

# PONDEROSA HIGH SCHOOL

## SENIOR AND SENIOR PARENTS' NEWSLETTER CLASS OF 2017

We are looking forward to a wonderful graduation ceremony. Please take a few minutes and read through this *Newsletter*. We have tried to answer as many of your questions as possible. We have included all the necessary information for both you and your families. If you have questions regarding any of this information, please feel free to call the school and speak with an AP at (530) 677-2281 ext. 2211.

**SENIOR FINAL EXAMINATIONS:** All Senior final exams must be completed by Thursday, May 25, 2017.

**SENIOR CHECK OUT:** Thursday, May 25, 2017, 2:00 – 3:30 PM OR  
Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup> after graduation practice.

Seniors do not attend classes on Friday, May 26, 2017, but **MUST** attend graduation practice.

We will pass out your formal check-out forms during the last week of classes. If you don't receive one, see your counselor before finals begin. Be prepared to clear all fines with the finance clerk before you check out. Absolutely all fines must be cleared prior to graduation. You will need to sign out of each class on the day of the final. Teachers will not sign seniors out of any class early. Formal check-out will be in the cafeteria Thursday, May 25, 2017, 2:00 – 3:30 PM or Friday, May 26 immediately following graduation practice.

Students who are enrolled in Adult School, Community College, and Independent Study, and who plan to use those credits for graduation, must have a copy of their report card at check out to verify that they passed their courses. See the instructor for that copy. This verification must be made by your counselor.

Only those seniors who have met all graduation requirements, have cleared check out, gone through graduation practice, and have turned in the **Senior Pledge** (which was distributed to students on April 18, 2017) will be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies. Diplomas will be available in the Administration office following the graduation ceremony until 10:00 PM. Those students who do not participate in the ceremony, or do not pick up their diploma following the graduation ceremony, may pick up their diplomas at the school during the week of May 30, 2017 through June 2, 2017 in the Counseling Office.

## **GRADUATION PRACTICE:**

Our only graduation practice is scheduled for 8:00 a.m., Friday, May 26, 2017 in the large gym and stadium. It will last until approximately 9:30 a.m. We want your ceremony to be flawless, so come prepared to listen and to learn the ceremony. All graduates who plan to be in the ceremony must attend this practice. Contact your AP immediately if there are any last minute complications.

## **FINAL STAGING FOR GRADUATION:**

Graduation inspection and final instructions will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the large gym. This final preparation time will be for graduates only. Only graduates of the Class of 2017 will be allowed in this area after 6:00 p.m.

## **GRADUATION GUEST SEATING:**

There are no tickets needed for the graduation ceremony. We have over 3,000 stadium seats and rented 1,000 folding chairs which will be placed on the field behind the graduates. We plan on having approximately 400 graduates. Over 4,000 seats will accommodate families and guests. The gates to the stadium will open at 6:15 pm. The ceremony will begin at 7:30 pm.

## **HANDICAPPED PARKING AND SEATING:**

Those families who require handicapped parking and seating should call Tina Parker at 677-2281, ext. 2211, as soon as possible to make reservations. Only cars with legal, up-to-date DMV handicapped placards or license plates will be allowed to park in the designated handicapped parking areas.

## **PARKING:**

Parents and guests may park in the student lot until it is full. Afterwards, parking will be along Ponderosa Road and adjacent streets. Special parking for handicapped visitors will be available in the back parking lot (behind the stadium). Parking every year is very difficult, especially for those families who arrive late. Please plan on coming early if you wish to find a parking spot near the school. Encourage your family members to wear comfortable shoes that night.

## **BEHAVIOR AND DRESS:**

Each of you and your parents will be given detailed directions regarding your appropriate dress and behavior. Those directions are contained in the **Senior Pledge** which was passed out during the Senior Meeting on April 18, 2017. The dress code requirements will be strictly enforced as will the

standards of behavior. Please do not purchase any corsages or hanging flowers for your graduates. Students will not be allowed to adorn/decorate their cap and/or gown with any objects that have not been approved by school administration.

Many parents, students, and Ponderosa staff members look forward to the traditional graduation ceremony. Therefore, we are urging only those students who desire this type of graduation to participate in the ceremony.

### **GRADUATE SEATING:**

Beginning Monday, May 8, 2017, Seniors should report to the Career Center and select their seating row and specific seat location. You must bring your completed **Senior Pledge** with you at that time.

### **PORTRAITS:**

The school has contracted with a professional photographer to take several individual "handshake" pictures of each graduate during the awarding of the diplomas. Proofs of the photos will be available online. Graduates will be able to purchase additional pictures if they desire to do so.

### **CAPS AND GOWNS:**

Caps and gowns and announcements ordered from Jostens will be distributed at the Senior Meeting on April 18, 2017. All seniors desiring to participate in the graduation ceremony should have already made their orders with Jostens. If you have not ordered please call (916) 989-3909. All graduates in the ceremony must wear the standard cap and gown with no other attachments or adornments. If you have questions about this, see your AP immediately. For those students that would care to donate their cap/and or gown following graduation, a donation receptacle will be set up near the diploma pick up area.

### **FINAL TRANSCRIPTS**

The form to request final transcripts is in the Counseling Office and can be turned in at any time before the end of the year. Seniors must turn in a transcript request form in order to have their final transcripts sent to their college, they do not get sent automatically.