

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 Joan M. Reznicek, Superintendent of Schools

Welcome back to the 2015-2016 school year. Even though the outdoor weather does not affect the students and staff with the inside temperature of the school, we do appreciate the patrons of the school district for your commitment to a quality education at Ponca Public Schools with the new school building that is temperature controlled. A commitment to a quality education helps us to strive to increase our test scores which is so important for our State and Federal requirements.

All visitors are required to check in at the high school office. **Visitors will be required to sign in at the High School Principal's Office, leave their car keys, and then will be given a visitor pass to wear while in the building. If a parent arrives at school to get their child due to sickness or an appointment, the parent will wait in the high school office for school personnel to get their child from his/her classroom.** We understand that many of our parents have gone to the classrooms in previous years to get your child, but we are trying to cut down on the classroom distractions plus we always want our students and staff to be safe. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in keeping our school safe.

Do you know that Ponca Public School could get additional **REDUCED** rates on our long distance telephone charges? Do you know that Ponca Public School could receive **FREE** grant money from the State of Nebraska and the Federal Government to purchase equipment and supplies for our school? How can this happen? Put in an application for **free or reduced lunches**. Yes, **our school could benefit financially by having more families or individuals apply for free or reduced lunches.** All information is kept strictly confidential. Each student enters their own lunch number into the lunch computer confidentially. If you have not filled out your application, please fill out the form. If you need an additional lunch form from the school, please give us a call and we will gladly send one out to you.

We have had several families this school year that have not yet applied for **free or reduced lunches**. Please do wait for the last minute to get your application into the school to see if you qualify for the free or reduced lunches. If you qualified last year, yes, you have approximately one month on this new school year to continue on the 2014-2015 status. But, when the one month time period has expired, you will be paying full price for lunches. The school district cannot continue to give the free or reduced lunch price.

PLEASE APPLY FOR FREE OR REDUCED LUNCHES!!

Parent/Teacher Conferences for grades 7 – 12 are scheduled for Thursday, September 24th 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 Thursday, October 22nd from 2:00 to 8:00 PM. **The conferences will be at the Ponca Elementary School.** All students will be dismissed at the early dismissal times of 1:10 for Jackson and 1:30 for Ponca.

NO SCHOOL OR EARLY DISMISSAL ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

Monday, September 7th – NO SCHOOL – Labor Day Vacation
 Thursday, Sept. 24th – 7 - 12 Parent/Teacher Conf. – early dismissal 1:10 Jackson 1:30 Ponca
 Monday, September 28th – NO SCHOOL Professional Development Day for Teachers
 Wednesday, October 7th – PLC – EARLY DISMISSAL 1:55 – Jackson 2:15 – Ponca
 Thursday, October 22nd – K – 6 Parent/Teacher Conf. – early dismissal 1:10 Jackson 1:30 Ponca
 Monday, October 26th – NO SCHOOL – FALL BREAK
 Wednesday, November 4th – PLC – EARLY DISMISSAL 1:55 – Jackson 2:15 – Ponca
 Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, November 25th, 26th, 27th – NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Vacation
 Wednesday, December 9th – PLC – EARLY DISMISSAL 1:55 – Jackson 2:15 – Ponca
 Tuesday, December 22nd – Last day of the first semester.
 Wednesday, December 23rd – Tuesday, January 5th – NO SCHOOL – Christmas Break
 Wednesday, December 23rd – Sunday, December 27th – NSAA Moratorium

UPDATES FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL

IMPORTANT MAILING! Parents please watch for an important mailing from Ponca School. After August 25, 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 and 11. If your child was in grade 5, 8 or 11 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 for your child.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT MAILING! If you did not attend the elementary or secondary "Parents Night at School" you will also find in your mailbox the "Internet Access Code and Password" for PowerSchool, a form to verify your child's information and a form to update the school message system information. Please update the school information and message system forms and return them to the school. It is important that the school has the correct information for your child.

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!

STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK REMINDER: Printed copies of the "Ponca School Student/Parent Handbook" are available in the school office for people who do not have online access to it or simply prefer a printed copy.

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. The MAP testing window for grades 7-11 is August 25- September 4. 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 work 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 16, 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. 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. Students will receive the reports on Wednesday, September 16. Parents are asked to review and sign your child's report. In order to participate in or attend school activities, students are required to return the signed report to the school by Tuesday, September 22. Contact the school if you do not receive your child's midterm report so one may be mailed to you. You can also access you child's grades on PowerSchool, the 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 24. 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 do even better. 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 grow and improve.

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.

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.

The bus pickup/drop-off area in Jackson has changed. Parents can park in the parking area in front of the school to pick up their child. The buses will load on the north end of the building instead of the parking lot. Please be cautious of children. We try very hard to make sure they follow directions but now and then they get excited and forget protocol.

Elementary students will be taking the fall MAP tests after Labor Day. 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.

The athletic season is getting under way and we anticipate another exciting year. A couple of reminders as we begin the 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 year. 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.

Reminder, students at Jackson should not arrive before 8:00 am. We are having a number of students arriving early. Students dropped off by the route buses are fine but students dropped off by their parents or guardians should not get to school before 8:00 am!

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 victory march during Homecoming week. 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: Early dismissal September 24th, Jackson dismissal 1:10 & Ponca dismissal 1:30

Reminder: No school September 7th Labor Day and September 28th Professional Development

Reminder: Parent-Teacher conferences will be October 22nd for Pre-School through 6th in Ponca.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

LifeTouch Studios will take individual school pictures on Wednesday, September 9th at Jackson and at Ponca.

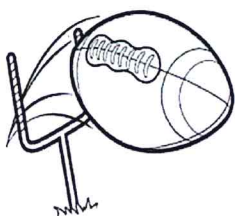
Picture packets will be sent home prior to picture day. **ALL** students will have their pictures taken for the yearbook.

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.

Athletic Director Information

- **REMINDER: THE MEMBERSHIP FOBS** will expire on September 1st. If you wish to continue using the weight room and the soon to be completed west gym you must renew your membership.
- **PRESS BOX AND LOFT:** Fans may begin bidding on seating in the press box or the loft above the concession stand for the first home game September 4th. 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 September 3rd. Bidding will be posted on the school webpage, the name of the top bid will be kept confidential. You may increase your bid at anytime! The winner will be notified Thursday afternoon September 3rd.
- **We are still in need of an announcer for volleyball and basketball games. If you have aspired to be an announcer this could be your stepping stone to a new career! You receive a free pass to home games and a guaranteed front row seat to all the action. If you are interested please contact Athletic Director Bob Hayes @ school 402-755-5700 or cell number 712-490-4713 or e-mail bobhayes@poncaschool.org.**



Fall 2015 Season **Athletic Passes**



Passes are good for all Ponca home regular season athletic events for the FALL 2015 Season.

Students	\$60.00	Adult	\$75.00
Family	\$100.00		

The passes cannot be used for playoff football or 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.

Attention Music Boosters: (Parents of all junior high and high school students in band & chorus). The concession stand work schedule is being set up for the fall athletic events. This schedule will be posted in the school newsletter each month. The proceeds from the concession stand sales support your music student and programs. Your support is very much appreciated.

Kari Lowe and Jessica Steckly



Music Booster Meeting

September 9th at 6:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Theater.

Junior High & High School Pep Band Schedule



Junior High & High School Band Students are required to be at the following games:

September 4th- Football

September 8th – Volleyball

September 17th – Volleyball

September 18th - Football

Exciting News!

Ponca Show Choir Has Changed Their Name.

We are now known as the “Vocal Motion”.

Congratulations to this year’s members!!

Sophie Adair
Alison Brennan
Kelsey Fields
Sophie Kramper
Kari Rooney
Emily Salmen
Rachel Kneifl
Adam Meral
Ashley Gill

Jacob Bennett
Sam Brickett
Max Masin
Hunter Schweers
Alexa VanDyke
Alexis Anderson
Jacob Anderson
Colson Watchorn
Logan Kingsbury
Abby Sullivan

MacKenzie Boyle
Kelsea Fethkenher
Kaylee Hamar
Carin Mellick
Rachel Bentz
Brooke Dutcher-Bessmer
Morgan Janssen
Claire Hoelsing
Bailey Bennett
Rachael Lux

Casey Brentlinger
Tanner Perkins
Walter Messerlie
Emily Persinger
Cassandra Stowe
Joe Albrecht
Abby Schweers
Jayde Reid
Bailey Bodlak

HOME COMING 2015

“Homecoming in Paradise”

Coronation of the king and queen is scheduled for Saturday, September 12, 2015 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 9:00 P.M. to Midnight 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 \$5.00/person (if the student is dressed up – no shorts/no jeans) and \$7.00 /person if they are not dressed up).

Homecoming week runs from Monday, September 14 through Friday, September 18. On Monday, September 14th following the JV football game there will be a Powder Puff football game for the girls at the field.

Dress Up Days Include:

Monday:	School Uniform Day
Tuesday:	Tourist Day
Wednesday:	Extreme Weather
Thursday:	Homecoming in Paradise
Friday:	Blue and White Day



On Thursday, September 17th, the volleyball team will host Homer High School. On Friday, September 18, the football team will play Battle Creek High School football team. Royalty will be recognized at halftime of the football game.



Title I Meeting



Did you ever have questions about Title 1?

There will be a meeting for all parents of Title 1 students on Thursday, September 10, 2015 from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the Jackson school cafeteria. Information on the nature of the Title 1 program will be given and questions from parents answered.

Refreshments will be served.

Hunter Education Class

September. 14th, 21th, 28th, & October 5th from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm

New Martinsburg Fire Hall

Students must register online @ www.HuntSafeNebraska.Org

Students must have the parental release form filled out & bring it to 1st session

Students must be 12 years or older and must attend all 4 sessions

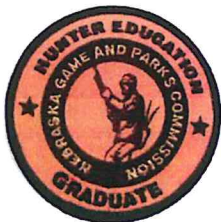
For more info call one of the following :

Monte Roeber 402-945-2334

Doug Smith office 402-635-2129 or at home 402-945-2833

Bob Kumm 712-253-9807

Doug Ellis 402-635-1636



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Please send your Box Tops to Ponca Schools with your students. Last year we raised nearly \$1000.00.

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, 2015 – May 1, 2016.

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



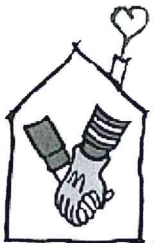
KEEP SAVING YOUR PULL TABS!!!

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

Last year we collected over 180,000 tabs.

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 2015



Ponca Athletic Boosters Tailgate

Thursday, September 17th – Ponca Volleyball vs. Homer
5:00 – 7:00

Ponca High School



Friday, September 18th –
Homecoming Game Football vs. Battle Creek
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 Cheri Albrecht 1645 Hwy 20, Jackson, NE 68743
\$30.00 Family/Business \$20.00 Single