

PONCA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

Jackson School (PK-2)

223 North John St.
PO Box 67
Jackson, NE 68743
(402) 632-4276

Ponca School (3-12)

505 W. 3rd St.
PO Box 568
Ponca, NE 68770
(402) 755-5700

DISTRICT DESCRIPTION

The Ponca Public Schools is an accredited PK-12 public school district located in Northeast Nebraska. With an enrollment of approximately 460 students, the district is large enough to offer outstanding educational opportunities and small enough to personalize education for each student. The district is comprised of 2 schools: Jackson School, serving students in grades PK-2 and Ponca School, serving students in grades 3-12. Competent and caring teachers provide outstanding learning opportunities and place high expectations on their classes. Curricular offerings include basic skills instruction for all students and specialized courses in high school. Teachers participate in Professional Learning Communities to focus on individual student outcomes and develop professionally. Technology plays an important part of each teacher's program with computer-assisted reading and math instruction, computer classes, and industrial technology offerings. The district operates a 1:1 initiative with Chromebooks for every student PK-12. The majority of students from Ponca attend two or four-year colleges upon graduation. Extra-curricular activities begin in grade seven and include instrumental and vocal music, a wide variety of athletics, drama, speech, FBLA, and student government. The Ponca Public Schools enjoys positive working relationships with the City of Ponca, Village of Jackson, Village of Waterbury, Village of Martinsburg, Ponca Community Education Foundation, Better Ponca Community Foundation, Ponca State Park, Ponca Athletic Boosters, Ponca Music Boosters, Ponca Area Community Club, Ponca Ministerial Association, Youth Sports Organizations, Ponca Recreation, local businesses, and many individual patrons.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Kenton Book, President

Monte Burki, Vice President

Richard Dohma

Shawn Fethkenher

John Gill

Phil Kramper

PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

This report is published to inform the patrons of the Ponca Public Schools and fulfillment of accreditation guidelines of the Nebraska Department of Education. The report will identify key components of the district's demographics, membership, finance, improvement goals, and performance. It is our hope that patrons become aware of the district's accomplishments and areas of improvement.

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The Ponca Public School District is committed to building a solid educational foundation for ALL individuals by providing a quality learning environment and promoting standards of excellence.

DISTRICT ENROLLMENT

The district has maintained steady enrollment over the last 10 years, ranging from 431-468 students (PK-12). Below is a breakdown of total enrollment, by grade, for the last 13 school years.

	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2008-09	26	29	31	31	40	34	26	35	26	40	29	35	27	31	440
2009-10	22	37	28	30	31	35	33	26	35	28	42	30	33	25	435
2010-11	25	30	35	27	31	32	36	32	27	33	27	40	28	35	438
2011-12	17	33	26	38	27	34	32	36	36	24	32	26	40	30	431
2012-13	31	26	33	25	39	29	35	37	41	36	26	34	29	38	459
2013-14	25	36	28	32	24	43	28	35	37	43	32	28	23	29	452
2014-15	26	39	31	31	32	25	43	28	37	39	44	35	26	31	467
2015-16	34	21	34	31	33	31	24	42	32	37	36	45	36	26	462
2016-17	30	37	20	32	31	34	35	23	40	30	39	34	41	32	458
2017-18	22	33	38	24	35	31	35	36	23	42	32	39	35	43	468
2018-19	27	26	31	38	26	38	31	38	40	24	42	34	36	35	466
2019-20	32	26	25	29	37	27	38	30	34	39	23	43	32	36	453
2020-21	31	36	30	25	29	39	28	38	31	33	37	23	42	29	453

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

FREE/REDUCED LUNCH RATES

	Free	Reduced	Total	Dist. %	State %
2009-10	83	25	108	24.83%	41.22%
2010-11	70	47	117	26.71%	42.58%
2011-12	74	44	118	27.38%	43.79%
2012-13	75	38	113	24.62%	44.18%
2013-14	83	57	140	30.97%	44.93%
2014-15	80	57	137	29.34%	44.23%
2015-16	54	45	99	21.43%	44.12%
2016-17	64	35	99	21.62%	44.65%
2017-18	57	39	96	20.51%	45.83%
2018-19	75	41	116	24.89%	45.21%
2019-20	64	34	98	21.63%	45.60%
2020-21	61	48	109		

Option Enrollment

	In	Out	Net Option
2009-10	70	30	+40
2010-11	73	25	+48
2011-12	70	24	+46
2012-13	86	18	+68
2013-14	94	27	+67
2014-15	123	25	+98
2015-16	113	31	+82
2016-17	105	26	+79
2017-18	108	21	+87
2018-19	110	17	+93
2019-20	109	13	+96
2020-21	109	13	+96

Special Education

	Jackson	Ponca Elem.	Ponca High	Total
2009-10	14	18	21	53
2010-11	24	21	18	63
2011-12	24	21	19	64
2012-13	20	26	22	68
2013-14	21	27	26	74
2014-15	20	27	27	74
2015-16	21	23	27	71
2016-17	17	25	30	72
2017-18	12	26	37	75
2018-19	10	24	33	67
2019-20	11	20	27	58
2020-21	14	16	21	51

STAFF

ADMINISTRATION – 3.0 FTE
TEACHERS – 43.0 FTE
CLASSIFIED – 35 Staff Members
CONTRACTED – 2.0 FTE

TRANSPORTATION

The school district maintains a vehicle fleet consisting of small vehicles and buses, responsible for transporting students to and from school and school-related activities. Below is a breakdown of the vehicle fleet and miles accrued during the 2020-21 school year.

BUSES

4 Route Buses:

- 2003 – Northwest Route
- 2004 – Southwest Route
- 2004 B – Jackson Route & Shuttle Route
- 2010 – Waterbury/Martinsburg & Shuttle Route

3 Activity Buses:

- 2012
- 2012 B
- 2017

SMALL VEHICLES

- 2003 Chevy Venture – Sp.Ed.
- 2005 Chevy Venture – Sp.Ed.
- 2004 Suburban - Activities
- 2008 Ford Van - Activities
- 2012 Ford Van - Activities
- 2014 Ford Van - Activities
- 2006 Cargo Trailer - Activities

TOTAL ROUTE MILES = 60,380
TOTAL ACTIVITY MILES = 34,621

SCHOOL NUTRITION

The Ponca Public Schools operates 2 kitchens (Jackson and Ponca) for the purpose of preparing and serving School Lunch. The Jackson kitchen has 2 staff members and the Ponca kitchen is staffed with 4 employees. The district participated in the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council's Food Cooperative, which provides for lower food and supply prices through the statewide competitive bidding process. The district averaged 336 meals per day with a total of 57,201 meals served for the 2018-19 school year.

Month	Days Meals Served	Reimbursement	Total Average Attendance	Full Pay Meals Served	Reduced Meals Served	Free Meals Served	Total Meals Served
August	12	\$4,985.66	438	3,103	474	721	4,298
September	19	\$7,685.75	436	4,889	692	1,134	6,715
October	21	\$8,091.13	438	5,557	684	1,188	7,429
November	18	\$6,902.52	431	4,714	601	1,001	6,316
December	15	\$5,767.18	436	3,847	489	858	5,194
January	18	\$6,882.24	420	4,586	567	1,039	6,192
February	16	\$6,318.90	432	4,186	544	938	5,650
March	16	\$6,216.23	432	4,014	515	950	5,479
April	20	\$7,569.21	435	3,870	467	923	5,260
May	15	\$5,183.36	422	3,455	457	756	4,668
Total	170	\$65,602.18	431.90	42,203	5,490	9,508	57,201

FINANCE

Historical Total Assessed Property Valuation

Year	Valuation	Increase/Decrease
2002-03	\$118,068,718	-----
2003-04	\$128,371,706	+8.73%
2004-05	\$130,302,484	+9.53%
2005-06	\$139,256,642	+6.87%
2006-07	\$152,045,383	+9.18%
2007-08	\$151,991,579	-0.04%
2008-09	\$198,235,250	+30.43%
2009-10	\$211,307,874	+6.59%
2010-11	\$217,994,332	+3.16%
2011-12	\$222,992,075	+2.29%
2012-13	\$260,540,833	+16.84%
2013-14	\$301,875,293	+15.86%
2014-15	\$361,676,261	+19.81%
2015-16	\$411,143,777	+13.68%
2016-17	\$419,557,157	+2.05%
2017-18	\$411,647,037	-1.89%
2018-19	\$396,930,241	-3.58%
2019-20	\$392,379,891	-1.15%
2020-21	\$394,853,916	+0.63%

Historical Total Tax Levy

Year	Levy	Year	Levy
2001-02	\$1.0739	2010-11	\$1.3361
2002-03	\$1.0813	2011-12	\$1.3352
2003-04	\$1.115	2012-13	\$1.2922
2004-05	\$1.0997	2013-14	\$1.2279
2005-06	\$1.1024	2014-15	\$1.2194
2006-07	\$1.134	2015-16	\$1.1526
2007-08	\$1.1614	2016-17	\$1.0715
2008-09	\$1.1495	2017-18	\$1.1256
2009-10	\$1.3393	2018-19	\$1.1874
		2019-20	\$1.194
		2020-21	\$1.1805

2019-20 Financial Summary

2020-21 Valuation = \$394,853,916

2020-21 Levies

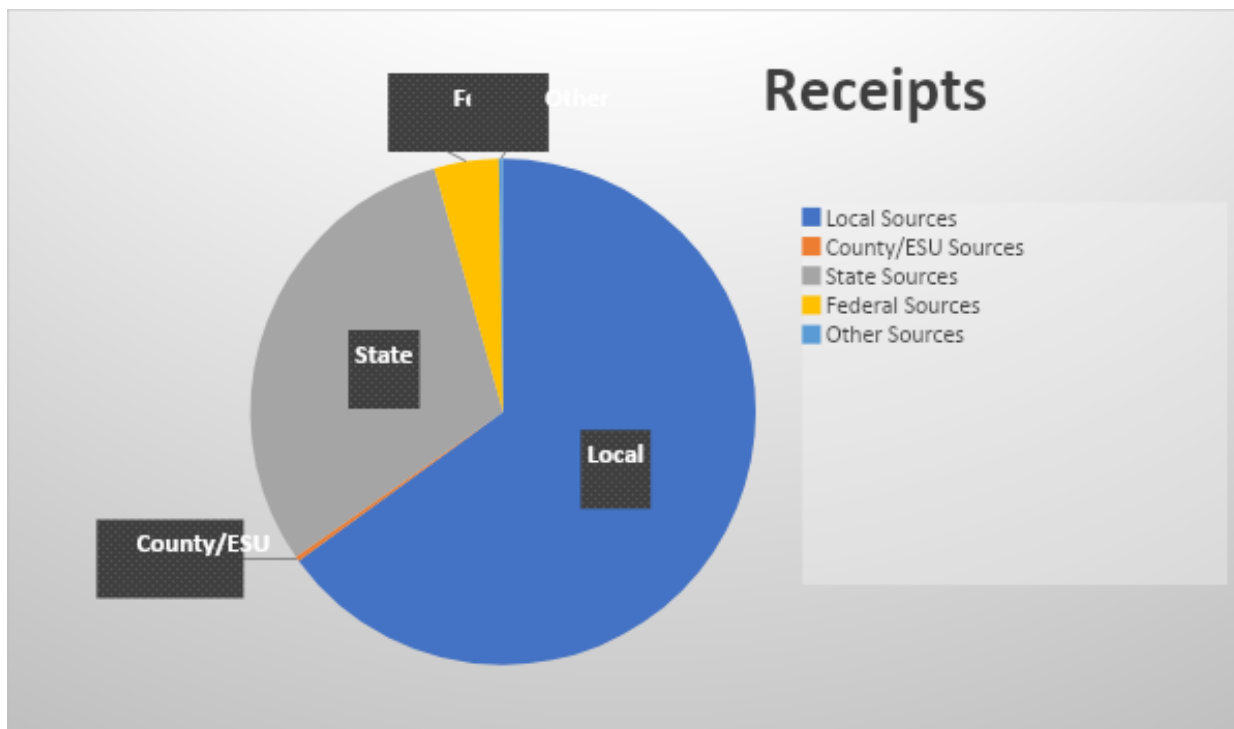
- General = \$1.05
- Special Building = \$0
- Bond = \$.1330466
- Total = \$1.180464

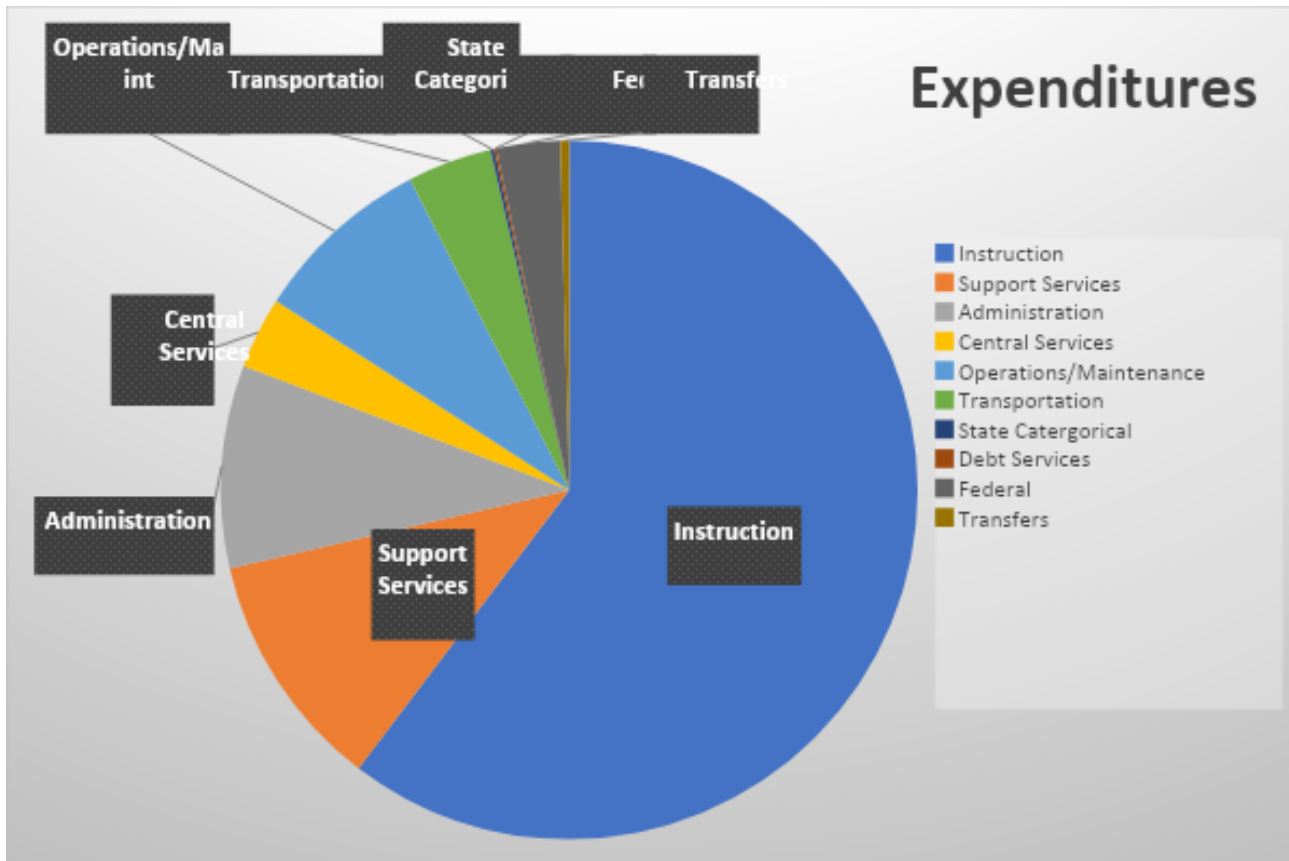
RECEIPTS (General Fund)

Local Resources - \$3,803,416
Motor Vehicle Taxes - \$203,715
Public Power Dist. Sales Tax - \$33,354
Interest - \$3,450
Other Local Resources - \$24,879
County/ESU Sources - \$18,302
State Sources - \$1,898,852
Federal Sources - \$257,832
Other Sources - \$16,505
Total Receipts - \$6,260,305

EXPENDITURES (General Fund)

Instruction - \$3,713,938
Support Services - \$680,826
Administration - \$578,128
Central Services - \$203,645
Operations & Maintenance - \$514,215
Transportation - \$241,232
State Categorical Programs - \$9,996
Debt Services - \$7,464
Federal - \$181,327
Transfers - \$25,000
Total Expenditures - \$6,155,771





IMPROVEMENT GOALS

The Ponca Public School District utilizes the Frameworks model for school improvement. A School Improvement Team meets regularly and facilitates the direction of teaching and learning in the district. The team meets on a regular basis to review data, explore professional development opportunities, establish goals, and share progress. The School Improvement Team, through a collaborative process established the following goal for the 2019-2020 school year:

- Increase literacy across the curriculum
 - Students will improve reading skills in grades K-12
 - Students will improve their writing skills in grades K-12

In addition to the above-mentioned goals, the School Improvement Team, in coordination with the Frameworks model reviewed and developed the following Action Items:

- Develop a plan for technology equipment implementation and rotation in order to improve our practices
- Research, adopt, and implement an instructional model appropriate to our district
- Improve transparency and communication with stakeholders

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Nebraska statute requires the State Board of Education to create a system of accountability combining multiple indicators of school performance. As such, in 2014, the Nebraska Department of Education, after significant input from stakeholders, developed the **Accountability for a Quality Education System, Today and Tomorrow, or AQuESTT**. AQuESTT represents both an accountability system and a system of support built around six tenets. The six tenets are: (1) Assessment, (2) College, Career, and Civic Ready (3) Educator Effectiveness, (4) Educational Opportunities, and Access, (5) Positive Partnerships, Relationships, and Success, (6) Transitions. The Nebraska Department of Education is maintaining the structure and functionality of AQuESTT for classifying schools and districts. All schools and districts are classified as Excellent, Great, Good, or Needs Improvement. While additional indicators may be added at a later time, the metrics used for classification are (1) Status, (2) Growth, Improvement, Non-Proficiency, (3) Progress Towards English Language Proficiency, (4) 4- and 7-Year Cohort Graduation Rate, and (5) Chronic Absenteeism, Science, Evidence-based Analysis. Below are the 2018-19 classifications for the Ponca Public Schools, and each individual school.



PONCA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

District Classification ⓘ

EXCELLENT	GREAT	GOOD	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT
------------------	-------	------	-------------------

Schools in District	3
State Board District	3
Educational Service Unit	1
Legislative District	17

JACKSON ELEMENTARY

Elementary School Classification ⓘ

EXCELLENT	GREAT	GOOD	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT
------------------	-------	------	-------------------

School District	Ponca Public Schools
State Board District	3
Educational Service Unit	1
Legislative District	17

PONCA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Elementary School Classification ⓘ

EXCELLENT	GREAT	GOOD	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT
-----------	--------------	------	-------------------

School District	Ponca Public Schools
State Board District	3
Educational Service Unit	1
Legislative District	17

PONCA HIGH SCHOOL

Middle School Classification ⓘ

EXCELLENT	GREAT	GOOD	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT
------------------	-------	------	-------------------

High School Classification ⓘ

EXCELLENT	GREAT	GOOD	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT
------------------	-------	------	-------------------

School District	Ponca Public Schools
State Board District	3
Educational Service Unit	1
Legislative District	17

**Nebraska Student Centered Assessment System (NSCAS)
Summary (Percent Proficient)
Grades 3-8 and 11th Grade Alternate Assessment**

Academic Year	English/Language Arts	Math	Science
2013-14	-----	84%	82%
2014-15	-----	86%	83%
2015-16	-----	83%	85%
2016-17	54%	88%	94%
2017-18	64%	70%	86%
2018-19	68%	73%	85%
2019-20	COVID	COVID	COVID
2020-21			

***Note:** The NSCAS assessment began the 2017-18 school year. Prior to 2017-18, the above scores are reflective of the Nebraska State Assessments (NeSA). Because the 2 assessments differ in format, structure, mode of delivery, and rigor, proficiency levels may not be comparable (i.e. 80% proficient in 2016-17 may not be the same as 80% in 2017-18).

Graduation Rates (4 yr. Cohort)

Year	State Average	District Average
2014	89.66%	90%
2015	88.89%	96.67%
2016	89.27%	96.3%
2017	89.11%	96.97%
2018	88.66%	95.56%
2019	88.42%	100%
2020	87.51%	94.29%
2021		

**ACT
Composite Scores
(11th Grade – State and District Average Scores)**

Year	State	District
2016-17	19.3	21.1
2017-18	19.4	22.2
2018-19	19.3	22.4
2019-20	19.4	20.1
2020-21		

**ACT
(11th Grade - % of Students Meeting Expectations)**

School Year	English/Language Arts	Math	Science
2016-17	73%	80%	76%
2017-18	83%	83%	83%
2018-19	86%	86%	83%
2019-20	COVID	COVID	COVID
2020-21			

**ACT
(11th GRADE SCALE SCORES)**

	English	Reading	Math	Science
Ponca (2016-17)	19.5	20.6	22.3	21.5
Ponca (2017-18)	22.1	21.9	22.3	21.7
Ponca (2018-19)	22.5	22.7	21.8	22.0
State (2018-19)	18.4	19.5	18.9	19.0
Ponca (2019-20)	19.0	21.0	19.5	20.6
State (2019-20)	COVID	COVID	COVID	COVID
Ponca (2020-21)				
State (2020-21)				

2020-2021 Year In Review

The 2020-2021 school year was another fantastic year in the Ponca Public Schools! Once again, the district operated two school buildings, Jackson School (PreK-2) and Ponca School, 3-12. The district enrollment for the year was 466. Jackson School's enrollment was 124 students, Ponca Elementary School grades 3-6, was 134, and the Junior/Senior High School was 195 students.

New faculty members for the 2020-2021 school year was Mrs. Saddie Voss, High School Math.

Some of the experiences of the 2019-2020 school year included the crowning of Homecoming King Kayden Field and Queen Hannah Wahls on Saturday, September 26, 2020, with the dance following the coronation. The Snowball dance was held on Saturday, January 9, 2021, with _____ being crowned King and _____ crowned Queen.

2019-2020 Information use as an example: I took information from award booklets.

2019-2020 school year came to an abrupt halt on March 17th! Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic students finished the school year at home. Teachers held zoom sessions and packets were sent home weekly to PK-6th grade students. 7th - 12th grade students met with their teachers online through zoom and submitted daily assignments through canvas, email and google classroom.

The students of the Ponca Public School District continued the tradition of excellence in the areas of academics, fine arts, and athletics. In One-Act, Kaden Fields, Olivia Hrouda, and Mia Stroud earned Outstanding Performance Award. At districts, Kaden Fields, Olivia Hrouda, Mia Stroud, Brynn Chicoine, and Brandon Mellick received an Outstanding Performance Award.

Brady Carnell was named to the Wayne State Honor Band. Evan Watchorn, Meg Keller, Nate Ruhrer, Sarah Beach, Thomas Chase, Brandon Mellick, and Cole Monteith qualified for the 11th and 12th grade Lewis and Clark Honor Band. Grace Rooney, Lucas Hoesing, Matthew Hayes, Matthew Lentz, Austen Janssen, Chase Kastning, and Brennan Beach qualified for the 9th and 10th Grade Lewis and Clark Honor Band. The Class C All-State Honor Band was cancelled due to COVID-19. Olivia Hrouda, qualified as an alternate for the All-State Chorus. The following students were named to the Lewis and Clark Honor Choir: Sarah Beach, Olivia Hrouda, Evelyn Krusemar, Madison Riley, Matthew Hayes, Nathan Bauman and Ethan Goodier. The District Vocal Music contest was not held due to COVID-19.

The Ponca High School Volleyball team was the Lewis & Clark Conference and district runner-up. Wrestler, Dalton Anderson placed 6th at state. Dalton Anderson and Hunter Bennett were both Lewis & Clark Conference wrestling champions and Matt Logue was runner-up. Girls and boys basketball teams both had a successful season with both finishing their seasons with a 23-5 record. Girls basketball team earned first place in the Lewis & Clark Conference regular season, Champions of the Shootout on the Elkhorn, Lewis & Clark Conference Tournament Runner-up, District Champion and State Runner-Up. The boys basketball team earned 2nd place overall in the Lewis & Clark Conference regular season. They were the District Champions and Qualified for the state tournament. Track and golf seasons were cancelled due to COVID-19.

The art department celebrated many awards and recognitions, Breanna Gill earned "Best of Category Oil Painting", Alyssa Swick earned the "Best of Category Graphite" in the Lewis and Clark Art Show. First place winners in the

Lewis and Clark Conference Art Show included: Alivia Derooin, Grace Dorcey, Katie Janssen, Jordan Lamprecht, Kaden Fields, Lauryn Gill, Hannah Wahls, and Alyssa Swick.

The Ponca Spelling Bee took place February 4, 2020. Cora Jackson, 6th grade student, earned first place! Five students traveled to Allen, February 12th to participate in the Dixon County Spelling Bee. Students were: Cora Jackson, Addie Reilly, Lily Korth, Brooklyn Lowe, Mia Krusemark and Bella Brummond.

COVID-19 prevented an in person graduation ceremony to be held in May as originally scheduled for our 36 seniors! A virtual graduation video was created by Wedding Storytellers out of West Point Nebraska. The Ponca High School In-person graduation was held on Saturday, July 25th at 10:30 a.m. The virtual video was released on that morning of graduation at 10:30a.m. so the people unable to attend could watch the virtual ceremony. The seating capacity for graduation was limited due to COVID-19. Social distancing was required and masks recommended.