

Middle College News

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**MIDDLE
COLLEGE**
at College of San Mateo

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High school grades mailed; college grades on-line 1/6

Enclosed in this month's Middle College News mailing are the final grades for the three high school classes. College grades will not be mailed home, but will be available on-line at Websmart on Jan. 6. Some college grades may already be available on-line on Websmart. Students should view their unofficial transcript.

The college grades will be placed on the student's high school transcript. If there are questions about grades, contact the MC office or email the high school teachers directly.

College books issued Jan. 12

We've made plans for our students to get college textbooks prior to the start of college classes. Students should get their books on Tuesday, Jan. 12 (noon-1pm) in the CSM Bookstore. It's imperative that students pick up books at the assigned time. CSM instructors expect students to have books on the first day of class.

We will not distribute books to a student who has not returned books from the fall semester. Also, students must pay for college books if they didn't pass a class or withdrew from a class after the first two weeks. Checks can be made out and mailed to "San Mateo Middle College."

Middle College expects students to get their own college books. Students can get their books by buying or renting from the CSM bookstore, or buying from an on-line dealer. We can help purchase books for students who have financial limitations. All students will receive books for their high school classes.

Principal's Corner

By Greg Quigley

With the holiday season upon us and the fall semester over, we should reflect on what's taken place personally and academically in the past year. Many Middle College students learned what it takes to be successful on a college campus and in college classes. Seniors are engaged in the process of applying to colleges and anxiously are awaiting acceptance letters from their chosen institutions.

Many students take three weeks off, then return in the spring refreshed and reinvigorated. Four seniors completed their graduation requirements this month and will stay at CSM as regular college students. Congratulations! Other students have chosen to transfer elsewhere. Good luck!

We'll welcome three new students for the spring semester on Jan. 12 and wish them well as they begin life as Middle College students.

Middle College students start more than a week prior to the college students, meeting on Jan. 12 from 9am-noon in Bldg. 19, room 121.

The students have MC classes on Jan. 12, 14-15 and 19 from 9am-noon. The teachers are planning a field trip to San Francisco for Jan. 13, leaving CSM at 7:45am and returning by 4pm. (Details to follow) This head start allows students to get back into the school routine before CSM starts on Jan. 20 and gives new students a chance to meet the continuing students.

College grades will be available on Jan. 6. At that time, I'll update high school transcripts.

Continuing and new students have registered for spring classes. Seniors should meet with Mr. Clardy to ensure they are enrolled in the classes needed for graduation. Students must select their classes carefully, then be sure they stay enrolled in them. Many classes are filled, so students will have little chance to get into classes after the semester begins.

Our students will not be charged enrollment fees as long as they are registered for fewer than 11.5 units as of Feb. 2. Students who exceed 11 units are considered "special-admit full-time students" and are assessed fees, including \$46 per college unit. Contact me if there are questions.

Some continuing students are on wait lists. There are no Middle College holds on their records, so once students receive an email at their my.smccd.edu account that says there is an opening, the student must register for the class via Websmart within 24 hours.

Have a relaxing and safe holiday season!



MIDDLE COLLEGE CALENDAR

Date	Event	Time	Location
January 12, 14-15, 19	Middle College classes	9am-noon	Bldg. 19, room 121
January 12	College textbook purchases	Noon-1pm	CSM bookstore
January 13	Field trip to San Francisco	7:45am-4pm	Meet at CSM
January 18	No school, Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday		
January 20	College classes begin		
February 2	Last day to add semester-long classes		
February 3	Parking permit requirements begin		
February 3	Middle College Spring Back-to-School Night	6pm-8pm	Bldg. 10, room 195
February 12, 15	No school, Presidents' Holiday		

✓ SAT/ACT DEADLINES

The SAT and Subject Tests will be Saturday, Jan. 23 with a registration deadline of Dec. 28 and late registration due Jan. 12. The next test (SAT only) will be March 5 with a registration deadline of Feb. 5. View www.collegeboard.com for details.

The next ACT will be Feb. 6; the registration deadline is Jan. 8. See www.actstudent.org for more information.

✓ COMMUNITY DAY FUND

Middle College students coordinated three Community Days in the fall: one in September, one at Halloween with the child care center students, and a holiday event in December. The staff requests that students donate \$10 each semester for the Community Day Fund offset the costs of food and supplies for the Community Days, events that bring all Middle College students together. A check (made out to "San Mateo Middle College" can be mailed to the office, or, a check or cash could be given to staff members on Jan. 12.

✓ COUNSELING 122

All Middle College students are required to take and pass COUN 122 ("Study Skills") to meet a graduation requirement for Middle College. Most new students and some students who haven't passed the class will begin COUN 122 on Thursday, Jan. 21 from 11:10-12:00 in Bldg. 14, room 202. This eight-week class covers such topics as time management, organization, note-taking and test-preparation. The class runs through March 17.

✓ CSM SCHOLARSHIPS

College of San Mateo offers many scholarships, with awards ranging from \$100 to approximately \$2,000. Who is eligible to apply? CSM/Middle College students who have . . .

- at least 12 graded CSM units
- a cumulative G.P.A. of 2.75 or above

Middle College students who qualify can get an application from the scholarship website: <http://collegeofsanmateo.edu/scholarships/> Applications are due Feb. 18.

✓ MCHS SCHOLARSHIPS

Middle College has a scholarship fund for graduating seniors. To contribute, go to <http://collegeofsanmateo.edu/middlecollege/scholarshipfund.asp>

✓ OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Six Middle College students will work as camp leaders at the San Mateo County Outdoor Education program in La Honda from Jan. 5-8. The program is for fifth and sixth graders in San Mateo County public schools. The students have received transportation information from Mr. Quigley. For more details, contact Mr. Quigley at gquigley@smuhdsd.org We have the opportunity to send additional students during Spring Recess, March 28-April 1.

✓ GRADUATION INFORMATION

Seniors will be contacted by staff 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 May 31, 5:30pm at the CSM Theater. Rehearsal tentatively is planned for May 25, 2pm.

Need money for college?

FAFSA can help

By Michael Clardy, senior advisor

Without filling out the FAFSA (government financial statement), students applying for financial aid to almost every college and university will be ineligible for consideration! This is the first piece of information every college views before determining which students will be awarded grants or loans.

How do you fill out the FAFSA? The staff at FAFSA prefer that students apply online at www.fafsa.ed.gov However, this form is very time consuming. Students may want to gather all the information needed offline first, then fill in the information on line.

If so, first download a worksheet at the FAFSA website. The worksheet should be available by Jan. 1. Students also can get a copy of the worksheet from me.

Fill out the worksheet, then after January 1, 2016 (the first time the site is available to take your information) go online to complete the form.

NOTE: There is an advantage to getting this form in as soon after January 1 as possible, especially if applying to UC or CSU. Financial awards are usually determined as soon as a student's college application and FAFSA form are both in. For information, call me at 574-6114 or email me at clardymichael@hotmail.com



Parents, students access Engrade for grade updates



Middle College teachers will continue to use web-based Engrade to record student grades and attendance through the spring semester. Students and their parents will receive an access code to view grade and assignments for their students. The website is www.engage.com

Parents, friends sign up for eScrip

Parents, students and family members are encouraged to sign up for eScrip to help Middle College earn money for the scholarship fund. Go to www.escrip.com/ and sign up to have "San Mateo Middle College High School" benefit from your purchases from hundreds of retail and on-line business. If you have questions, contact the Middle College office.

Contact MCHS staff

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