

PONCA PUBLIC SCHOOL

September 2018

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

www.poncaschool.org

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



Our school year is off and running! Thank you to the staff, students, parents, and community for a great start to the 2018-19 school year. Below are a few announcements and informational items as we make our way into September.

*****We are exploring the possibility of publishing this monthly newsletter electronically in the future. Our goal is to make the information from the newsletter available to as many patrons as possible will disbursing it as efficiently as possible. The plan is to email the electronic version of the newsletter through the district's messaging system (SchoolMessenger), post it to our website, and posted through Social Media (Twitter).**

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 Jackson Shuttle Buses will leave Ponca School at 9:00.

Our district takes the safety and security of our students and buildings seriously. As such, safety procedures are put in place to protect the safety of everyone at our schools. Please remember that all visitors are required to check in at the high school office at Ponca School and the main office at Jackson School. The high school office is located inside Door #1. All exterior doors are kept closed and locked during the school day. Buzzer systems are used at both schools to enter the building. 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 schools safe.

Reminder: If you have not yet applied for free/reduced lunch, please do so as soon as possible. Students/Families approved for the 2017-18 school year will expire September 27th, unless you have filled out an application for the 2018-19 school year. 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 K – 12 are scheduled for Thursday, October 18th from 2:00 to 8:00 PM. **All Conferences will be held at Ponca School.** Please note this is different from last year. There is only one date for Conferences this year, instead of 2.

NO SCHOOL OR EARLY DISMISSAL ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

Monday, September 3rd – NO SCHOOL – Labor Day

Wednesday, October 17th – End of First Quarter

Thursday, October 18th – EARLY DISMISSAL – K-12 Parent Teacher Conferences

Friday, October 19th – NO SCHOOL – Fall Break

Monday, October 22nd – NO SCHOOL – Staff Professional Development Day

Wednesday, November 21st – EARLY DISMISSAL – Thanksgiving Recess

Thursday, November 22nd and Friday, November 23rd – NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Recess

Friday, December 21st – End of First Semester

Monday, December 24th – Sunday, January 6th – NO SCHOOL – Christmas Break

Saturday, December 22nd – Wednesday, December 26th – NSAA MORATORIUM

Monday, January 7th – Start of Second Semester/3rd Quarter – LATE START

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – PICTURE DAY!

LifeTouch Studios will take individual school pictures on Wednesday,
September 12th 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.

From Mr. Lahm's "Pen,"

Here we go! The 2018-2019 school year is off to a fast start. Our students have practiced all the safety drills, teachers have created a vision for what education will look like at Ponca Public Schools named the "Ponca Essentials," and our 7-12th grade students have finished the Fall MAP Growth testing. Next up, we need to H.E.A.R.

H.E.A.R. stands for Helping Everyone Achieve Respect. This is a research-based curriculum sponsored by the Army National Guard that focuses on leadership and treating all people with respect. Please check it out at this URL if you are interested in knowing more. <https://project-hear.us/national-guard/>. Thanks especially to our Character Team who has created some high-quality and impactful lessons that we know will "Help Everyone Achieve Respect."

Finally, I shared a story and image with our 7-12th grade teachers regarding a painting named "Die Schachspieler" that might help you have a little more insight into what I believe is one of my purposes in life. In the early 1800s, Friedrich August Moritz created this oil painting of two men playing chess. One of the men is reported to be a portrait of the devil, and the other man is deeply contemplating his next move. The only issue in the painting is that it seemed that the man was in checkmate. It was not until the mid- to late 1800s that a famous chess player was eating dinner at a prominent person's house in Virginia saw this famous artwork. After studying during dinner, this man said he believed he could win the game. They set the game up exactly as it was portrayed in the artwork, and sure enough, the man was able to win the game.

There may be many takeaways from this painting, but what is fascinating is this idea that there is often time "one more move" even when everything seems lost. In the case of this painting, it took a professional chess player helping the man win the game many years later. I need to be willing to ask for help from more mature and professional people when I am struggling. I need to be willing to help others who might seem like all is lost.

This also is a bit of an insight into the reason for our change in the eligibility policy at school to be weekly. The purpose of eligibility has little to do with activities and athletics and more to do with ensuring that we are helping all students achieve. This is "one more move" we are taking to hold ourselves accountable for seeking to help all students.

Do take a look at the painting by searching on Google or some other source if you get the opportunity. The image has stuck with me, and I hope someday to have a replica of this painting to remind me to always remember when all seems lost "one more move."

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 (NSCAS Summative – Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System) 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 see a NSCAS Summative score for your child in Science. These scores are from the NSCAS Summative tests administered to your child last spring.

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!

NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE On Friday, September 7, 7th-12th grade students will participate in packaging nearly 72,000 meals for Haiti. We are so thankful for this opportunity to learn the importance of service to others.

MAP TESTING Each year students in grades K-11 take the MAP test in the fall and winter with elementary taking a 3rd test in the spring. 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.

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.

HOMECOMING Mark your calendars, Homecoming activities will take place from Saturday, October 6 to Friday, October 12. Coronation and the dance will be held on Saturday, October 6. Please see the October Newsletter for more details.

7-12 PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES! Mark your September calendar for Parent/Teacher conferences on Thursday, October 18. 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. 10th. 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 athletic season is getting under way and we anticipate another exciting year. 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.

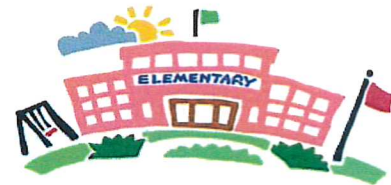
If you are dropping students off or picking them up please do not enter the building. For safety reasons it is important that students enter the building on their own. It is fine to walk them to the door but students need to learn to enter the building on their own.

The elementary will attend the Homecoming victory march October 12th @ 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.

Reminder: No school September 3rd Labor Day.

Reminder: September 12th is school picture day

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



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.



Athletic Director News



Athletic Passes

An athletic pass can be purchased for the fall season. Passes are good for all Ponca home regular season athletic events. The passes cannot be used for playoff football or conference tournament events. Passes can be purchased during school hours 8:00am to 4:00pm at the elementary office.

Students \$55.00

Adults \$70.00

Family \$120.00

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.

Press Box or Loft Bidding

Fans may bid the press box room or the loft area above the concession stand beginning on Monday's 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 at 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 webpage, the name of the top bid will be kept confidential. You may increase your bid at any time! The winner will be notified Thursday afternoon.

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.

Membership Gym Usage

We are experiencing a problem with membership owners taking down the volleyball nets or moving equipment that is set up in the west gym. **Please do not move anything set up in the west gym this includes the volleyball nets!**

Also a reminder students are not allowed to use a FOB without adult supervision!

GO BIG BLUE!!

Music Notes

ATTENTION: Music Boosters: (Parents of all junior high and high school students in band & chorus). Your name is on this list because you are either a Music Booster (you have a 7-12 student in Music) or you have a Track, Football or Softball athlete. If you cannot work your scheduled 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.

High School Pep Band Schedule

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

games:

August 31 – Football game

September 7- Football game

September 21- Football game

First Music Booster

Meeting is on

September 5th at

6:00 p.m. in the Fine

Arts Theater.



CONCESSION STAND WORK SCHEDULE

VOLLEYBALL Aug 20

Contact Wendy Masin 402 312-9042
Jamie Hamar Mishelle Fields

SOFTBALL AUG 28

Contact Jamie Hamar 712 253-5974
Brent & Angie Bennet Blaine & Misty Bennet

JV FOOTBALL Sept 4

Contact Jamie Hamar 712 253-5974
Matt & Jenny Krusemark Blaine & Karen Brummond

VARSITY FOOTBALL SEPT 7

Contact Jamie Hamar 712 253-5974
Doug & Stacey Jansen Randy & Amy McCoy
Kevin & Angie Niemeier Kristi & Justin Wentzel

JV FOOTBALL OCT 1

Contact Jamie Hamar 712 253-5974
Wade & Mona Reid Jesse & Lisa Balvantin

VOLLEYBALL SEPT 25

Contact Wendy Masin 402 312-9042
Clayton & Kerrie Kneifl Stacie Kingsbury

VOLLEYBALL OCT 8

Contact Jamie Hamar 712 253-5974
Sarah & Mike Voss Lindy Gill

VOLLEYBALL OCT 11

Contact Stacey Swick 412 380-6170
Misty Baush Joe & Barb Hayes
Missy Carlson Burl & Lori Arbuthnot

VOLLEYBALL OCT 16

Contact Wendy Masin 402 312 9042
Tina & Todd Brennan Eric & Patti Goddier

CONF VOLLEYBALL Oct 22

Contact Codi Hrouda 712 899 8667
Amy & Reed McGill Jeff & Heidi Rush
Dean & Robyn Newbrey Watchorn

JV FOOTBALL Aug 27

CONTACT Jamie Hamar 712 253-5974
Seth & Megan Riley Tanya Carraazco

VARSITY FOOTBALL AUG 31

Contact Jamie Hamar 712 253-5974
Sean & Staci Fethkenher Ty & Tamara Schram
Susie Day Cher i Janssen

SOFTBALL SEPT 6

Sean & Wendy Masin

SOFTBALL SEPT 25

Contact Jamie Hamar 712 253-5974
John & Tina Stroud Troy & Amy Evans
Ryan Olander

VARSITY FOOTBALL SEPT 21

Contact Jamie Hamar 712 253-5974
Carrie & Cory Hughes Chris & Kelli Hughes
Jeana & John Gill Paul & Julie Lamprecht

VOLLEYBALL OCT 4

Contact Kerrie Lentz 712 635-1524
Ty & Beth Bodlak Chris & Abbey Kingsbury
Gina Touney

VOLLEYBALL OCT 9

Contact Wendy Masin 402 312 9042
Jeff & Mishelle Fields Doug & Lynette Bauman

VARSITY FOOTBALL OCT 12

Contact Jamie Hamar 712 253-5974
Jeff & Mishelle Fields Todd & Carol Kratke
Chris & Jayna Keller Cheri Janssen

VARSITY FOOTBALL OCT 19

Contact Jamie Hamar 712 253 5974
Adam & Maryann Tramner Jim & Christina Nelson
Kevin & Amy Crosgrove Chuck & Andrea Wahls

Fundraising Project

5th-12th grade music students will be starting a fundraiser in September through the School Mall program. This is a unique fundraising opportunity - we don't sell anything!!! Students collect names of people to sign up, then parents and friends check in to the School Mall website before doing their usual online shopping, and we receive a percentage of those sales from participating websites. Please check with your students when the information goes home and contact Dr. Webb with questions at adamwebb@poncaschool.org.

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

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

E C R W S S
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PONCA PUBLIC SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 2018



Ponca Parents - Financial Aid Webinar (FAFSA)

**Scheduled at Ponca H.S.
Monday, Sept. 17, @ 6:00 pm**

Parents of students who plan to attend college in the 2019 school year will want to attend the financial aid webinar at Ponca H.S. on Monday, September 17, 2018, at 6:00 PM. The purpose of the webinar is to explain how to complete the FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT ASSISTANCE (FAFSA form). EducationQuest Foundation held regional meetings to help families with the FAFSA process. Ponca parents were invited to South Sioux City High School at the end of September. If you were unable to attend that meeting, please make plans to attend this FAFSA webinar. Mrs. Hassler will be hosting this webinar for EducationQuest. The webinar will be held in Room #134. This webinar is open to all people who are interested in learning about the process to apply for financial assistance to obtain any post secondary training. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Hassler at the school (402-755-5702).

Before starting the FAFSA, students should create a Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) at fsaid.ed.gov. If the student is dependent, a parent must also create an FSA ID. The IDs are needed to access the FAFSA and other Federal Student Aid websites, and serve as the signature for the FAFSA.

Students and parents should complete the FAFSA beginning on or after October 1 but before the college's FAFSA priority date. Contact the college(s) to learn their priority dates.

Colleges will use the results of the FAFSA to determine how much they will award in financial aid. This could be a combination of scholarships, grants, work-study and student loans.

For free help with the FAFSA, see [FAFSA Tools](https://www.educationquest.org/FAFSA-Tools) at [EducationQuest.org](https://www.educationquest.org) or call EducationQuest to make an appointment. Locations are in Omaha (888.357.6300), Lincoln (800.303.3745), Kearney (800.666.3721), and Scottsbluff (800.303.3745, ext. 6654).