

Middle College News

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**MIDDLE
COLLEGE**
at College of San Mateo

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Students enter last six weeks of fall

Students now are eyeing the end of the fall semester, less than six weeks away. College and high school finals start Dec. 12. The CSM finals schedule is in the fall schedule of classes.

Grades for the high school classes are in the November Middle College mailing. The 12-week grading period ended Oct. 30.

The teachers also have included comments regarding student performance in the English and social science classes. If parents have questions, they can contact the teachers, Mr. Lance and Mr. Clardy.

The Advisory grade is based on attendance and performance in class. Also enclosed in this mailing are progress reports for the college classes.

The progress report grades were sent to the home schools, which will use these same grades for their 12-week progress reports.

The SMUHSD 12-week grading period ended Oct. 30 and grades should arrive home by Nov. 7. If there's a discrepancy between the grades received today and the grades received from the SMUHSD schools, please contact Mr. Quigley.

How to contact staff:

Greg Lance, English teacher: 574-6537

Email: gjlance@smuhsd.org

Mike Clardy, social science teacher: 574-6114

Email: mclardy@smuhsd.org

Principal's Corner

By Greg Quigley

Middle College students who are returning for Spring 2016 are expected to register for classes on Nov. 6. Spring class schedules are available at CSM so that students can make scheduling plans. Seniors should review their proposed schedule with Mr. Clardy to ensure they're taking courses required for high school graduation. If students have questions, they should meet with a staff member.

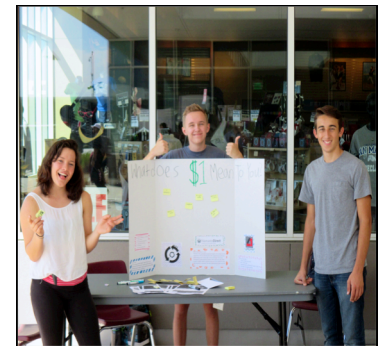
All students were required to meet with Middle College counselor Alex Guiriba or their grade advisor in October to design a Student Education Plan (SEP), a requirement for all continuing CSM students. Additionally, all students were required to pay all fees prior to registration.

We are accepting applications from seniors and juniors interested in joining Middle College for Spring 2016. Students or parents can call the Middle College office for an application, they can get one from the home school counselor or they can download an application from the Middle College website. The original deadline was October 22, but students will be accepted on a case-by-case basis.

Application paperwork includes recommendations, a CSM application, a transcript and an attendance report. Potential students can schedule a visit to CSM by calling 574-6101. Current Middle College students don't need to reapply.

The Middle College students, having learned in their classes about the vicious cycle of poverty and how empowering women can play a key role in breaking that cycle, sponsored the screening of "Living on One Dollar" on Oct. 15 at CSM. The event helped raise funds to provide microloans and business training to impoverished women in Guatemala so that these women can start and build small businesses and keep their kids in school. The students raised \$1,700; all funds raised go towards microloans for women through Namaste-Direct, in collaboration with San Mateo Rotary Club and The Middle College and Hillside Effect. You can learn more about this club's work at: <http://hhseffect.wix.com/the-hillside-effect>

Our 64 students collaborated with the CSM Childcare Center staff on Oct. 30 to entertain the children on Halloween. The students operated an obstacle course and other games, helped with arts and crafts projects, and face painted, among other activities.



MIDDLE COLLEGE CALENDAR

| Date | Event | Time | Location |
|----------------|--|----------------|--------------------|
| November 6 | Spring 2016 registration for continuing students | | |
| November 9 | No school, Veteran's Day Holiday | | |
| November 25-27 | No school, Thanksgiving holidays | | |
| December 17 | US History, English 7 finals | 11:10am-1:40pm | TBD |
| December 18 | Economics, English 5 finals | 11:10am-1:40pm | TBD |
| January 12 | First day of Middle College classes | 9am-noon | Bldg. 19, room 121 |
| January 18 | No school, Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday | | |
| January 20 | First day of college classes | | |

✓ **Final exams**

College final exams begin Dec. 12. Middle College final exams will be Dec. 17 from 11:10-1:40pm (Senior English and US History) and Dec. 18 from 11:10-1:40pm (Economics and Junior English). Students must attend these two finals. Dec. 18 is the last day of the fall semester.

The spring semester begins Tuesday, Jan. 12. Classes will be held from 9am-noon from Jan. 12-15, Jan. 19. More details to follow. College classes begin Wednesday, Jan. 20.

✓ **Attendance**

Parent/guardians are reminded that they must call the Middle College office (574-6101) to report when their student is absent; otherwise the absence is considered a truancy. Students should not take any vacations during the semester.

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

✓ **Upcoming SAT/ACT**

The next SAT and Subject Tests will be on Saturday, Dec. 5. The registration deadline was Nov. 5; the late registration deadline is Nov. 23. The next test will be Jan. 23. View www.collegeboard.org for more information. The next ACT will be Dec. 12; the registration deadline is Nov. 6; late registration is Nov. 7-20. For more information, view www.actstudent.org

✓ **Textbooks**

Students should turn in any textbooks not being used. Students are responsible for paying for any books used in classes in which the student failed. Students are responsible for paying for books for classes that students dropped after the initial two-week drop period.

College planning in the fall semester

11th Graders

- * Begin the college search process (through books, software, or online search programs); generate a list of no more than 20 schools that appear to meet your criteria. Write to these schools and request an application with information for admissions.
- * Attend local college fairs, and begin visiting your target schools if at all possible. Introduce yourself to the college advisor at your school if it will be someone other than your guidance counselor. Ask about the schedule of visiting recruiters, and circle the dates for recruiters visiting from your target schools.
- * Summarize the academic requirements that apply to your schools. Compare them to your course schedule. Adjust your course schedule (if necessary) to be sure that you meet the academic requirements of your target schools.
- * Identify the test requirements for your target schools. Compare them to your course schedule. Adjust your course schedule (if necessary) to be sure that you can meet the academic requirements of your target schools.
- * Begin preparing for the SAT I. If you're within 50 points of the average scores, at minimum, purchase a book and self-study for the SAT I. If you are more than 50 points away on the math and/or verbal scores, undertake a formal course of study, through books, software, or a course. Start your study program in Jan. and practice the skills you need before the May test date.
- * If many of your target schools require the ACT, begin preparing for it, and determine whether your remaining schools will accept the ACT instead of the SAT I.

12th Graders

- * Review your list of target schools. What are chances of getting in? Make sure to include one safety school on your list.
- * Review the admissions requirements one final time to make sure you meet the academic and testing requirements. Make adjustments to course schedule as needed.
- * Take the SAT or ACT again if you need higher test scores.
- * Meet with visiting recruiters from your target schools.
- * Send for the application materials for your targeted scholarship and grant programs. Make sure that you meet eligibility requirements for each program.
- * Visit the campuses on your list of targets.
- * Identify at least two teachers and two extracurricular advisors who could write a solid, glowing recommendation for you. Approach them and discuss where you'll be applying, why, and your desire to have them support your application through a great recommendation about your character, contributions, and ability.
- * Complete your school and scholarship applications. Have someone who has great English skills review your application and essays for corrections and neatness. Applications for admissions and scholarships are usually accepted beginning in Nov.
- * Get a copy of the Free Application of Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), usually available in November.
- * Since many application deadlines for schools and scholarships fall in November and December, make sure your applications are in on time.



Halloween at CSM

