

February 2016

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



The Ponca Community Educational Foundation (PCEF) announces it's 2016 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 Tuesday, March 15, 2016, 4:00 P.M., in person or via email at: fran hassler@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: 1-16-2016)

NOTICE TO PARENTS OF PONCA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENTS WHO MAY BE CONSIDERING ENROLLMENT OPTION FOR THE 2016 – 2017 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:

May 1, 2016 - Deadline for filing enrollment option application for the 2016-2017 school year unless a waiver of dates is granted. (If the enrollment option application is filed before March 15th, 2016, 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 May 1 shall be eligible immediately in the fall. 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.

Notes from the Guidance Office

Next A.C.T. Testing Date....

Packet Registration Deadline =

March 4, 2016

Testing Date = April 9, 2016

SENIORS.....

Deadline for the Ponca Community Educational Foundation Scholarships is:

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

4:00 p.m.

P.H.S. Graduates: Five-Year Follow-up Survey

Each year school districts are asked to track the career path their graduates followed upon graduation.

Here is Ponca School District's follow-up survey from the last five graduating classes.

Class	2 Yr.	4 Yr.	Military	Work	Family	Other	Totals
2015	11	15	1FT/2PT	3	--	1	31
2014	6	11	1	8	--	1	27
2013	6	19	2 FT/1PT	10	--		35
2012	0	16	1	11	--	1	29
2011	--	16	2	16	--		34

Notes from the High School

7-12 GRADES FOR MISSING ASSIGNMENTS ENTERED AS A ZERO. At the beginning of second semester, the 7-12 teachers met to discuss how to handle entering grades in PowerSchool when a student does not submit an assignment by the due date. The goal of the teachers is to be consistent across courses in what is done. The teachers decide that grades for missing assignments would be entered into PowerSchool as a zero. This does not mean the student cannot complete the assignment and submit late for a possible grade reduction. Even if a student is absent the day the assignment is due, it will still be entered as a zero with the understanding the student may submit the assignment in a reasonable amount of time for a grade that is not reduced. By handling missing assignments in this manner, we hope to communicate to students and parents the impact a grade of zero has on the student's grade average for that class and raise the student's level of concern to complete the assignment and submit it to the teacher.

REMINDER TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS . . . Parents and students are reminded that the district only provides for supervision of athletes or participants at school activities scheduled during the school day. Therefore a student who is not on the team, will only be released from school to attend the activity if the student is with a 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.

MIDDLE OF 3RD QUARTER IS ON THE 3RD. February 3, is the middle of our third quarter. Students will receive their Midterm Reports on February 5. Then on February 11, we hope to see our parents at Parent/Teacher Conferences. Teachers of K-12 students will be available to conference with parents from 2:00-8:00 p.m. that day.

TIME FOR THE SPELLING BEE! The Fine Arts Theater at 2:00 p.m. on February 10, is the place and time for the Ponca School Spelling Bee. Students in grades 5-8 with the top scores on a 25 word written spelling test will advance to the oral Spelling Bee at Ponca School. The top five oral spellers will advance to the Dixon County Spelling Bee at 1:00 p.m. at Allen Consolidated School. The public is invited to attend the Spelling Bees. If you have a speller in the family you may access the "2016 Spell It" at www.myspellit.com. The public is invited to attend both our local and the county spelling bees! Note the change in location of the Dixon County Spelling Bee.

Elementary News

It's hard to believe January is behind us and February is here! It has been somewhat of a tough winter so far but hopefully mother nature will be kinder second semester. Second semester has started very smoothly with everyone getting back into his or her routine.

The flu season is upon us and you can help combat the flu. If your child has a fever or flu like symptoms please keep them home!! Please keep your child home for 24 hrs after the flu symptoms subside. This will help slow the spread of the flu and you won't have to pick them up from school early. We appreciate the fact you want your child to be in school but if they're not feeling well they're not very productive.

I've had some questions regarding open enrollment recently. The date for open enrollment is March 15th. All paperwork must be in to the school office by March 15th for a student to qualify for open enrollment.

We are having a problem with elementary students running around at basketball games. This creates a dangerous situation at the games. Elementary students must sit and watch the games. They are not allowed to go into the west gym when it is not being used for JV games. Please help keep the basketball games a safe environment for everyone involved.

The date for kindergarten round-up has been set for Monday, April 4th. More details on kindergarten round-up will be in the March newsletter.

Free Early Childhood Screening

For children ages birth through 5 years of age

Wednesday, February 17th

2:30 – 6:00 PM

Located at the Ponca Public High School
505 West 3rd Street
Ponca, NE

Enter through the South Door (main entrance door #1)



The screen will include the areas of overall development, speech/language, motor, hearing & health.

Sponsored by Ponca Public School & Educational Service Unit #1
Questions or concerns: please call 402-755-5700

**Please allow at least one hour for the screen; no appointment necessary.

Non-Discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. "In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

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.

Band Notes

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

Wayne State Festival of Bands:

Junior High: Nate Ruhrer- Bass Clarinet

Symphonic Band: Jack Charlson- Tuba, Alexis Anderson- Tenor Sax, Rachael Lux- Trombone, Sami Coffin- Bari Sax, Morgan Janssen- Trumpet, Joel Beacom- Alternate Percussion

Wind Ensemble: Carin Mellick- Flute, Sam Brickett- Trumpet

University of South Dakota Quad State Honor Bands:

Concert Band: Jack Charlson- Tuba, Morgan Janssen- Trumpet, Kelsea Fethkenher- Trumpet, Ryan Bentz- Trumpet, Rachel Bentz- Clarinet, Rachel Kneifl- Alto Sax, Katie Meister- Tenor Sax, Alexis Anderson- Tenor Sax, Alison Brennan- Flute, Sophie Kramper- Flute, Sami Coffin- Bari Sax

Symphonic Band: Carin Mellick- Flute, Sam Brickett- Trumpet

Congratulations to the following medal winners from the Lewis & Clark Conference Honor Band!!!!

11-12 Medalists: Shelby Rickett- 1st Chair 2nd Flute, Alexis Anderson- 2nd Chair 3rd Clarinet, Rachel Kneifl- 2nd Chair 1st Alto Sax, Kelsea Fethkenher- 1st Chair 2nd Trumpet, Ryan Bentz- 2nd Chair 3rd Trumpet, Rachael Lux- 2nd Chair 3rd Trombone, Jack Charlson- 2nd Chair Tuba, Joel Beacom- 2nd Chair Batter Percussion

9-10 Medalists: Carin Mellick- 1st Chair 2nd Flute, Katie Meister- 1st Chair Oboe, Sam Brickett- 2nd Chair 1st Trumpet, Morgan Janssen- 2nd Chair French horn.

Also congratulations to the following students who auditioned and participated in the honor band: Rachel Bentz- Clarinet (11-12) Band

Save the Date for Upcoming Concerts and Events:

Last Pep Band Night- February 12th! Be at the school by 5:30.

March 1st – Middle School Concert

March 8th – Middle School Contest @ WSC

March 15th – USD Jazz Festival

March 19th – Class C All-State Band @ Kearney

March 21st – Northeast Jazz Festival @ Norfolk

Concession Stand Schedule

Feb 1 Boys conf game 6:00 and 7:45

Contact Person...Julie Harding

Jen and Bret Eiffert

George and Amy Watchorn

Eric and Patti Goodier

February 9 Boys Reserve Basketball

Contact: Wendy Masin 712-312-9042

Eric and Patti Goodier

Mishelle Fields

Feb 5 Girls Conf game 6:00 and 7:45

Contact person ... Wendy Masin

Gina Touney

Susie Day

NEED VOLUNTEERS!!!!

Feb. 12 JV/Varsity BB vs. Homer

Contact: Tina Brennan

Treff & Elisabet DeRoin

Lynn and Wyatt Mellick



Music Notes



Congratulations!

The Nebraska Choral Directors Association is proud to sponsor the 2016 Singing Youth of Nebraska Junior High Honor Choir. This event was held on January 22nd and 23rd in North Platte, Nebraska in the Performing Arts Center at North Platte High School. The choir of 120 seventh, eighth and ninth grade students was selected from across the state through an audition process.

Congratulations to these 7 students who were selected from Ponca Public School!



Freshman-Claire Hoelsing-Soprano I
Freshman-Colson Watchorn-Bass I
Freshman-Hailey Zimmerman-Soprano I
Eighth Grader-Nathan Bauman-Bass I
Eighth Grader-Olivia Hrouda-Soprano II
Seventh Grader-Kaden Fields-Bass I
Seventh Grader-Maddie Riley-Alto I
Alternates
Seventh Grader-Sarah Beach-Soprano I



COMEDY THEATER SHOW

April 1st and 2nd, 2016 7:00 p.m.



FULL CAST

EMCEES

Kari Rooney and Jacob Anderson

SOLOS AND DUETS

Jacob-Joel-Sophie-Sarah-Kaden-Ayla-Sam-Kelsey-Rachel B-Rachel K.-Kari-MacKenzie-Kelsea-Olivia

ENSEMBLE SOLOS

Carin-Alison-Morgan J- Brooklynn D-Abby S -Brandon-Alexa

ENSEMBLE DANCERS-ROCKETTS

Kaylee - Brooklynn D-Emily P-Alison-Ashley-Brooklynn L-MacKenzie

SWIMMERS

Max-Jacob A.-Joel W-Garrett-Joe-Adam-Connor-Jay B

LITTLE PEOPLE

Gage-Kortney-Casey-Morgan S-Walter-Emily P

JUNIOR HIGH-OPHANS

Madison-Braelie-Ava F-Jocelyn-Nayeli-Alivia-Grace-Olivia-Evy-Ayla-Sarah B

FRESHMAN-CHIMNEY SWEEPS

Claire-Morgan S-Sami- Kelsey H-Katie M- Emma W-Katy K.-Madi-Kortney-Morgan J-Olivia E-Hailey B

SOPHOMORES and JUNIORS-BLACK and WHITE

Carin-Alexa V-Abby S.-Sophie K-Rachel-Rachel

JUNIORS and SENIORS-FLAMINGOS

Sophi H.-Megan J-Bailey B.-Bailie B.-Kaylee-Ashley-Brooklynn L -Kelsea F-Abby S.

LAUGHING
— is — the —
BEST
exercise

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

On Monday, April 4th 2016, at 7:30 PM, new nominees will be recognized and inducted into the Ponca Chapter in a formal National Honor Society Ceremony at the Ponca School Fine Arts Facility.

Ponca Public School's National Honor Society is a local chapter which is established according to the nationwide National Honor Society organization which 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 reviews and discusses 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 year during third quarter, students have the opportunity to be nominated for inductions into Ponca High School's local National Honor Society chapter. Selection guidelines and expectations will be presented to those eligible 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students in an informational meeting on Friday, February 5th during 4th period. In order to be considered for nomination, students must return their completed and signed information sheet to Mrs. Foulks by 4 PM on the last Monday of February, February 29th, 2016. Selection guidelines and information sheets are available online at www.poncaschool.org under the activities tab.

PEP

**PARENTS
ENCOURAGING
PARENTS**

March 17-19, 2016
Younes Conference Center
Kearney, Nebraska

Sponsored by Nebraska Department of
Education, Special Education & ESUCC

Are you a Nebraska parent of a child with special
needs? Does your child have an IFSP or an IEP?
Then this conference is for you!

NO REGISTRATION FEE
Lodging and most meals provided



Website: www.education.ne.gov/sped/parentinfo.html

WHAT IS PEP?

The purpose of PEP is to bring parents of children with disabilities together in an accepting and confidential environment, giving them the opportunity to share ideas, feelings and common concerns, and to obtain information on parenting and educating a child with a disability. A major objective of the weekend is to help parents realize that each is doing the best he/she can do at this time. By the end of the conference, parents will go home with renewed energy, spirit, hope and a desire to work closely with professionals who serve their child so that every child can experience the fullest life.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

This conference is open to all Nebraska parents who are raising a child with a verified disability. The child with the disability must have either an active IFSP or IEP.

A small number of openings are reserved for education professionals who serve children with disabilities and are employed in NE school districts. Professionals will experience PEP from a parent perspective.

Enrollment is limited to 110 participants and registration is on a **first come, first serve basis**.

If you cannot attend PEP this year, please fill out the Parent Registration form (your name and address only) and check the box that states you cannot attend this year. You will then receive a brochure directly to your address for PEP 2017.

HOW DO I REGISTER?

To register, first READ the Guidelines for Participation in the PEP Conference. Then complete and return the conference registration form. PEP staff will reserve a hotel room in your name and a confirmation will be mailed or emailed to you. For further information, call Gina Roth at the Nebraska Department of Education, Special Education Office, at 402.471.2471 (TDD).

CONFERENCE

SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 17

Registration (4:45 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.)
Dinner
Welcome
Discussion Group

Friday, March 18

The IFSP/IEP Process
Positive Behavior Management
Lunch
Good Grief!
Discussion Group
Dinner (on your own)
Evening free to socialize, network and relax

Saturday, March 19

Concurrent Sessions

- Assistive Technology
- Estate Planning for the Child with Special Needs
- For Men Only
- Siblings
- Transition
- Building Partnerships
- Social Skills

Lunch
Discussion Group
Pearls of Wisdom
Closing and Evaluations (3:30 p.m.)

10 tips

Nutrition
Education Series

focus on fruits

10 tips to help you eat more fruits



Eating fruit provides health benefits. People who eat more vegetables and fruits as part of an overall healthy diet are likely to have a reduced risk of some chronic diseases. Fruits provide nutrients vital for health, such as potassium, dietary fiber, vitamin C, and folate (folic acid). Most fruits are naturally low in fat, sodium, and calories. None have cholesterol. Any fruit or 100% fruit juice counts as a part of the Fruit Group. Fruits may be fresh, canned, frozen, or dried, and may be whole, cut-up, or pureed.

1 **keep visible reminders**
Keep a bowl of whole fruit on the table, counter, or in the refrigerator.



2 **think about taste**
Buy fresh fruits in season when they may be less expensive and at their peak flavor. Add fruits to sweeten a recipe.



3 **think about variety**
Buy fruits that are dried, frozen, and canned (in water or 100% juice) as well as fresh, so that you always have a supply on hand.

4 **don't forget the fiber**
Make most of your choices whole or cut-up fruit, rather than juice, for the benefits that dietary fiber provides.



5 **be a good role model**
Set a good example for children by eating fruit every day with meals or as snacks.

6 **include fruit at breakfast**
At breakfast, top your cereal with bananas, peaches, or strawberries; add blueberries to pancakes; drink 100% orange or grapefruit juice. Or, try a fruit mixed with fat-free or low-fat yogurt.



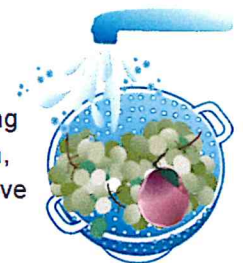
7 **try fruit at lunch**
At lunch, pack a tangerine, banana, or grapes to eat, or choose fruits from a salad bar. Individual containers of fruits like peaches or applesauce are easy and convenient.

8 **experiment with fruit at dinner, too**
At dinner, add crushed pineapple to coleslaw, or include orange sections, dried cranberries, or grapes in a tossed salad.

9 **snack on fruits**
Dried fruits make great snacks. They are easy to carry and store well.



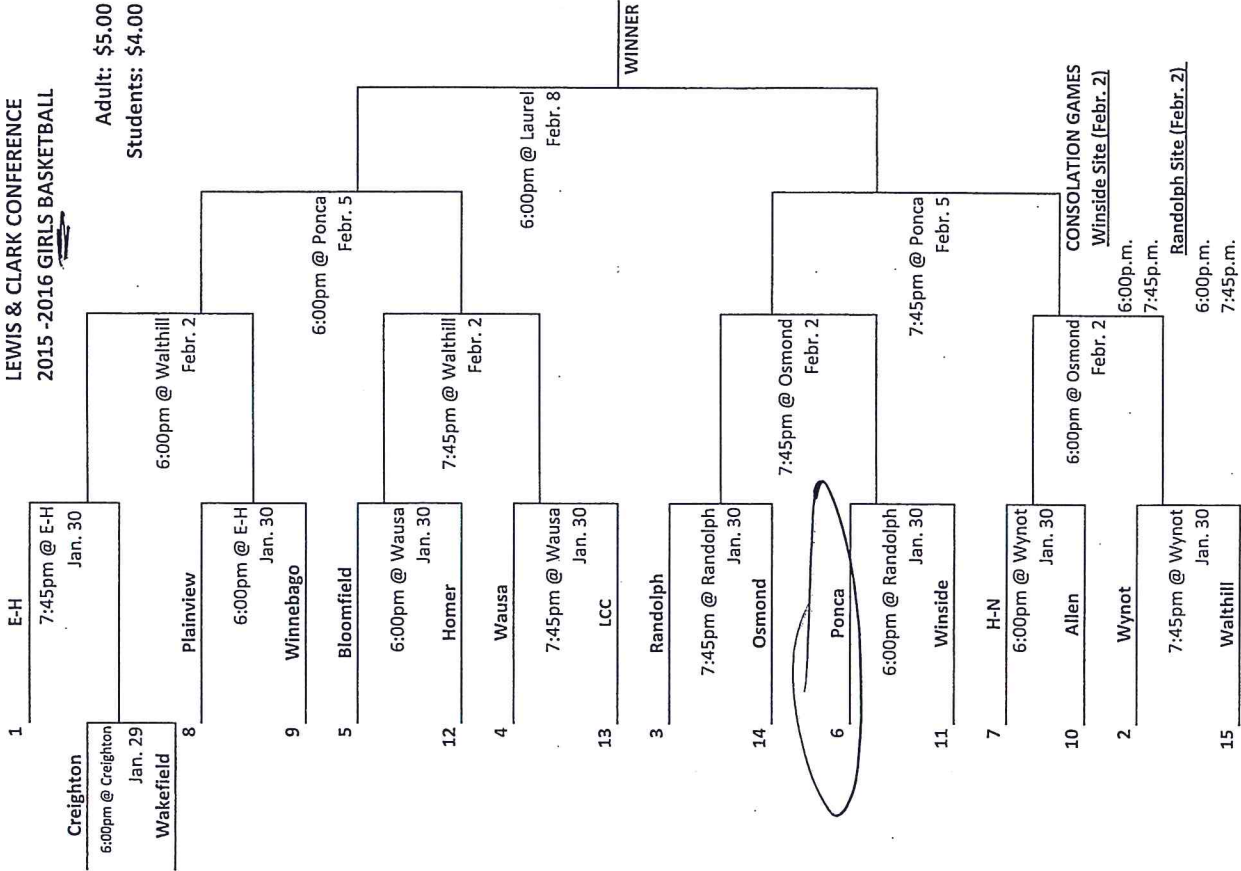
10 **keep fruits safe**
Rinse fruits before preparing or eating them. Under clean, running water, rub fruits briskly to remove dirt and surface microorganisms. After rinsing, dry with a clean towel.



Conference Tournament Schedule

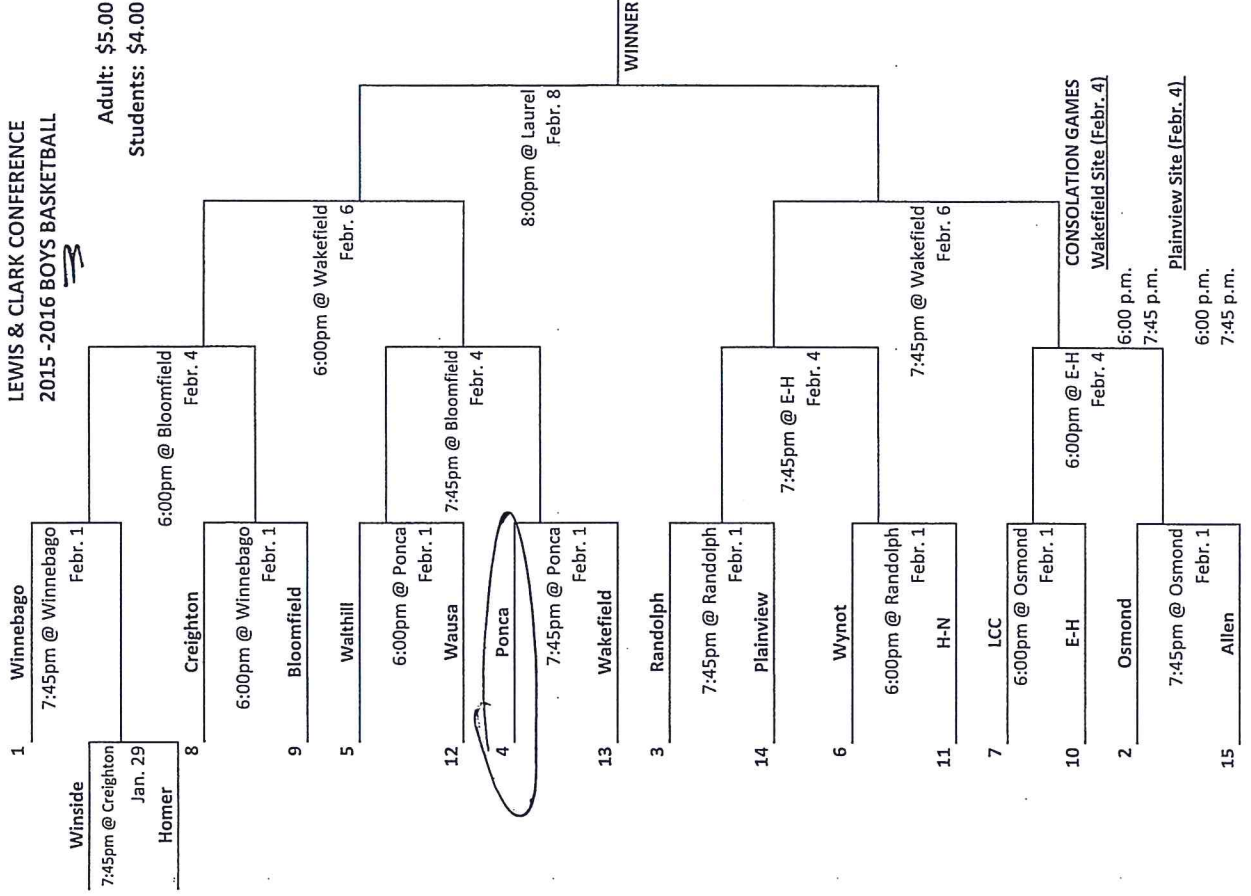
LEWIS & CLARK CONFERENCE 2015 -2016 GIRLS BASKETBALL

Adult: \$5.00
Students: \$4.00



LEWIS & CLARK CONFERENCE 2015 -2016 BOYS BASKETBALL

Adult: \$5.00
Students: \$4.00



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

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U.S. Postage Paid
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Ponca, NE 68770

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

E C R W S S
Postal Patron

PONCA PUBLIC SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2016



Community Music Festival/Soup Supper/Raffle Fundraiser

Sunday, February 21st, 2016
Ponca School West Gym
4:00 - 8:00 p.m.



The newly renovated West gym is currently without a sound system. This gym is used for graduation, the Veteran's program, music programs, assemblies, sporting events, along with other activities in which a sound system is needed.

Chili, chicken noodle and cheesy vegetable soups will be served along with sandwiches. Everyone will be able to enjoy music provided by local bands and musicians. A karaoke machine will also be available for anyone who wants to share their musical talents.

Items will also be raffled that evening, including two halves of a processed hog donated by Bob and Cindy Anderson. Pork raffle tickets will be sold at the February 12th girls/boys basketball games with Homer. Tickets may also be purchased from committee members: Brian Burrell, Sandy Jensen, Michelle Rinas, Bruce Ericksen, Bob and Cindy Anderson.