June 12, 2015

Dear Bruin Parents and Students:

On behalf of the Ponderosa High School staff, it is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to you as we approach the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year. We hope you are enjoying a wonderful summer break and share in our enthusiasm as we embark on what we anticipate to be a rewarding and successful year.

As principal of PHS, it is an honor to work with dedicated faculty, staff, students, and parents; to foster an atmosphere that promotes student focused learning and achievement, with commitment to excellence in academics, performing arts, athletics, and activities. Our #1 goal is to prepare our students for their post-secondary opportunities, college entrance and future careers. We want our students to thrive during their high school years with a spirited, but safe campus environment that is inspiring and encouraging for all students.

The PHS staff has had a busy summer. To support student learning, we have participated in staff development workshops and training in various curriculum areas, particularly in the areas of Advanced Placement, AVID, and Special Education. We have spent time previewing and developing instructional materials for use in our educational programs and staff development. We are fortunate to welcome several new hires to the Ponderosa High School learning community. The following departments will have new faces to meet: Agriculture, SPED Services, Science, Social Studies, Foreign Language, Math, Administration and Counseling offices.

Last year we launched AVID, Advancement Via Individual Determination, with great success. We are expanding the program to accommodate more students. AVID is a college-readiness system designed to increase the number of students who enroll in and complete a degree at four-year colleges. We have also enjoyed success with Naviance, a comprehensive college and career readiness solution that helps connect academic achievement to post-secondary goals. Both programs have proven to be quite successful in supporting student achievement.

We will continue to offer Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE). PIQE’s mission is to connect families, schools and community as partners to advance the education of every child through parent engagement. Please see the website and counseling office for more information.
Please be sure to check out the following information on our re-designed website (http://bruin.eduhsd.net), which will prove useful in helping to navigate your student through high school: The Single Lunch Bell Schedule & Collaboration Day Schedule (early out for students); Bus Information; Parent Calendar of Events; Student Handbook; Academic Recognition; and, the Dress Code. Students should always maintain an appropriate standard of dress for the business of school. In addition, parents should be sure to read the important information contained in the Annual Parent’s Notification booklet mailed in July to each student’s residence. You may also contact the school for a copy of any of this information if you are unable to obtain access to our website.

As we prepare for the new school year, here are a few important dates and events to add to your calendar:

- **August 3:** LINK CREW--FRESHMAN STUDENT ORIENTATION, 11:00am – 2:30 pm, in the Large Gym. Schedules will be distributed for freshmen students only.
- **August 3:** NEW PARENT ORIENTATION, 1:00pm-2:30 pm, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Last Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A – G</td>
<td>Cafeteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H – O</td>
<td>Theater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P – Z</td>
<td>Room-M2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **August 7:** All students, including freshmen that did not attend orientation, may pick up their class schedules in front of the Cafeteria, between 2:00 and 3:00 pm. Returning students may view and print their schedules on-line through Aeries after 2:00 pm.
- **August 10:** FIRST DAY OF CLASSES. Students who have not received their schedules may pick them up between 6:45 and 8:10 am in front of the cafeteria.
- **August 12-13:** Picture Day (see PHS Bruin website)
- **August 20:** BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT, 6:15-6:30 pm, all parents start in the Big Gym prior to attending classes, 6:40–8:30 pm.
- **August 21:** Welcome Back Dance, 7:00–10:00 pm, in the Cafeteria Quad

Parents, please join me in a weekly “Walk-n-Talk” (campus supervision while walking the perimeter of school) which is generally held every Wednesday at 11:55 am-12:26 pm, to begin following Labor Day, on Wed. Sept. 9th. Please sign-in and meet at the front counter in the Administration office. Please call my Administrative Assistant, Kim Wood, at 530-677-2281, ext. 2216 for more information.

The Ponderosa staff eagerly anticipates welcoming you to a wonderful school year and look forward to meeting you soon.

Respectfully, with Pride, Honor, Spirit,

Lisa H. Garrett, Principal