

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Robert Herman
Public Information Officer
559/733-6606
cell: 559/901-3445

Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

La Sierra Military Academy to Hold Open House June 2-3 Parents of Middle and High School Students Invited to Attend Event

An open house will be held June 2 and 3, for parents interested in visiting the La Sierra Military Academy in Visalia. For the first time in the school's six-year history, middle school students and their parents are invited to attend. In response to many requests from parents of middle school students, La Sierra Military Academy is considering adding a junior academy to their facility at 1735 East Houston for the 2006 – 2007 school year. Students entering the seventh and eighth grade would receive instruction and physical training separate from the high school, but on the same campus. If public demand is high enough, the middle school would open in August with 60-75 students.

During the open house, visitors can enjoy the Ranger Competition, which features 15 teams of cadets involved in physical challenge activities. Tours of the school will also be held. The open house is scheduled for Friday, June 2, from 4:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and Saturday morning, June 3, from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

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Parents with high school students are also encouraged to visit, as the La Sierra Military Academy will be offering information on enrollment. The school, which has been operated by the Tulare County Office of Education since its inception six years ago, is the only military school of its kind in the San Joaquin Valley. Approximately 220 students from throughout Tulare County and a few adjoining counties attend. As a public charter school, admission is free.

“La Sierra provides excellent opportunities for students who seek a structured learning environment with a high level of physical activity,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. La Sierra Military Academy offers the same core classes that are offered at other high schools and required by the State. In addition, several vocational classes are offered as well as electives. The junior academy or middle school would follow state academic requirements with an emphasis on discipline, respect and structure. La Sierra focuses on building character and – at the same time – working on building basic educational skills that will lead students to a successful academic future. School begins at 7:30 a.m. and ends at 3:20 p.m., with students staying until 4:00 p.m. if they are not passing their classes. It follows the same calendar as the Visalia Unified district. La Sierra Military Academy offers a summer basic training program for three weeks from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. to prepare students for the physical training program.

For more information on the Open House, or to pick up an application, call Lorene Valentino at (559) 733-6963.

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