



Ponca City High School Students “March the Halls” to Inspire the Next Generation

Ponca City Public School students at all elementary school sites lined their hallways as the 2019 Graduates, Po-Hi Steppers, and Pep Band “Marched the Halls.” Superintendent Shelley Arrott explained, “This event was a great way to showcase our National Champion Steppers and to provide our students a glimpse of the wonderful extra-curricular activities offered by the district. It is also a great representation of Wildcat Pride, and our marchers are great role models for the entire district. It was an opportunity to show grade school students how much pride and joy comes with high school graduation. We had a similar event last year with football players, cheerleaders, and graduates marching. I plan to select a different group each year for this event.”

Po-Hi graduating seniors “Marched the Halls” at their elementary home school sites. Donning their caps and gowns, graduates returned to their old stomping grounds to walk while “Pomp and Circumstance” played over the intercom. The seniors gleamed with pride, and many of their former teachers were still teaching at that site.

Po-Hi senior Morgan Didlake said, “It was awesome to watch the elementary students’ excitement as we came down the hall. For me, it was special to be an example of what graduation looks like. It was also special to see the students who are the future of Ponca City Schools.”

Woodlands student Solomon Stump said, “I liked it when they were here because I imagined that’s how I’m going to be someday.” Student Emily Kleinmann reported, “I enjoyed seeing all the people that went to Woodlands.” Woodland’s Principal Tim Williams explained, “We frequently talk to our students about extra-curricular activities they can choose in middle school and high school, and academic achievement is our highest priority after student safety. Having the Po-Hi Steppers and Pep Band march the halls not only helped build Wildcat spirit, it also provided another example of excellence and extra-curricular activities for our students. The Po-Hi graduates marching helped our students see how exciting and rewarding it is to meet academic goals. Both events were energetic and fun!”

“Last year was the first year we did this activity and it was very well received,” explained Superintendent Arrott. “It was like a reunion, with tears and all. The idea behind this “March the Halls” event is that elementary school students will be inspired and motivated to do well in school. You could see the excitement in the student’s faces, and the seniors were excited too! We even had one Lincoln senior boy ask if he could march at every site because he enjoyed marching at Lincoln so much. With his principal’s permission, he went to every school. He knew someone at every site and hugged everyone! This event costs little to nothing and is probably one of the most memorable things to happen this school year for the younger children and the seniors. One group of kids sees what lies ahead, while another reminisces about what was. It is a beautiful way to end the school year for everyone involved.”

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