Middle College News

1700 W. HILLSDALE BLVD., SAN MATEO, CA 94402 (650) 574 6101

Volume 15, Issue 5 Preparing for Final Exams

Now is the time to start preparing for final exams-if you want to perform your best. Our memories are short. Have you forgotten how many things are due the last two weeks of the semester? How many papers, presentations, and group reports are due by the end of the semester? Because you know you will procrastinate and rush to finish everything on time in that last week of class, start preparing NOW for final exams. Without planning, you will find yourself extremely stressed during the time you need to be studying for final exams.

9 Things You Can Do Now to Prepare for Final Exams

1. Check the finals schedule on the CSM website to find out how many finals you will have each day.

2. Create a written study schedule of the times and days you plan to study for each exam over the next two weeks.

a. Which courses will require the most study and let your plan reflect that.

b. Study on the weekends at this point. Increase your weekend study hours as finals get closer.

3. Use the study guide provided by the professor and don't wait until the night before the exam to look at it!

4. Attend any review sessions for the exam. Take questions with you. 5. Find out if the exam is comprehensive or if you will be tested only on information presented since the last exam.

6. Review your previous tests if the exam is comprehensive.

7. Meet with a study group if you study well in groups.

a. Anticipate essay questions and compose outlines of your answer. 8. Create and study note cards of information you need to know for the exam. Review these weekly-daily as the time for the final exam approaches. You don't have time to create note cards right before finals.

9. Know your grade for the class going into the final.

a. Check the syllabus to see how to compute your grade. b. Determine what grade you will have to make on the final to get the grade you want in the course.

c. Also be realistic about your chances of getting the grade you desire. Work toward getting the best grade possible.

From Berry College (GA) website.

MEMBER OF THE MIDDLE COLLEGE NATIONAL CONSORTIUM **Principal's Corner**

By Greg Quigley

MIF(at College of San Mateo DECEMBER 2014

MIDDLE

The final exams at CSM and Middle College are rapidly approaching. Students should be preparing for final exams, projects and papers. Middle College final exams are scheduled for.

Date	Class	Time	Location
Dec. 18	Senior English and US History	11:10-1:40	19-107, 19-121
Dec. 19	Junior English and Economics	11:10-1:40	19-107, 19-121

Students must plan to spend these days and times taking their high school final exams. The college final exams begin Saturday, Dec. 13. College instructors may require students to have Blue Books or Scantrons for finals. Students should bring the proper test-taking materials to class. The CSM final exam schedule is available in the fall class schedule.

The CRER 121 final exam is Tuesday, Dec. 9 from 11:10-12pm in Bldg. 16, room 140. Middle College students will continue to attend their regularly scheduled high school classes through Dec. 17, unless they are taking college final exams. Advisory classes continue through Dec. 17.

Student fees: Middle College students will not be charged enrollment fees or health fees as long as they are registered for 11.0 or fewer units as of Feb. 5. Students who exceed 11.0 units are considered "special admit full-time students" and are assessed all fees, including \$46 per college unit. If there are guestions, contact me. Additionally, students who owe fees must pay by Jan. 7, or they will be dropped from their classes.

Registration: Continuing students should have registered for spring classes. Students were eligible to register on Nov. 10. Seniors should meet with Mr. Clardy to ensure they are enrolled in the classes needed for graduation. Students carefully must select their classes, then be sure they stay enrolled in them. Students will have few chances to get into classes after the semester begins. There are students are wait lists. They should consider taking alternate classes. Students on wait lists will be notified if there is an opening, but only through their my.smccd.edu email accounts. Students have been encouraged to check their CSM email account frequently.

Spring 2015: Middle College students begin high school classes on Wednesday, Jan. 14. High school classes only will be held from Jan. 14-16 and 20-21 from 9am-noon in Bldg. 19, room 121. More information to follow. College classes begin Jan. 22.

Date	MIDDLE COLLEGE	Time	Location
December 5	Community Day	12:10pm-2pm	TBD
December 18	US History, English 7 finals	11:10am-1:40pm	TBD
December 19	Economics, English 5 finals	11:10am-1:40pm	TBD
January 14	First day of Middle College classes	9am-noon	Bldg. 19, room 121
January 14	College textbook purchases	Noon-1pm	CSM bookstore
January 14-16, 20-21	Middle College classes only	9am-noon	TBD
January 19	No school, Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday		
January 22	First day of college classes		

MCHS Scholarships

Middle College students are eligible to apply for College of San Mateo Scholarships. Go to www.collegeofsanmateo.edu/scholarships for more information. The deadline is Feb. 12. MCHS also is accepting donations from families and alumni for the Middle College Scholarship Fund. There is a link to the donation website on the Middle College home page. Thanks in advance for your contribution.

✓ SAT/ACT deadlines

The next SAT and Subject Tests will be Saturday, Jan. 24 with a Dec. 29 registration deadline; late deadline is Jan. 13. View collegeboard.com for details. The next ACT is Dec. 13 though the registration deadlines have passed. Students can register for the Feb. 7 test. The registration deadline is Jan. 9. See www.act.org for more information.

MCHS openings

Middle College has openings for juniors and seniors who want to join the program in the spring semester. Students are accepted on a case-by-case basis. Interested students can get an application by calling the Middle College office (574-6101) or by downloading an application from the website at www.collegeofsanmateo.edu/middlecollege

Textbook returns

Students should turn in any textbooks not being used. A list of books the student has checked out is included in this mailing. Students are responsible for paying for any books used in classes in which the student failed. Also, students are responsible for paying for books for classes that students dropped after the initial two-week drop period. (see textbook policy below)

Students enter final weeks of fall semester By Greg Lance, English teacher

The seniors are completing a unit on Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Students will have an essay to write soon and will also choose 14 lines or more of the play they will memorize, the two of which will serve as the final exam. Students are learning about and applying Carl Jung's theories of persona and shadow, Sigmund Freud's personality theories, the effects of societal expectations regarding gender roles, and the purpose of tragedy as a genre of literature. We have had discussions about the difficulty in balancing thought and action, knowing when it is time to act and how much thought needs to go into significant action. The play is ultimately about what it means to be human, so we have touched upon many subjects!

The juniors just finished a unit on *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and have just turned in an essay. Throughout the unit, we have tried to discover what Mark Twain's intentions were in writing this novel and have examined the degree to which his results matched those intentions. The question of whether this is a "great anti-racist novel" or a "racist novel" has been central to our discussions and written work. We finish the semester with *Kindred* by Octavia Butler, a novel that students will compare to Huck Finn. *Kindred* is told from a very different perspective while still dealing with the topic of race and slavery.

Students will be asked to write on their final exam about how the different perspectives of these two authors, along with that of author of *The Kite Runner*, affect the novels and their themes.



By Michael Clardy, social science teacher

Seniors finished up their Urban Plan projects on

Monday, Nov. 17. All of the groups were able to successfully build up their proposals and presentations so that they looked and sounded very professional. They should feel proud of their ability to demonstrate proficiency in such a sophisticated project. We will finish the year by looking at Fiscal and Monetary Policy, Globalization and Microfinance.

Now that the UC and CSU applications are just about finished, students should start thinking about how they are going to finance their education. This requires that they look for scholarships and prepare to complete the FAFSA form (www.fafsa.ed.gov/). Students can begin to submit the form on Jan. 1, but should go to the website and use it to guide their data collection. The FAFSA form establishes the amount of financing for which a family is eligible. The vast majority of scholarships and financial aid require students to complete the FAFSA prior to being considered for assistance.

MIDDLE COLLEGE TEXTBOOK POLICY

The high school textbooks used by Middle College students will be checked out to the student during the school year. Students are expected to take good care of the textbooks and return the textbooks to the Middle College staff members by the conclusion of the course. Students who do not return the textbooks or who damage high school textbooks will be responsible for paying for a replacement textbook.

Middle College requires that students purchase their own college textbooks from the CSM Bookstore or from an on-line textbook service. Students will be able to write in and highlight in the books as needed, and later resell the textbook to the CSM bookstore or to an on-line business for a portion of the original purchase price. Students also can rent books from the CSM Bookstore. Many college students keep their college textbooks and use the books as a resource either for other courses or for occupational experiences.

Middle College has set up an account to help purchase textbooks for students with a financial need. Students who need financial assistance for textbook costs can complete a rationale for fee waiver. See the administrator for more information. These textbooks remain property of the SMUHSD and Middle College. Students who do not return these textbooks or who damage them will be responsible for paying for a replacement textbook. Student may not write in or deface the textbooks in any way.

The following guidelines have been established for Middle College students who need the program to purchase some or all of the college books:

Books for dropped or withdrawn classes must be returned within first two weeks of the semester or student is responsible for purchase price of the book.
Students are responsible for the cost of books in courses in which they receive an F or a non-credit grade.

Students are responsible for paying for study guides, workbooks, solution manuals, course syllabi, class supplies or materials, other disposable items, and other non-textbook items.