

Middle College News

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

**MIDDLE
COLLEGE**
at College of San Mateo

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Students/Parents Access Engrade

The Middle College teachers are using an on-line grading system called Engrade to allow students and their parents to monitor student progress.

The students and parents use the same code to review data at www.engage.com Students and/or parents who need this code can contact Mr. Quigley or one of the MCHS teachers.

Fall '15 applications

Middle College will be accepting new students for the Fall 2015 semester. The application deadline is March 25.

Applications are available now in counseling offices of SMUHSD schools and are available on-line at the Middle College website:

www.collegeofsanmateo.edu/middlecollege

For more information, call the Middle College office at 574-6101.

How to contact staff:

Greg Lance, English teacher: 574-6537

Email: gglance@smuhd.org

Mike Clardy, social science teacher: 574-6114

Email: clardymichael@hotmail.com

Principal's Corner

By Greg Quigley



Welcome to the students and their families who joined the Middle College program in January and welcome back to continuing students and their families. Sixty students are participating in the program this semester.

The Middle College Spring Back-to-School Night for current parents and students is Wednesday, Feb. 4 at 6pm in Bldg. 10, room 195. Our goal is to have 100 percent of our students represented by at least one parent.

Students off to a slow start this semester received a three-week interim progress report in this mailing. Official progress reports will be mailed to all students in late-February. We should have reports from college teachers to review with students and to mail home by mid-March. Parents are encouraged to maintain contact with the high school teachers.

The students are in their third week of college classes. All students should have finalized the schedules as of Feb. 5, the last day to add semester-long classes. Senior advisor Mr. Clardy has met with the seniors to review the courses needed to complete graduation requirements by June 2. If students have questions about which classes are needed, they should meet with Mr. Clardy. Students have received updated transcripts.

Mr. Lance has met with the juniors to review progress toward meeting graduation requirements. Some juniors may need to take summer school classes if they expect to graduate with their class in May 2016.

All students continuing at Middle College or at CSM in Summer or Fall 2015 must complete or revise a Student Education Plan (SEP). The students can design their SEP with Mr. Lance or Mr. Clardy. The SEP deadline is April 17. Students must meet this deadline to get priority registration.

Six students served as group leaders at the San Mateo County Outdoor Education program in La Honda from Jan. 6-9. All received outstanding reviews from the Outdoor Education adult leaders. Congratulations!

Thanks to the families who contributed to the Middle College Scholarship Fund. We'll award financial scholarships to several seniors at our graduation ceremony on June 2. If you want to donate, view our website at www.collegeofsanmateo.edu/middlecollege

A reminder that there are no classes Feb. 13 and Feb. 16 in observance of the Presidents' Holidays. Have a great semester!

MIDDLE COLLEGE CALENDAR

Date	Event	Time	Location
Feb. 4	Middle College Open House	6pm-8pm	Bldg. 10, room 195
Feb. 13, 16	No School, Presidents' Holidays		
Feb. 20	End of Middle College six-week grading period		
March 17	CRER 122 class ends		
March 19	CRER 121 class begins	11:10-noon	Bldg. 14, room 206
March 25	Application deadline for Fall 2015 (SMUHSD)		
March 23-27	Spring Recess, no classes		
April 10	End of Middle College 12-week grading period		

✓ SAT/ACT DEADLINES

The next SAT and Subject Tests will be Saturday, March 14 with a February 13 registration deadline. View www.collegeboard.com for details. The following test will be May 2. The next ACT will be April 18; the registration deadline is March 13. See www.act.org for more information.

✓ CAREER 122

All students are required to take and pass CRER 122 ("Study Skills") to meet a graduation requirement for Middle College. Most new students began the CRER 122 on Jan. 22. This eight-week class covers such topics as time management, organization, note-taking and test-preparation. The class runs through March 17.

✓ ATTENDANCE REPORT

Parents/guardians are reminded that they must call the Middle College office (574-6101) to report a student's absence, otherwise the absence is considered a truancy. Students should not take vacations during the semester.

Students, not parents/guardians, should call the high school or college teachers when the student is absent. Two reasons: the teachers sense the student is concerned about missing the class and class material; and the student can complete assignments at home and not fall behind.

✓ GRAD INFORMATION

Seniors will be contacted by MCHS office assistant Laurie Carrasquedo regarding graduation info. Seniors need to provide their full name, which will be listed on their diploma. Also students will be placing orders for caps/gowns/tassels. The graduation is June 2 at the CSM Theater, 5:30pm.

Government/History reports

By Michael Clardy, MCHS social science teacher

The seniors have begun the semester by examining the origins of power. This will lead into comparing various forms of government. From there we will look at the structure of our government as spelled out by the Constitution. You can help them contextualize and better understand all of this material by actively discussing current events with your child. Specifically, discuss the merits of various policy proposals. Try to unpack why liberals and conservatives have such different solutions to the same problems. I will predicate all of my discussions about these disagreements on the belief that both sides want the same long-term goals for our country.

In terms of colleges, students should be sorting out the details of financing their college education. Hopefully, you have already begun working on the FAFSA (www.fafsa.ed.gov). FAFSA is the starting point to receiving financial aid for college. It is a standardized process of determining the amount of aid for which each family is eligible. Most school, government and private financial aid programs require that you submit your FAFSA prior to being considered for their assistance. Please call or email me if you have questions

The juniors have been exploring the Jazz Age. They have begun to see the organic evolution of this uniquely American art form. They will examine the impact of the Harlem Renaissance on arts in America. Finally, they will learn how the evolution of the consumer culture contributed to the Great Depression. All of this will lead to a discussion of the New Deal. Groups will produce public service announcements to promote one New Deal program. This assignment will require that they coordinate their efforts with other students outside of class time.



Junior/Senior English reports

By Greg Lance, MCHS English teacher

The juniors will be reading *The Great Gatsby* and exploring materialism, the "American Dream" and social mobility. We will examine how these themes and the issues they raise connect with current topics in the news and will analyze what made this book "modern," comparing it to elements of modern art. We are in the early stages of planning a "Gatsby Party" for the night of March 6. More info on that later! This costume party will be a fundraiser to raise for a charity that the students decide upon in the coming weeks. Juniors will begin working on a community service project. Following our first unit, we move into a unit on social change and begin a research paper that links with the students' community service. Those juniors anticipating applying to four-year colleges should be registering to take the SAT or ACT towards the end of the semester.

The Seniors are currently reading *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, by Ken Kesey. They will be practicing their skills of close analysis along with looking at the novel through existential, Jungian, and transcendental lenses. The theme of the individual's place in society will be a major focus. A psychiatrist from the VA hospital where Kesey volunteered as a Stanford student will be a special guest speaker in February. Seniors are also encouraged to attend the "Gatsby Party" mentioned above, which will serve as a fundraiser for a charity the students select.



Reliving Outdoor Education as a cabin leader

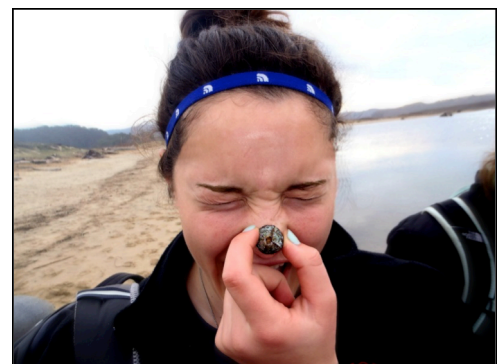
By Kristan Hilby, junior

When I reminisce on the time I spent at Outdoor Education as a sixth grader, I remember things such as the songs and activities that exposed me to the nature's beauty, but often in a blur. As a cabin leader, I began to notice that many of the memories I had were slightly fabricated. While this realization is quite disheartening, I have gained something from it: I realized how I have grown and evolved as a person since sixth grade. I was like most kids that I was attempting to manage: rambunctious, chatty, energetic, not a care in the world. Now, as I am reflecting, the week I recently spent as a cabin leader gave me the opportunity to test my leadership and management skills.

The SMCOE outdoor education program in La Honda is wonderful all around, whether you experience it as a camper or a leader. As a camper, you try things that you may not have been exposed to yet. And as a cabin leader, you take on more responsibilities and test your management and leadership skills. Although I re-experienced many of the same activities, I participated in the teaching and watched the wonder and amazement wash across the kids' faces like wildfire.

I also experienced the kids' pride as they attempted new things: join the Banana Slug Club, do the solo hike, eat a food they didn't think they liked. As the week progressed, I noticed many of the kids also looked up to me, responded to me, and listened to me. While they viewed me as their leader, they trusted me as their friend or someone they could approach when something was wrong. On several occasions, kids from my cabin...even other cabins...would tell me stories or jokes or even give me a hug as tears were streaming down their faces from being homesick. For me, being a leader opened my eyes to my capacities as a person as well as what I have to offer my community.

Returning to outdoor education as a teenager has replaced my previous memories with something new: a sense of independence and responsibility that you do not often find in other places. Watching kids transform and evolve into more mature and independent people is something that you, nor I, can put a price on. And if asked to do it again, I would in a heartbeat.



Kristan placing a limpet on her nose, attempting to join the Limpet Club.