

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 Phillips, Superintendent of Schools

I would like to thank the staff, students, parents, and community for such a smooth start to the 2017-18 school year. Our first two weeks have gone tremendously well. I am having a blast getting to know all the students and their families. Our teachers have jumped right into teaching and there is some awesome learning taking place. It is an honor to be part of such a great school and community where we have great support and high expectations for everything we do. Below are a few announcements and informational items as we make our way into September.

As a reminder, the district will have a late start every Monday throughout the school year. On Mondays, Ponca will start at 9:10 and Jackson will start at 9:20.

The Ponca Public Schools takes the safety and security of our students seriously. As such, safety procedures are put in place to protect the safety of everyone at our school. Please remember that all visitors are required to check in at the high school office. The high school office is located inside Door #1. All exterior doors are kept closed and locked during the school day. A buzzer system with video capabilities was installed this summer for added security. When you press the buzzer, a staff member will ask you to identify yourself, then unlock the doors for you to enter. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in keeping our school safe.

Reminder: If you are interested, but have not yet applied for free/reduced lunch, please do so as soon as possible. All information is kept strictly confidential. Each student enters their own number into the lunch computer confidentially. If you need an additional application form, please call the office and we will gladly send one to you.

Parent/Teacher Conferences for grades 7 – 12 are scheduled for Thursday, September 21st from 2:00 to 8:00 PM. All students will be dismissed at the early dismissal times of 1:10 for Jackson and 1:30 for Ponca.

Parent/Teacher Conferences for grades K – 6 are scheduled for Wednesday, October 25th and Thursday, October 26th from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. **The conferences will be at the Ponca Elementary School.** School will not be dismissed early.

NO SCHOOL OR EARLY DISMISSAL ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

Monday, September 4th – NO SCHOOL – Labor Day
 Thursday, September 21st – EARLY DISMISSAL – Parent Teacher Conferences (Grades 7-12)
 Friday, October 27th – NO SCHOOL – Fall Break
 Wednesday, November 22nd – EARLY DISMISSAL – Thanksgiving Recess
 Thursday, November 23rd and Friday, November 24th – NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Recess
 Thursday, December 21st – EARLY DISMISSAL – End of first semester – Winter Break
 Friday, December 22nd – Tuesday, January 2nd – NO SCHOOL – Winter Break
 Saturday, December 23rd – Wednesday, December 27th – NSAA MORATORIUM
 Wednesday, January 3rd – NO SCHOOL – Teacher Workday



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

LifeTouch Studios will take individual school pictures on Wednesday, September 6th at Jackson and at Ponca.

Picture packets will be sent home prior to picture day.
ALL students will have their pictures taken for the yearbook.

UPDATES FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL

From Mr. Lahm's "Pen,"

Hope you got the pun in the title. My last name is pronounced "lamb." I know it is a little lame, but there has to be some fun in school, right.

We are blessed people. I know life is not always easy, and sometimes it is just downright tough. However, I am so thankful that we live in a country that protects us. Most importantly, I am thankful there are people surrounding me including my family, friends, and a community that embrace each other regardless of differences. Always remember and cherish your relationships with your kids as well as the people near you regardless of what life is throwing at you.

IMPORTANT MAILING! Parents please watch for an important mailing from Ponca School. In September, you will be receiving a mailing that includes the Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA) test scores in reading and math for students in grades 3-8. If your child was in grade 5 or 8 last year you will also see a NeSA score for your child in science. These scores are from the NeSA tests administered to your child last spring. This mailing will also include the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) scores.

HELP KEEP OUR SPORTING EVENTS SAFE! Because the school is concerned with the safety and welfare of our students and spectators at school events, we will not allow children of any age to play unorganized football and group games in the open areas surrounding the football fields at home or away events. Parents please supervise your children and do not allow them to bring footballs and other sports balls to football games. Thank you for helping to keep our sporting events safe for people of all ages!

MAP TESTING Each year students in grades K-11 take the MAP test in the fall and spring. Elementary students are also tested in the winter. MAP is the acronym for Measure of Academic Progress. MAP is an "adaptive" measure of the learning needs of every student. At the completion of the test students receive immediate feedback on their results. Teachers use the information from MAP throughout the school year to plan learning for the students in their classrooms. Students in each grade level are assessed in reading, math, language arts, and science. Administering the fall MAP test at the beginning of the school year gives teachers the opportunity to find out early the learning needs of each student and gives students information on areas they need to focus on to grow their own learning.

SENIORS AND SOPHOMORES TO MEET WITH JOSTENS! The Jostens Ring and Announcement Company will be at school on Wednesday, September 13, to present their products to seniors and sophomores. The senior meeting will begin at 11:00 a.m. with information about announcements and graduation products. They will meet with the sophomores about class rings at 12:09 a.m. Senior and sophomore parents are welcome to attend the meetings. We will collect all orders by Wednesday, September 20 @ 10:45 a.m. Stop in the Principal's office so we can give you a visitor's pass and direct you to the room in which the class is meeting.

FIRST QUARTER MIDTERM REPORTS! Before the end of September, "Midterm Reports" for the first quarter will be processed. Contact the school if you would like a copy of your child's midterm report so one may be mailed to you. You can also access your child's grades on PowerSchool which is our student management system. Contact the school if you need your web login and password.

7-12 PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES! Mark your September calendar for Parent/Teacher conferences on Thursday, September 21. Conferences are scheduled for 2:00 – 8:00 p.m. The conference time is for you to learn about your child's progress in school and for the teacher to learn from you about their child. Although grades are important, they are only a piece of data. Good parent-teacher conferences focus on learning and how the child can grow and improve. Teachers like parents want each child to succeed. Be prepared to ask questions or talk about ways you and the teacher can help your child.

PONCA ELEMENTARY NEWS

The school year is off and running! We had a very good start and everyone is settling into a routine. The first two weeks have been smooth; I hope this is an indication of how the whole year will be.

Elementary students will be taking the fall MAP tests the week of Sept. 11th. These are very important tests to help us measure growth and compare how we are doing academically. Results of the MAPS Tests will be with your child's report card in October. Parents can help by making sure your children get plenty of rest and eat a good breakfast before coming to school.

Parents continually ask the elementary staff ways to help their children at home academically. One of the best practices for elementary students is to have children read to their parents or the parents read to their children. Many studies have shown that students that read at home or are read to at home are more successful academically than students that are not exposed to reading at home.

The elementary students are participating in two fundraising events during the first quarter. The first is our tumbler sales. Students are selling tumblers to help boost their class funds for class activities and help defray the cost of field trips. The second is called "**Buy a Yard Line**". You can buy a yard line at the home football games for \$20 dollars. The yard line is yours for the entire football season. If the line of scrimmage ends on your line at halftime or at end of the game you win \$50 dollars. All proceeds go to the elementary class funds.

The athletic season is getting under way and we anticipate another exciting year. Here are a couple of reminders as we begin the new athletic season. If a student goes home ill from school or is absent from school, they are not permitted to attend an event that same evening without permission from the administration. **Students are expected to sit and watch the event they are attending, not run around.** If a student is given a second warning to sit down at an event, they will be required to sit with their parents or guardian the remainder of the contest. If a parent or guardian is not at the event, they will be sent home. Students should **not bring footballs or any type of ball to football games.** If a student brings a ball to a game, it will be confiscated.

If you are dropping students off or picking them up, please do not enter the building. For safety reasons it is important that students enter the building on their own. It is fine to walk them to the door but students need to learn to enter the building on their own.

The elementary will attend the Homecoming victory march September 15th @ Ponca. The Jackson students will do their annual dance on Main Street choreographed by Mrs. Lamprecht. The Ponca students will attend the pep rally at the sports complex. Elementary students will not participate in other activities such as dress-up days. Elementary students will be allowed to participate in blue and white day on Friday.

Reminder: No school September 4th Labor Day.

Reminder: September 6th is school picture day

Reminder: Early out September 21: 1:10 @ Jackson & 1:30 @ Ponca

Reminder: Elementary Parent-Teacher conferences will be October 18th & 19th for PK through 6 in Ponca.

Non-Discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. The U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing 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. 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 all applicants and recipients of the Child Nutrition Programs.

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.

HOME COMING 2017

"Ponca's Got Game"

Coronation of the king and queen is scheduled for Saturday, September 9, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. in the Performing Arts Center of Ponca High School. The public is invited to attend coronation. Immediately following coronation will be the Homecoming Dance which will run from 8:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M. in the West Gym. Scott Delperdang will be the DJ for the dance. Students in grades 9-12 are invited to attend the dance. Cost is \$7.00/person (if the student is dressed up – no shorts/no jeans) and \$10.00 /person if they are not dressed up).

Homecoming week runs from Monday, September 11 through Friday, September 15. Arrangements are being finalized for the full week of activities. Currently, dress up days include:

Dress Up Days Include:

Monday: CANDYLAND "Sweet Dreams" Pajama Day

Tuesday: GO FISH "Twin Day"

Wednesday: CRANIUM "Nerd Day"

Thursday: LIFE "Career Day"

Friday: BATTLESHIP "Blue and White Day" Class Color Day:

Seniors – Black/ Juniors – Red/Sophomore-Green/ Freshman – White/8th Grade Neon Yellow/7th Grade Neon Orange

Homecoming Games:

Volleyball game against Homer is Thursday, September 14th.

Softball game is Tuesday, September 12 vs. Madison.

Football game is scheduled for Friday, September 15th when the Indians host the Oakland-Craig Knights.

Athletic Director Information

Sports Complex Playground: The playground equipment at the sports complex belongs to the City of Ponca and is not regulated by the school. During athletic contests at the sports complex the school is not liable and will not be supervising the equipment. Children using the equipment will be at their own risk and the school will not be responsible for any accidents that may occur.

Elementary Fundraiser: The Elementary is doing fundraising events during the school year in an effort to raise funds to help with the cost of remodeling the Jackson Playground. One of the fundraising events is called "**Buy a Yard Line**". You can buy a yard line at the table before the first home game on September 2nd for \$25 dollars. If the line of scrimmage at halftime or the end of the game is on your yard line you win \$50 dollars.

Press Box and Loft: Fans may bid on seating in the press box or the loft above the concession stand on the Monday before each home football game. The press box will seat 10 fans and the loft approximately 20 fans. Bids can be dropped off at the school in a sealed envelope addressed to Bob Hayes or e-mailed to Bob Hayes @ bobhayes@poncaschool.org. Bidding will cease at 12:00 noon on the Thursday before the Friday home game. Bidding will be posted on the school web page, the name of the top bid will be kept confidential. You may increase your bid at anytime! The winner will be notified Thursday afternoon.



Cheer For A Cure



The Ponca Elementary Cheer Camp will perform during halftime at the October 6th Varsity Football game vs. Stanton.

This year's theme is based on October being Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Please join the Cheerleaders and Campers in wearing PINK to the Football game that evening!!

Music Notes

ATTENTION: Music Boosters: (*Parents of all junior high and high school students in band & chorus*). The concession stand work schedule will be posted on the school website under the band tab each month. The proceeds from the concession stand sales support your music student and programs. Your support is very much appreciated.

Jessica Steckly and Adam Webb

High School Pep Band Schedule

All high school band students are required to be at the following games:

September 11/
Homecoming Bonfire

September 14/Volleyball

September 15 Football

First Music Booster

Meeting is on
September 6th at
6:00 p.m. in the
Fine Arts Theater.



CONCESSION STAND WORK SCHEDULE

Enclosed is the Fall 2017 Concession stand work schedule. We have a few changes this year. Music Boosters (which you are a member of if you have a student in 7-12 Chorus or Band) is no longer running the stand at the Sports Complex. Instead, it is now being run by Track, Football and Softball. So if you are receiving this letter, your name is on the list to work. If you cannot work your time, please switch with someone and let the contact person know. All game times are listed on the school website. Thanks in advance for supporting your music student and student athletes!

VOLLEYBALL Sept 5

Contact Julie Harding Cell # 402 404-0017

Staci Hoelsing Rhonda Criddle

Dean and Robyn Newbrey Watchorn

VOLLEYBALL Sept 14

Contact Christina Luebe Cell # 712 899-2520

Rachel & Blake McAfee Brian & Lindsay Burrell

SOFTBALL Sept 16

Contact Jamie Hamar Cell # 712 253-5974

Sean & Wendy Masin Brian & Carmen Schweers

VOLLEYBALL Sept 26

Contact Cheri Janssen Cell # 612 749-2398

Gina Touney Stacie Kingsbury Lana Chapman

VOLLEYBALL Oct 3

Contact Stacey Swick Cell # 402 380-6170

Ryan & Stacey Jackson Chris & Abbey Kingsbury

JV FOOTBALL Oct 9

Contact Jamie Hamar Cell # 712 253-5794

Kent & Raneé Chase Carrie Hughes

FOOTBALL Oct 20

Contact Jamie Hamar Cell # 712 253-5794

Todd & Tina Brennan Derric & Shauna Anderson

Kevin & Amy Crosgrove

SOFTBALL Sept 12

Contact Jamie Hamar Cell # 712 253-5974

Troy & Amy Evans John & Tina Stroud

Sam Burki

FOOTBALL Sept 15

Contact Jamie Hamar Cell # 712 253-5974

John & Jeana Gill Chris & Kelli Hughes

Doug & Stacey Jansen

JrHi & JV FOOTBALL Sept 25

Contact Jamie Hamar Cell # 712 253-5974

Brian & Candice Hanson Sheryl Persinger

VOLLEYBALL Sept 28

Contact Wendy Masin Cell # 402 312-9042

Adam & Wendy McLean Mike & Lisa Carlson

FOOTBALL Oct 6

Contact Jamie Hamar Cell # 712 253-5974

Shawn & Staci Fethkenher

Chris & Jayna Keller Brandon & Brooke Voss

VOLLEYBALL Oct 12

Contact Julie Kramper Cell # 712 223-4277

Tracey & Angela Anderson

Doug & Lynette Bauman

Music Fundraiser will start on September 7th

Save Please!

Every clip counts



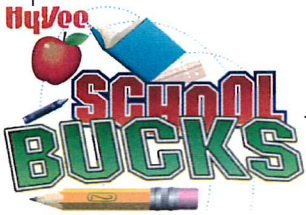
Please send your Box Tops to school with your students.
Last year we raised nearly \$600.00.

Don't Forget To Turn In Your Hy-Vee Receipts **FOR EVERY \$100 SCHOOL RECEIVES \$1**

--Receipts must be from the Sioux City or South Sioux City Hy-Vee Stores or the Hy-Vee Drug Store on Pierce St.

--Receipts dated August 1, 2017 – May 1, 2018

Groceries - Prescriptions - Floral - Photo Shop - Catering & more
(No - gas, fuel, stamp, money order, Western Union, lottery, or gift cards)



KEEP SAVING YOUR PULL TABS!!!

Ponca Schools collects pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in Sioux City.

We have collected over 2 million pull tabs since Ponca Schools

Started saving for the Ronald McDonald House in 2002!!!



(Pull tabs can be found on beverage cans, fruit, vegetable and pet food cans, etc.)

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

SEPTEMBER 2017



Ponca Athletic Boosters Tailgate

Thursday, September 14th – Ponca Volleyball vs. Homer

5:00 – 7:00

Ponca High School



Friday, September 15th –

Homecoming Game Football vs. Oakland

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Ponca Sports Complex

Please let us know, if you are able to help with the tailgates.

**You may pay dues at our tail gate
or mail to Susie Day 58338 882 Road, Newcastle, NE 68757
\$30.00 Family/Business \$20.00 Single**

**Clothing sales will begin at the September 5th
home volleyball game dues will also be collected that night.**