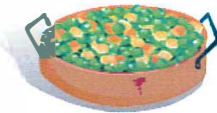
Discover the many benefits of adding vegetables and fruits to your meals. They are low in fat and calories, while providing fiber and other key nutrients. Most Americans should eat more than 3 cups—and for some, up to 6 cups—of vegetables and fruits each day. Vegetables and fruits don't just add nutrition to meals. They can also add color, flavor, and texture. Explore these creative ways to bring healthy foods to your table.

1 fire up the grill

Use the grill to cook vegetables and fruits. Try grilling mushrooms, carrots, peppers, or potatoes on a kabob skewer. Brush with oil to keep them from drying out. Grilled fruits like peaches, pineapple, or mangos add great flavor to a cookout.

2 expand the flavor of your casseroles

Mix vegetables such as sauteed onions, peas, pinto beans, or tomatoes into your favorite dish for that extra flavor.



3 planning something Italian?

Add extra vegetables to your pasta dish. Slip some peppers, spinach, red beans, onions, or cherry tomatoes into your traditional tomato sauce. Vegetables provide texture and low-calorie bulk that satisfies.

4 get creative with your salad

Toss in shredded carrots, strawberries, spinach, watercress, orange segments, or sweet peas for a flavorful, fun salad.

5 salad bars aren't just for salads

Try eating sliced fruit from the salad bar as your dessert when dining out. This will help you avoid any baked desserts that are high in calories.

6 get in on the stir-frying fun

Try something new! Stir-fry your veggies—like broccoli, carrots, sugar snap peas, mushrooms, or green beans—for a quick-and-easy addition to any meal.

7 add them to your sandwiches

Whether it is a sandwich or wrap, vegetables make great additions to both. Try sliced tomatoes, romaine lettuce, or avocado on your everyday sandwich or wrap for extra flavor.



8 be creative with your baked goods

Add apples, bananas, blueberries, or pears to your favorite muffin recipe for a treat.

9 make a tasty fruit smoothie

For dessert, blend strawberries, blueberries, or raspberries with frozen bananas and 100% fruit juice for a delicious frozen fruit smoothie.



10 liven up an omelet

Boost the color and flavor of your morning omelet with vegetables. Simply chop, saute, and add them to the egg as it cooks. Try combining different vegetables, such as mushrooms, spinach, onions, or bell peppers.