

EL DORADO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
PONDEROSA HIGH SCHOOL

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Web Address: <http://bruin.eduhsd.k12.ca.us>

EL DORADO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Steve Wehr, *Superintendent*
(530) 622-5081

LISA GARRETT, *Principal*
Jeremy Hunt, Assistant Principal
Serna Teixeira, Assistant Principal
Darrin Slojkowski, Assistant Principal

July 8, 2016

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 2016-2017 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. The PHS staff has had a busy summer participating in staff development workshops, training in various curriculum areas, and 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 and each department will have new faces to meet!

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. To help us achieve this goal, we will continue to offer both AVID, Advancement Via Individual Determination, a college-readiness system designed to increase the number of students who enroll in and complete a degree at four-year colleges; and Naviance, a comprehensive college and career readiness program that helps connect academic achievement to post-secondary goals. Both programs have proven to be quite successful in supporting student achievement.

The safety and welfare of students and staff is a top priority at Ponderosa High School. We are fortunate to have two full-time School Resource Officers in the district, and three on-site campus monitors. Some of our recent and ongoing efforts in regard to student safety include:

- Regular evacuation, lockdown, and earthquake drills
- Open communication with parents regarding campus safety issues
- Staff training conducted by El Dorado County Sheriff Deputies and the Office of Emergency Services
- Site Safety Committee meetings including the regular review of the site safety plan
- Presentations to all students regarding safety protocols and behavior expectations including harassment, bullying and the appropriate use of technology and social media (The majority of

this presentation can be viewed via the PHS webpage. Go to [Parents](#), then [Resources](#), then [Empowering Your Cyberlife](#).)

- Development of the year-long Dude Be Nice initiative, and Random Acts of Kindness Week
- Expansion of mental health services available to students
- Increased capabilities for school to parent communication via **Parent Square (PS)** a **NEW** communication platform. Please see enclosed letter.

Regarding emergency protocols: In case of an evacuation or lockdown, our effort will be to contact parents as soon as possible with a nonspecific phone and email notification. Additional information will be communicated to parents as soon as can be arranged. It is important that parents or others do not attempt to come to the school as this can create serious problems for emergency responders. Parents who are contacted during an emergency by their student via text or otherwise are asked to encourage their student to follow directions of staff or emergency personnel. The procedures for release of students subsequent to an emergency will be communicated to parents.

Please be sure to check out our website (<http://bruin.eduhsd.net>), where you will find information which will be useful in helping to navigate your student through high school such as:

- Bell Schedule & Collaboration Day Schedule (early out for students)
- Bus Information Parents can purchase bus passes online at My SchoolBucks. An Early Bird Discount is available when purchasing a Full Year Round Trip pass on or before Friday, 7/31/16. To apply for a free/reduced bus pass, complete the application located in the Annual Notification to Parents/Guardians or online at www.eduhsd.net/Transportation/fees. Submit the application with the required income documents to EDUHSD, 4675 Missouri Flat Road, Placerville, CA 95667, Attn: Bus Fees. Students must have a pass to ride the bus, so get your pass before 7/31/16 to ensure transportation on the 1st day of school. The bus route schedule will be posted on the district website www.eduhsd.net/transportation. Questions about bus passes and routes may be directed to the Transportation Department at (530) 622-5081, x 7245.
- Student Handbook
- Academic Recognition
- Dress Code
- School Map (Located under School Info)
- Follow us on Twitter: @Pride_HonorS

In addition, please 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.

We will be introducing student suggestion boxes this year. The suggestion boxes will be located in both the Administration and Counseling Offices. Students may choose to submit a suggestion with their contact information or anonymously.

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

- August 1: LINK CREW--FRESHMAN STUDENT ORIENTATION, 11:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m, in the Large Gym. A BBQ and music in the quad will follow. Schedules will be distributed for freshmen students only.
- August 1: NEW PARENT ORIENTATION, 1:00 p.m. -2:30 p.m. as follows:

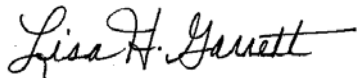
<u>Student Last Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
A – G	Cafeteria
H – O	Theater
P – Z	Choir Room-M2

- August 5: Class schedules for all students will be available **online through Aeries after 2:00 p.m.** For parents/students that do not have internet access, the College and Career Center will be available for parent/students to print out their schedules after 2:00 p.m. Schedule changes will not be made on this day.
- August 8: FIRST DAY OF CLASSES. Students must follow the schedule they have received. Schedule change forms will be made available for students in the Counseling office on Tuesday, August 9th. Schedule changes will only be made if it is a graduation or college entrance requirement.
- August 10-11: Picture Day (see PHS Bruin website)
- August 11: Health Preview Night, 6:00 p.m. Room E-5
- August 18: BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT, 6:15-6:30 p.m., all parents start in the Big Gym prior to attending classes, 6:35–8:30 p.m.
- August 19: Welcome Back Dance, 7:00–10:00 p.m., in the Cafeteria Quad
- August 29: Club Day in the 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 12:00 noon until 12:26 p.m., to begin following Labor Day, on Wednesday, September 7. 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



PONDEROSA HIGH SCHOOL

PARENT/COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Athletics Boosters

Bruin Den – Football Boosters

Basketball (coming)

Cheer Boosters

Aquatics Boosters

Band Boosters

Choir Boosters

Drama Boosters

FFA Boosters

PHS Community Foundation

PARENT EDUCATION/CONNECTIONS

Freshman Parent Orientation

Back to School Night

Parent Health Preview Night

Open House/8th Grade Parent Night

Parent Success Night (Counseling Office)

10th Grade Parent Night

Junior Parent Night

Financial Aid Night

School Site Council—*monthly*

School Site Safety Committee Meeting

WASC Committee

Annual College & Career Fairs

ASB Parent Volunteers

REASON FOR CONTACT	LOCATION	530-677-2281 or 916-933-1777
Attendance; Off Campus Pass; Truancy	Attendance/Admin Office Back Window	X 1
Athletics/School Insurance	Front Admin Office	X 2210
College/Univ./Career Info	Career Center	X 2224
Student Employment; Work Permits	Career Center	X 2224
Fees/Fines	Finance Office, Admin Office, West Side	X 2221
Guest Passes (dances)	Assistant Principal	X 2211
Handbooks ; Lockers	Counseling Office	X 2226
I.D. Cards	Student Store	X 2399
Illness	Health Office/Back Admin Office	X 2214
Lost & Found	Attendance Office	X 1
Marquee Birthday Message (\$20)	Career Center	X 2224
Moving/Changing School	Counseling Office	X 2226
Poster Approval/Clubs	Activities/Room E-6	X 2399
Schedule Changes	Counseling Office	X 2225
Student Suggestion Box	Front Admin Office; Counseling Office	X 2216
Student Tutors	Career Center	X 2224
Transcripts	Counseling/Registrar	X 2226
Temporary Bus Pass (\$2 Each Way)	Finance Office OR Front Office	X 2210
Transportation Department	4675 Missouri Flat Road, Placerville, CA	(530) 622-5081 X 7245

