Ponderosa Hiigh School

PARKER, CO

what defines

Ponderosa High School The Equis 2019

Vol 36

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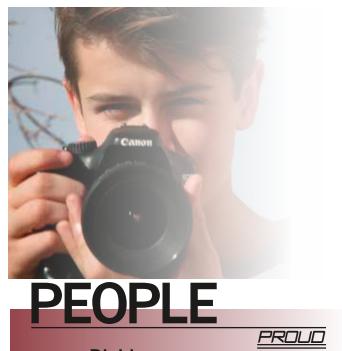
INVOLVED



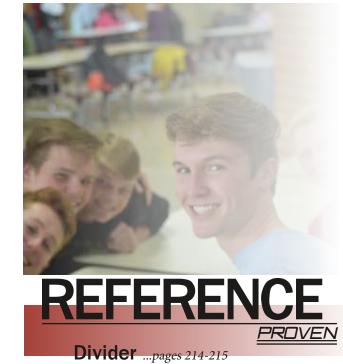
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What defines mustangs PONDEROSA HIGH SCHOOL Parker, Colorado 80134 PRINCIPAL Tim Ottmann Phone 303-387-4000 Fax 303-387-4001 www.phsmustangs.org @phsmustangs 1358 Students **342** Freshman **352** Sophomore **310** Juniors **354** Seniors **119** Staff



PONDEROSA HIGH SCHOOL

SPIRITED As a Mustang we show our pride through cardinal and gold. We chant out P-PON-PONDEROSA THAT'S WHO WE ARE as we throw glitter in the air to show Legend no matter the score we are Ponderosa. In the last seconds to the basketball game our team is down 12 points but we still root our team on. We show our rivalry team what it means to be a mustang. We unite together and show our pride through our dedication to the school. As Legend calls Justin Babb (12) a traitor to put him down, we chant for him to make that free throw and we chant louder for Babb and Legend to hear.

FICTIVE What defines us as a mustang is that we are proud of our school. No matter if we win or lose, we cheer our team on. As the cheerleaders perform their stunt for the school and one flyer falls down, we cheer her on to get back up. As a mustang we encourage each other to do better because we know we can. We accept a challenge. Even when the odds aren't in our favor we take it on as if there is no tomorrow. We have shown this through every sports game we play. We might be a small school in Douglas county, but we stand apart from everyone else. We have character to our students and our building. We put a lasting impression on anyone that walks into the door. Cardinal and gold stand out from all of the other schools. We accept every one is different we aren't here to judge who you are.

TALENTED We are also defined by our award winning programs in art, music, and theater. DECA, FBLA, FCCLA compete at the highest levels and go on to state and national competitions. Mock Trial team is one of the best in Colorado. One of the best yearbooks nationally, Eques, received a Hall of Fame award for receiving the highest state ranking for 7 plus years.

INVOLVED This 35 year old institution offers big school opportunities in a small school setting. It is ranked as one of the top 500 high schools in the country by Newsweek Magazine. Our school was selected as one of the top 300 in the country by U.S. News and World Report. We recently received the College Success Award from GreatSchools.org, which recognizes high schools who well-prepare students for post-secondary success. Students can choose from 33 college credit courses and 18 Advanced Placement courses. On average, Ponderosa students earn over 5 million dollars in scholarships annually.

PROLID: Our students unite together to become one family we are defined as Mustangs. The P sticker on the back of car isn't for decoration, it's a symbol of pride, and that's who we are. Where ever you may go after Ponderosa you will always remember your time here as a mustang and you will never forget. We teach our students to be proud of the colors you wear and remember what Ponderosa has brought you. 32 state champions, and 121 league championships. We show dedication and determination with everything we do. Mustangs are PROVEN



Katelyn Kline

Leaves are changing, pumpkins are carving, students are waiting for the first break from school, fall break. Katelyn Kline (9) is a cheerleader for Steele Athletics, on Rust, senior open coed level 4. This fall, Kline went to Salt Lake City for her team's first competition of the season. They came home with first place. Two came home with another first place title. Kline's cheer seasons last from July to the end of May, but during her one month of freedom she still goes to team workouts. "During the season we practice three times a week, and have workouts and tumbling once a week," Kline said. at six years old. "When I was six my family friend stay up when she gets home to do homework." brought me to one of her cheer practices, and after watching how fun it was I decided I wanted all the hard work worth it. My gym is my second to cheer too," Kline said.

Kline is a flyer, the person at the top of the stunt. Kine defined: SPIRITED "To be a flyer you have to be really flexible and

have great balance," Kline said. Her favorite part of cheer is stunting. Stunting can be very fun to try new things, but it can also be scary if you don't know what you're doing. "Sometimes when we are trying new things it can be scary because I don't know if I'm doing the right thing or if my bases are going to catch me," Kline said. weeks later they went to Seattle, Washington, and Managing four practices a week, all an hour away, can become very difficult. "A lot of the time I to practice. Since my practices end late I have to stay up when I get home to finish my homework I didn't get done in the car," Kline said. Kline sometimes sleeps in the car on the way home, Kline has been doing cheer for nine years, starting since it is too dark to do homework and she has to can't imagine my life without cheer and it makes home and my second family." Kline said. Katelyn





tion) in Seattle, Washington. "Cheer has taught Katelyn many things and given her lifelong friendships," Kline's mom, Kelly Kline, said. Rust placed first at the ATC competition.



INVOLVED

During halftime at the Football Senior night, Elliot thanked his mom and dad for all of their support. Kneeland's mom, Emily Kneeland said.



Kneeland's basketball

Snow was falling outside, the temperature was dropping, students were studying for finals as their minds drifted to what they were doing over winter break. Some were staying in Parker, others were traveling to spend the holidays with their family. Winter sports were in full swing. Elliot Kneeland (12) was going to basketball tryouts, playing in the football state playoffs, and singing in the winter concert, all while trying to cram for finals. Elliot Kneeland played football and basketball and participated in Pegasus choir. Participating in so many activities while maintaining your grades was very difficult. "It's tough to balence everything, I have to put school first and work my hardest to make time for everything else,

Kneeland first started playing football for the Hawks in seventh grade and was only seven years old when he joined his first basketball team through his elementary school. "My first coaches

but the outcome is worth it," Kneeland said.

were all really nice and taught me how to love each sport, which pushed me to keep playing them all the way until now," Kneeland said.

When Kneeland was a freshman, his was young, his mom had always told him that he had a gift for singing, but he never pursued it. Mrs. Willbanks had overheard Elliot singing to his music, and convinced him to try out for choir. Elliot made the highest choir, Pegasus, and continued in this for three years.

Kneeland said basketball is probably his favorite activity he participates in. "Basketball has been in my life the longest, and it has taught me a lot of important life lessons," Kneeland said. Kneeland enjoyed all of the activites he did and was thankful for what they have taught him. "They don't call me renaissance man for nothing," Kneeland said. Elliot Kneeland defined: INVOLVED



hat defines mustanes

was upbeat poems about love and happiness. Her first poem she ever wrote was when she was in her 8th grade English class. She had an assignment to write a poem about an event that happened in her life and

had to share it to the class, right then she realized how good she was at writing poetry. "My first poem was about being in the hospital with my mom when she got Tibbetts breast cancer and the poem was about a girl copping with her mom dying due to cancer," said Tibbetts.

In her free time when she was not writing poems she is reading books about psychology. She loves reading about how people's brains work and function. "It's interesting to see how one person is different from 12 and I thought she was very colorful because she another and how people's minds work and the type of person they are with all of their different quirks," said Tibbetts. While reading those books Alessandra hoped TALENTED

basement and play songs off of his stereo. We would sing and dance to every song and singing is amazing for me because in those few minutes the song is playing, I can be a different person and I'm lost in the lyrics and music and I don't care if I'm being judged or if I sound good because I'm having a great time,"

she would sing Katy Perry. "I loved singing Katy Perry songs because I was obsessed with her when I was always wore a different outfit every-time she would go on stage," said Tibbetts. Alessandra Defined:



CLRSS OF 2019

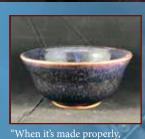
AUSTIN PORRAS

LOVES TO PLAY IN THE MUD Senior,

Austin Porras was intrested in sculpting art work ever since he started his sophomore year when he enrolled in Ceramics to make the artist he is today, Austin finished his final year I. From throwing mugs to vases, Porras prefersed making anything that involves throwing pottery. "I enjoy making fun to make," said Porras. All artists have their inspiration for their work, for Austin, it came from another student at Ponderosa. "This kid named Thomas Dickson was in AP ceramics during the same period as me, and when I saw his art work, I just liked it a lot, which made me want to get better. So the following semester I just I spent both of my off periods in the ceramics room and began to learn how to throw and from there, I just stuck with it, but Mr B has been and the rest of my life as a hobby, said Porras.

Porras. Taking him dedication, sweat and a whole ton of clay at Ponderosa with a 4.4 GPA. After highschool, Porras still hopes to continue this hobby all throughout his life, best to finish my homework and once I'm done, I ca onto having more fun. It's amazing how much faster goes by when you're giving it 100% attention," said Everyone has thier hobbies and enjoyments, but Austin will always stick to ceramics.





the peice a lot easier to work with," Porras said.



Cadence Shipman

Cadence Shipman, 11, was a proud Mustang her whole high school career. Attending games in full spirit and on top of that, playing varsity softball at 110%. Shipman an all around player, gave her heart to the sport and to the team, pulling my weight," said Shipman. Cadence said. ended her 3rd season of Softball with 12 hits and a fielding percentage of .867 both of which are above the national average.

Cadence was born in Littleton and raised in Kiowa Colorado, she worked at her family owned and ran Mexican restaurant named Adriana's on Highway 86

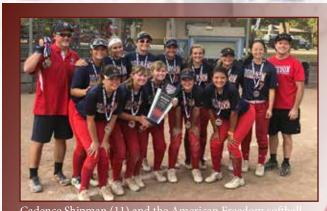
SOFTBALL FIELD OF DREAMS in Franktown as a hostess. Cadence start working at 10 years old. "It's laid back and

said Shipman. She planned to pursu the dreams she started in high school, hopefully to succeed after graduation.

the restaurant, I want to attend The the common people," Shipman

Cadence played for the All American team for Colorado during the offseason to work on her skills and gain experience for her senior season with Ponderosa. "I love said Shipman. Photo by MICHREL WLSON

What les



CLASS OF 2020

the most exciting game in her career so

Sophomores CLASS OF 2021 Lauren Banas CRAZY ABOUT BUSINESS AND SOCCER Lauren Banas was an outstanding student in her international business so she did FBLA. Learning to high school career. Not only did she balance the balance these activities with her other core classes overload of classes and after school clubs, she also was at first a struggle for Lauren but once she fell participated in school athletics. When Lauren Banas into a routine she was able to maintain a 4.0 GPA. started her high school career, she was interested If StuCo and FBLA weren't enough, Lauren in helping out others in the school community. So also played on the soccer team. " It was really hard balancing soccer with school...but in the end it kind Lauren joined Student Council and FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America). of worked out," said Banas. Student Council kept her busy. It focused After graduation from high school she planned on on school events such as spirit days, assemblies, going to the University of Edinburgh in Scotland for and other important school events. "It's really international business or psychology. Lauren's other fun working with everyone in StuCo and getting plans included opening up a small shop of some kind such as a small coffee shop after college. to make spirit weeks and events for the school look nice and it's always enjoyable," said Banas. Banas also had an interest in business especially

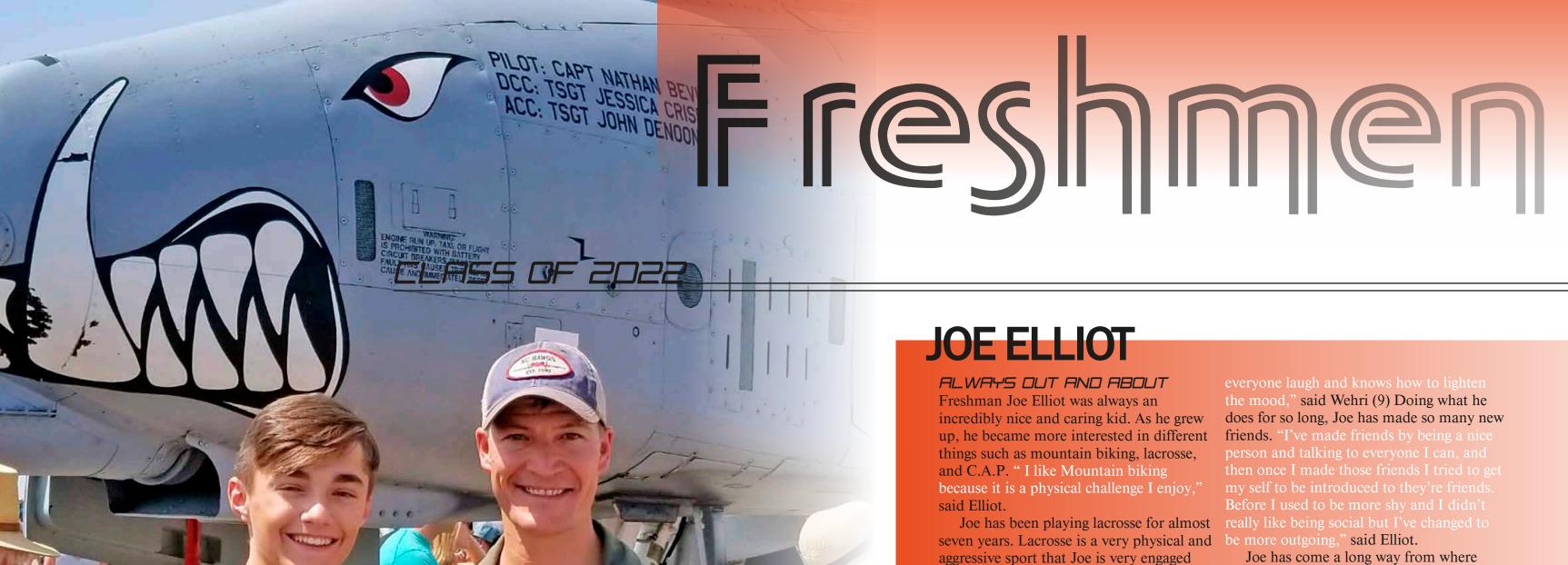
orating senior hall for



Lauren Banas right with Morgan Palermo (10) left, as they work together at Parent teacher conferences. "FBLA is definitely a lot of work and volunteering, I plan or lettering," Banas said



Lauren Banas and Lindsay Weidl (11) working with Student Council to clean up the route of the hon " Banas said.



in. Being involved in these activities has it hurts to push harder. Joe has made many friends and is very easy to get along with. He enjoys hanging out with his friends and where his future takes him "In the future I being active outside of school. His friends describe him as a good guy. "Joe is one of my closest friends, he's very nice, makes

he started, he's learned new skills and taught Elliot to never give up and that when developed new attributes and characteristics about him. He looks forward to making memories with those he loves and seeing have kids to then prepare them for their future," said Elliot.

What defines mustanor FANTASTIC FINISH After inishing the 11 Mile bike race,

STAND UP FOR STANTON

AN EXHAUSTING BATTLE MANY CAN'T EVEN IMPLINE Sra. Stanton, one of our many Spanish teachers took a temporary leave of absence from ponderosa while she was diagnosed and family had continued to support her. "My family, friends and faith have helped me through the struggles of cancer," said Stanton. With many of her supporters from her friends and family, Ponderosa continued to lift her spirits with their sincere hope to Sra. Stanton. "Being diagnosed with cancer is such a life-changing event. However, in the midst of a total of 15 month of chemotherapy and many surgeries, radiation and chemotherapy, the support shown by Ponderosa's staff and students has been so encouraging and uplifting. I am overwhelmed, grateful, and appreciative of our Ponderosa family, Said Stanton. The World language department, while staying connected, was eager to have her back, being a teacher at PHS," Stanton said. including Mrs. Iglesias. "She plans on coming back

after spring break and our department is excited for her to come back," said Iglesias. Many Ponderosa students were eager for her return, including Lanae Johnson (11). "She told us and I wanted to cry, so with cancer. Ponderosa and many of her close friends after class I went to talk to her and she gave me a big hug and told me to not be upset and continued to tell me that I will grow up to accomplish great things and when she sees my name on her roster and it puts a big smile on her face," said Johnson. Many students and staff looked forward to Sra. Stanton's return after the end of Spring break. Stanton had battled through varieties of treatment. Through the process, 7 month in, Stanton began to see changes in her appearance. "Chemo has changed me a lot- I now have short, grey hair and almost no eyebrows or eyelashes. However I'm still the same inside...I still love Spanish and



SUPPORTER: S Ryan Dix (11) Attended the Stand Up For Stanton Varsity Football game on September 29 High School. Ryan came to support the cause of Ponderosa's beloved Spanish teacher, Sra. Stanton. "I really enjoyed the game mainly because it was a really exciting game and it was for a very good cause," Dix Said. The game was turned to success and Ryan Be was his best decision to attend the game. PHOTOS BY ADAM PARSONS.



Beferen **ASHLYN WILLIAMS**

Ashlyn Williams started gymnastics at age 8 at Alpha gymnastics with coach Dan. She continuously worked with coach Dan throughout her competitive career. "I started because my dad did it when he was in college until he got injured and I wanted to carry that on and it sounded really fun," said Williams.

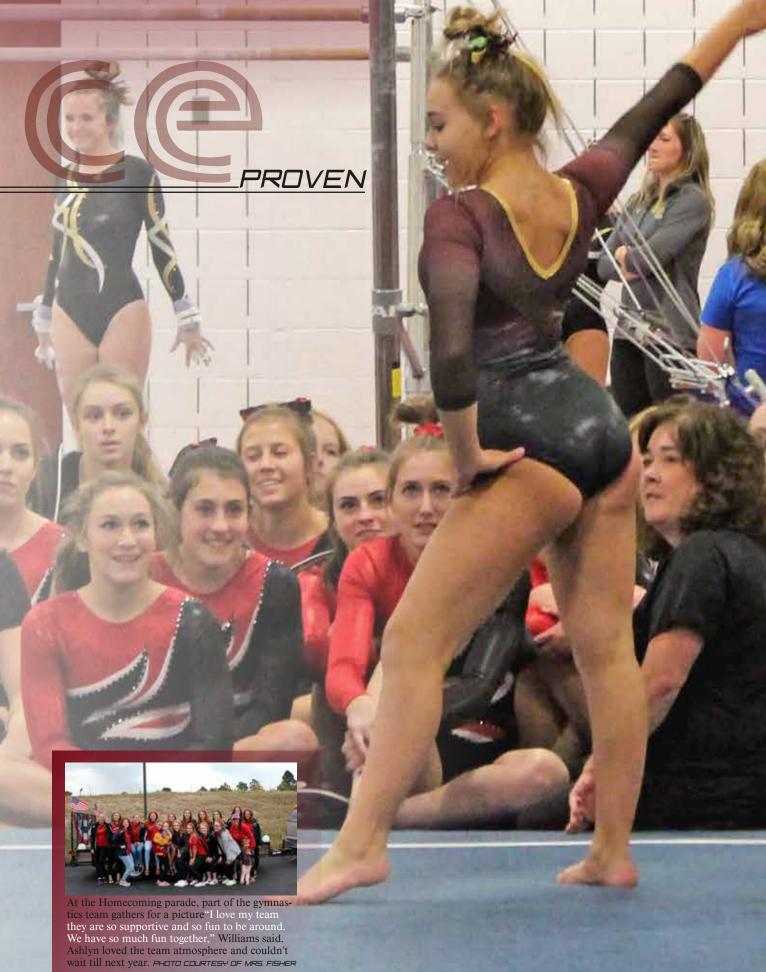
As a Freshman in High school Williams joined the Ponderosa gymnastics team. For her club team Overland on floor I need a full front tuck, a back full and a double they always got first in state and being on a different team front layout, on beam I had a backhand spring series she had the chance to show them up knowing what skills she had. "We are all really close and during meets; were always cheering for each other and its always fun to be around them," said Williams. Ponderosa's gymnastics team worked and lifted others to do their best. Williams enjoyed both teams and learned a lot from each.. "Mental health is really big in this sport if you're scared of do what you do," said Williams.

Balancing sports and school took a lot of planning to prepare and do specific things. Balancing time was not easy but had been practiced for so long. "It's kind off hard but during meets I can do it and my team will help me and even days without meets I do it before practice," said

There were four events in gymnastics; they included vault, uneven bars, balance beam, and floor. Each one took on different skills sets. "On vault you need a tuck, dismount and a back tuck, on bars I need giants and a snap back," said Williams.

Competing her floor routine was always fun. Williams performed her best on floor. With her apposing teammates by her side she always tried to draw their attention with her wow factor but still wanted to beat them. Gymnastics was always cheering on others which something you'll get stuck but if you push past it you can created an uplifting atmosphere. "I'm planning on doing it all four years because its so much fun and I'm planning on doing it next year," said Williams. Ashlyn Williams defined: PROVEN

What defines



SPIRITED Ponderosa students weren't afraid to show their pride for their school. Seniors got together for their last homecoming and continued a tradition that has been passed down for years, Toga Tuesday. Walking down senior hall made you think you were in Greece. Even though it's a bed sheet wrapped around you Senior's were excited to wear it. They set the example for the juniors becoming seniors next year. FILTIVE This year was full year of success and progress. Almost Every team qualified for Regionals or State. It was Tim Ottmann's first full year of being our principal and he hit the road running in planning a overhaul of next years schedule and making plans to spruce up our school with new flooring. We've really showed our pride of the mustang nation with every event we've went to. **INVOLVED** Mustangs got together for the fifth wish week to grant Jackson's wish to go to the Disney owned resort, Aulani in Hawaii. StuCo added the first corn hole tournament, 10 teams joined in. Most popular was the dodgeball tournament that StuCo threw every year, we had over 20 teams competing for the win. Having more food choices for the students this year made it easier to raise more money, raising 2,000 dollars for dish for a wish. Ethan Waite (12) hosted the first Late show, where teachers participated in games and students got to vote for the best one. David and Leonard our security guards won for the funniest skit. We raised over 36,000 dollars, way more then we did last year. We've raised money for 17 other Make a Wish kids in the past five years. Wish week was the happiest week of the year for the Mustang community. Proving when we commit to helping, we go all out. TALENTED Mock Trial student had another good showing at State competitions. Mr. Lamb and Mrs. Gabel went with the Mock Trial Team to State. The Team of Duncan Brasa, Emma Ramunda, Eric Osicka, Hannah Bowen, Trent Lowe, Jack Plotke, Emma Newton, and Jaxson Pagano came in 14th of 26 - up 3 spots from last year's finish! Duncan Brasa, earned a Best Attorney award. Ponderosa DECA had award winning performances at the State competition as well. Our international qualifiers traveled to Orlando in April to take on the best high school marketing competitors from around the world! International qualifiers were: Professional Selling - 1st Meredith Duce, Food Marketing Series - 2nd Maddie Zink, Hospitality and Tourism Team Decision Making - 3rd Henry Cox & Tyler Liberati. Yearbook received 3 Gold Circle Awards from Columbia Scholastic Press's national competitions. PROLID Yearbook accepted a Hall of Fame award for receiving All-Colorado honors 7 years in a row during J-Day at CSU. World class wrestler Cohlton Shultz won another state championship making him a four time winner. Ponderosa students stands proud next to these accomplishments and made us love the school we go to. The SSN students opened the The Stable with coffee and hot chocolate back in December. We're very proud of those students for coming up with a unique idea. Mustangs defined: PROVEN Blair said. Mrs. Garcia wasn't too happy with Ryder, but sh wish week, the happiest week of the school year. ܕܝܩܩܩ ܩܕ **CLOSING** Page & photo by Bella McGuire