**January 2016 Community College Applications**

**Sierra College**
- Complete the five step process as soon as possible for priority registration.

**Folsom Lake College/El Dorado Center**
- Application available February 1, 2016.


Sign up to receive college information and reminders through Remind 101 by texting 81010 and entering the message @phsclass16.

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**TO DO LIST**

* Check your college app “to do” lists and watch deadlines. Send transcripts ONLY if the school requests them. For CSU campuses, take EPT/ELM assessments EARLY, if required!

* Winter break is coming, why not spend some of that time working on scholarship applications? For local scholarships create your profile at [www.CALocalScholarships.org](http://www.CALocalScholarships.org). Don’t forget to request your letters of recommendation. Make sure to look at the requirements for each scholarship for which you are applying. If you have everything ready, your applications will be easy to complete and submit by the March 1, 2016 deadline. I am available to give you individual help just about everyday during lunch, 6th & 7th periods, and after school.

* Check out the “scholarships for the week” posted on the College & Career Center page of the school website under the College Information link.

* December is the last chance to take the SAT/ACT tests and still meet college admissions deadlines

* Register for a FSA ID (for you and your parent) so you can complete and sign the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at: [http://fsaid.ed.gov](http://fsaid.ed.gov). **Apply for FAFSA between Jan 1—Mar 2, 2016.**

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**Financial Aid Night**

* IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2015 IN THE OAK RIDGE MULTIPURPOSE ROOM AT 6:30 P.M.*

Vance Pascua, Director of Financial Aid, will present information on Federal Aid Programs, California State Aid Programs, Grants & Scholarships, FAFSA, & Cal Grant GPA Verification forms. Be sure you and your parents attend this very important event!

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**December Senior Newsletter**

Ponderosa Class of 2016

**Career Center, Open Daily 7:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m. (530) 677-2281 ext. 2224**

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**Don’t catch SENIORITIS!**

You will be receiving acceptance letters from the colleges you applied to within the next month or two. This does not give you a green light to SLACK. Remember a college can just as easily send you a letter of withdrawal if you do not keep your grades up or if you begin to catch Senioritis!

**Also** any significant changes made to your schedule for the spring semester need to be reported to the colleges to which you applied.
FUNDING YOUR EDUCATION

Frequently asked questions:

How might the Federal Student Aid help pay for schooling?
◊ Federal student aid includes grants, work-studies and loans. You do not
have to pay back grants. Work study allows you to earn money for your
education, and loans allow you to borrow money for school.

When can I apply?
◊ For 2016-2017, you should apply online at www.fafsa.ed.gov as early as
January 1, 2016 but BEFORE March 2, 2016.

What will I need to get started?
◊ You will need your FSA ID (federal student aid ID number) and your valid
Social Security number to apply for federal student aid. Your eligibility will
be determined by your parents’ financial information.

What kind of information does the financial aid application (FAFSA) ask?
◊ FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) will ask for information
from your parents'/guardians’ 2015 U.S. income tax return—[see
qualifications below from Federal Student Aid website]. If you, the student,
filed a return, that information will also be needed. If you won’t have a
completed tax return, you can estimate your answers by using bank
statements, and any business records that might be helpful.

How will I know what I am eligible for?
◊ Once your FAFSA is processed, a formula is applied to the information that
you provided. Congress established this formula to determine your financial
need. The formula result is the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The
EFC indicates how much money you and your family will be expected to
contribute toward the cost of attendance for the 2016-2017 school year.

Calculating your family contribution.
◊ For dependent students the following facts are considered in calculating
your EFC: Your income and your parents income; you and your parents’
assets, including savings, stocks & bonds, real estate investments, business
ownership and trusts, but the primary residence equity is excluded; your
parents’ age and need for retirement income; the number of children in the
household; and the number of children attending college.

Are there deadlines that I must meet?
◊ Yes. You should pay special attention to the many deadlines involved in the
student financial aid process. Missing a deadline could prevent you from
receiving some or all of the aid for which you are eligible. The Federal/State
student aid programs must receive the FAFSA by March 2, 2016 for the
2016-2017 school year.

Don’t miss FINANCIAL AID NIGHT for answers
to all of your financial aid questions!

Dec. 10, 2015

The 2016-17 Cal Grant GPA Verification form will be automatically filed for you by our registrar
Mrs. Burghardt. You must also file the FAFSA (see above) to be considered for any Cal Grant
awards. IT TAKES TWO—CalGrant & FAFSA!!