

Ponca Public Schools

Ponca Public School / 3rd Grade – 12th Grade
505 3rd Street, Box 568
Ponca, NE 68770
(402)755-5700 (402)755-5773 (Fax)
Derek Lahm, High School Principal

www.poncaschool.org
Jody L. Phillips, Superintendent

Jackson Elementary / Preschool – 2nd Grade
223 North John Street, Box 67
Jackson, NE 68743
(402)632-4276 (402)632-5014 (Fax)
Robert Hayes, Elementary Principal

August 17, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As you may be aware, Monday, August 21 is the highly anticipated solar eclipse. This event is being referred to as “The Great American Solar Eclipse”, as this is the first time since 1918 that a solar eclipse will be visible throughout the continental United States.

The Ponca Public School district has made arrangements for our students to experience this rare event. Students at Jackson Elementary will be discussing the event and viewing videos of the eclipse throughout the day on Monday. Our Ponca Elementary students (Grades 3-6) will be participating in a viewing field trip hosted by the Ponca State Park. Permission slips are being sent home for students to participate in this field trip. Our Earth Science students (Grade 11) are taking a field trip to Grand Island to view the eclipse in totality, as this event is directly tied to the Earth Science curriculum and standards. The secondary students (Grades 7,8,9,10,&12) will view the eclipse from the school.

In preparation for the event, the school district has purchased “eclipse glasses”, that meet the international standard for viewing the eclipse. Ponca Elementary students (Grades 3-6) will receive glasses at the State Park as part of their field trip. Our secondary students will receive their glasses on Monday prior to the event. Please know, the only safe way to look directly at the unclipsed or partially eclipsed sun is through the eclipse glasses. Students will not be allowed to look at the eclipsed sun through unfiltered cameras, telescopes, binoculars, or other optical devices, with or without the eclipse glasses. Concentrated solar rays will damage the filter and enter the human eyes, causing serious injury.

Because of these safety concerns, parent permission is required by the Ponca Public Schools to be completed prior to August 21. **Students without a completed permission form will view the eclipse inside the school via computer or television.**

We are excited to give our students the opportunity to experience this rare event. **We encourage you to complete the attached form and return it by August 18.** Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school.

Sincerely,



Jody Phillips
Superintendent