

February 2018

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



Second semester is in full swing and winter official hit us last week! Many thanks to the school personnel and community members who assisted with snow removal at our Jackson and Ponca campuses. Your time and effort helped us ensure the safe access of our staff, students, and community into the district's facilities.

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.

Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled on Thursday, February 8th from 2:00 to 8:00PM. Dismissal for ALL students will be at 1:10 for the Jackson students and 1:30 for the Ponca students. 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 8th: Parent/Teacher Conferences 2:00 – 8:00. Dismissal at 1:10/1:30

Thursday, March 8th: End of 3rd Quarter

Friday, March 9th: NO SCHOOL – Winter Break

Thursday, March 29th: EARLY DISMISSAL

Friday, March 30th: NO SCHOOL – Easter Break

Monday, April 2nd: NO SCHOOL – Easter Break

Friday, May 11th: EARLY DISMISSAL – GRADUATION

Wednesday, May 23rd: Last day of school (with 5 snow days built in)

The Ponca Community Educational Foundation (PCEF) announces it's 2018 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 Thursday, March 8, 2018, 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: 1-9-2018)

From Mr. Lahm's "Pen"

I am not normally one to brag. I am short. I am gaining weight at a pace I am not proud. And... I am below average when it comes to how smart I am especially if you were to ask my wife. ☺ Regardless of my own self and my limitations, I do want to brag about some of the amazing programs and people at school.

First of all, EVERY student in grades 2-11 had an individualized conference with a teacher following MAP Growth testing, AND they will have another 1-on-1 conference in the coming weeks. You read that correctly. EVERY single student had a 1-on-1 individualized conference with a teacher to set educational growth goals based on test data. Our teachers are so concerned about the growth of every student at Ponca Public Schools, and they are using the MAP Growth test data to further instruction.

Second, our PLC (Professional Learning Communities) time every Monday is cherished time. In speaking for grades 7-12, our time is not wasted. We are tracking every student and their missing work for the week to ensure that we are focused on every student and their educational needs. Teachers have set SMART (Specific, Measureable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-bound) goals that focus on our school improvement goal of improving literacy for all students. We analyze test data to discuss how we can improve our instruction. And...these are only a sample of the things we are accomplishing as a district.

In speaking of PLC and school improvement, the teachers on each of these teams are or will be leaders in education in our school district and in the state in years to come. The PLC team meets at least 1 time per week to plan our agendas for each Monday. The School Improvement team meets regularly to complete the requirements of the state for school accreditation as well as to create action plans to move our school district forward. I am telling you now, the people on these teams have expertise and skills that are going to make our district thrive for years to come.

Another thing I love about this school and the teachers is the focus on EVERY student both academically and as the whole person. Our character team of teachers also includes some of the top talent in our district, and they meet regularly to plan 2 lessons per month to serve as a "booster shot" to all of our students in grades K-12 in regards to having positive character and treating people with kindness and respect. Every teacher leads a character group. I get to attend every character meeting, and every lesson is powerful in regards to the theme for the year ("Attitude Determines Direction") and in making a difference for each and every student.

I could go on and on about the top notch activity and athletic programs. I could spend time discussing all of the technology we have available. Our food and maintenance staff are some of the best in the business. They even wear matching shirts every day of the week, and the shirts are so fun. Our substitute teachers could be regular teachers, but they choose to continue to help in our district as substitutes. The PCEF gave scholarships to EVERY senior who applied last year. I consider myself a lucky person to get to be a part of the community and school of Ponca. On second thought, I do have a lot of reasons to brag...as long as we do not talk about me.

7-12 QUARTER 3 MIDTERM REPORTS will be given to parents on February 8, at Parent/Teacher Conferences. Students whose parents do not attend conferences will be given their Midterm Reports on Friday, February 9, to bring home. If you do not attend conferences, be sure to ask your 7-12 child to see his/her Midterm Report.

IT IS SPELLING BEE TIME FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 5-8! Wednesday, January 31, 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 Wednesday, February 7, 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 February 13, 2018. 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 "2017 Spell It" at www.myspellit.com.

REMINDER TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS . . . Even though February is full of winter activities, spring activity practices are scheduled to begin on Monday, February 26. 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 4** 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. There are some free resources available to our 11th grade students in preparing for this test which will be shared with them including ACT Online Test Prep (practice tests) and OnToCollege (direct instruction and immediate feedback on ACT testing). 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.

NEW 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 17-19**. Last year, the state of Nebraska created an entirely new test called English Language Arts in which 50.8% of 3rd-8th grade students in Nebraska were considered proficient in the state. This year, the state of Nebraska is using an entirely different company to administer the summative test. The name of the company is NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) for the state summative test. We currently use this company for administering the MAP Growth assessment 2-3 times per year for our K-11 students. However, the NSCAS summative test is not associated with the MAP Growth assessment, so comparisons between the tests will not be consistent. Certain accommodations are available for students with an IEP or 504. More information will be available as we near testing time.

LIBRARY NEWS

It will soon be Book Fair time!

When: March 16th through March 26th.
Where: Ponca Public School Library
Time: Open all day.
Who: Open to the public.



Books make the **BEST** gifts. Remember Easter is only a few days away from the book fair date. Come in and meet Mrs. Irwin if you have not met her already.

We would like to thank Lilly Egendorf for donating books to the library.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. 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 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.

ELEMENTARY NEWS

Mr. Hayes, Principal

It's hard to believe January is behind us and February is here! It has been an interesting winter with frigid temperatures and one huge snow storm! 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.

*The 5th through 8th grade will compete in the annual spelling bee on Wednesday, Feb. 7 in the Fine Arts Performance Center @ 2:00 p.m.

*Pre-School open house will be Tuesday, March 27th at 6:00pm at Jackson Elementary.

*The date for kindergarten round-up has been set for Thursday, April 5th.

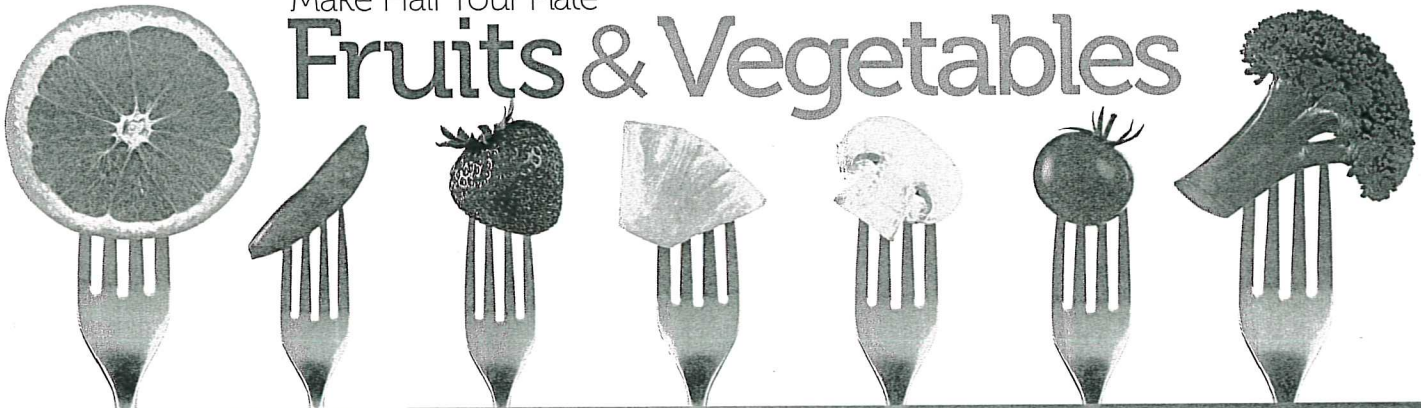
More details on kindergarten round-up will be in the March newsletter.

*Parent/teacher conferences will be Feb. 8th. A schedule will be sent home with the students. Please have questions ready for your child's teacher.

*The "K" through 2nd will be going on their annual roller skating party on February 14th from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Make Half Your Plate

Fruits & Vegetables



There are so many ways to eat **Fruits & Vegetables** every day.



Tomatoes, carrots, celery, and onions are key to this whole-grain Spaghetti and Quick Meat Sauce, paired with broccoli florets. Finish with warm Roasted Pears and Vanilla Cream.



Flavorful herbed green beans and roasted potatoes round out this Smoky Mustard-Maple Salmon. For dessert, enjoy a fruit, granola, and yogurt parfait.



Pineapple, carrots, and tomatoes add tang to this Sweet and Sour Pork, served with a colorful salad. Finish with nonfat frozen yogurt.



Enjoy the crunchy, juicy goodness of apples and grapes in this Chicken Waldorf Salad, served on mixed greens and topped with low-fat dressing. End your meal with Blueberry-Lime Yogurt.

Ponca Public School is proud to present...



Join us for an entertaining trip down memory lane to the decade that brought us The Rubik's Cube, Ferris Bueller, The Karate Kid, leg warmers, and teased hair! Follow the students of William Ocean High School as they live through their senior year- experiencing fun, heartbreak, the loves and the loneliness of growing up, all set to some of the biggest hits of the 80's!!

2 Shows Only! March 16-17, 2018!!

Band Notes

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

Wayne State Festival of Bands:

Junior High: Grace Rooney – Clarinet, Matthew Lentz - Trombone

Symphonic Band: Shana Seneviratne-Flute, Sarah Beach-Clarinet, Nate Ruhrer-Bass Clarinet,
Morgan Janssen-Trumpet, Olivia Hrouda-Trumpet

Wind Ensemble: Carin Mellick-Flute

Alternates: Jacob Statema



University of South Dakota Quad State Honor Bands:

Symphonic Band: Carin Mellick- Flute, Morgan Janssen - Trumpet

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

11-12 Medalists: Carin Mellick (1st), Sophie Kramper (1st), Claire Hoelsing (1st) Katie Meister (2nd) , Sam Brickett (1st),
Morgan Janssen (1st, Colson Watchorn (1st)

Other 11-12 Participants: Garrett Anderson

9-10 Medalists: Shana Seneviratne - 1st Chair

Other 9-10 Participants: Meg Keller, Kai Seneviratne, Ben McDuffee



Upcoming Concerts and Other Events:

February 27th – Middle School Concert

March 6th – Middle School Contest @ WSC

March 13th – USD Jazz Festival @ Vermillion

March 24th – Class C All-State Band @ Kearney

March 26th – Northeast Jazz Festival @ Norfolk



Save the Dates!!

Pep Band:

February 6th (Tuesday)

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

More information will come as it gets closer.



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

ECRWSS
Postal Patron

PONCA PUBLIC SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2018



NOTICE TO PARENTS OF PONCA SCHOOL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENTS WHO MAY BE CONSIDERING ENROLLMENT OPTION FOR THE 2018 – 2019 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, 2018 – The Nebraska Department of Education deadline for filing enrollment option application for the 2018-2019 school year unless a waiver of dates is granted. (If the enrollment option application is filed before March 15th, 2018, 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.