

Fact Sheet for Parents

What parents can expect from the new school website

The new Ponca City Public School website includes all the tools our school needs to provide you, our staff and most importantly, your students with the information they need—from news and events, to classroom pages and lunch menus. School-to-home communications will be enhanced with blogging and social media tools, online forms and surveys.

The software includes tools that allow us to:

- Gather feedback from you quickly and more efficiently with online forms and surveys
- Provide you with directories and lists, including staff contact directories, schools and more
- Send you electronic alerts—messages containing everything from critical news (like school closings and weather alerts) to website updates to newsletters

One of the first things you will notice is a uniform look and feel across the district or school sites. The navigation is consistent throughout the new websites. Information can be accessed quickly and in many cases fewer clicks. The most visited items are prominent, including:

- News and announcements
- School and activity calendars
- Student information (schedules, grades, bus routes, etc.)
- District-wide staff directory
- Lunch menus

We are excited to have the ability to offer you school information directly to your mobile device. The responsive web design automatically adjusts content depending on what device is being used to access the site. Content will be easily accessible from any technology device—computers, tablets and smartphones. Each view will be optimized for any screen size.

Best of all, our teachers will be able to easily add and edit content on their teacher pages. They can now add or change assignments, update reading lists and post homework aides. Teachers can also:

- Post classroom rules and expectations
- Maintain classroom calendars
- Make spelling lists available 24/7
- Upload podcasts
- Manage online image galleries
- Provide practice assignments

And, since we value the privacy of your students' information, we are using a solution that is reliable and secure. Blackboard hosting services are among the most reliable for school and district websites.

All school and district data is protected with encryption, user authentication and application security. Seamless recovery ensures consistent performance and reliability. So even in the event of a regional outage, the district data is always secure and always recoverable. The infrastructure provides firewall protection, intrusion detection, SSL encryption and proprietary security products.

Blackboard offers the best data protection and most advanced facilities protection available, with guaranteed uptime and 99.9% reliability so the websites stay live continuously. The performance is fast, even in high volumes of concurrent use. All of this means your students' information remains safe, and you will have access to the website when you need it.