

Middle College News

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**MIDDLE
COLLEGE**
at College of San Mateo

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Six-week progress reports mailed home

Grades for the high school classes are enclosed in the October Middle College mailing. The six-week grading period ended Sept. 19



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 the class. The teachers are using Engrade (www.engage.com) to post grades, attendance and assignments.

The next grading period ends Oct. 31; the semester ends Dec. 19. The SMUHSD six-week grading period also ended Sept. 19.

The first quarter for the Cabrillo USD ends Oct. 17. Fall semester ends Dec. 19.

Many college instructors give mid-term exams in mid-October. As soon as we receive midterm reports, we'll give reports to the students and mail the reports home.

How to contact staff:

Greg Lance, English teacher: 574-6537

Email: gllance@smuhd.org

Mike Clardy, social science teacher: 574-6114

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Principal's Corner

By Greg Quigley

As a way of having students engage in authentic learning experiences beyond the classroom, juniors and seniors are planning an event that connects with the themes they have discussed in reading Khaled Hosseini's novels. The students will present the documentary "Half The Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity Worldwide" on Thursday, Oct. 16 at 6:30pm in the CSM Theater.

Inspired by journalists Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn's book of the same name, the movie brings together video, websites, games, blogs and other educational tools to not only raise awareness of women's issues, but also to provide concrete steps to fight these problems and empower women.

The event will be a fundraiser for The Middle College Effect, a branch of The Hillsdale Effect, which raises money to provide impoverished women in Guatemala with microloans to start small businesses. This boosts the economic health of their families, allowing them to keep their children in school. Several Middle College students have participated recently in a summer study tour to Guatemala to learn more about microfinance. We hope you all will attend the "Half the Sky" event!

October may not be designated as National Testing Month, but our students should be aware of the important tests offered in the next month. Deadlines are approaching rapidly. For information about the SAT/Subjects Tests, the ACT, the CAHSEE, the CHSPE and the PSAT, see page 2. There probably is a test for every Middle College student.

Students should plan to attend the SMUHSD College/Career Fair on Oct. 23 from 6:30-8:30pm at the Mills High School gymnasium. More than 100 colleges and trades will be represented at this free event. There are also a number of break out sessions, focusing on topics such as applying to UCs and CSUs and financial aid.

Middle College students are eligible to register for Spring 2015 classes on Nov. 10. However, for students to be eligible to register that day, they must meet the following conditions: all fees must be paid and students must have completed a Student Education Plan, due Oct. 24. See page 2 for more details.

Thanks to all who attended the Back-To-School Night. Nearly two-thirds of our students were presented by at least one parent. That's outstanding support for our students and our program!

All current Middle College students who remain in good standing will continue in the program for the spring semester. For students who are struggling at Middle College, we will look at several alternatives, based on what will be the best match for the student's needs.

Prior to making any of these decisions, the teachers may opt to put students onto the ROC (Required Office Consultation). If students don't respond, the student may be placed on Academic Probation. If the student doesn't respond, then we will explore any of the following options:

- a return to the home school.
- a transfer to Peninsula Alternative High School in San Bruno.
- a transfer to Adult School, either for the diploma or the GED program.
- a recommendation for the California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE) on Oct. 18.

If you have questions, call 574-6101 or email me at gquigley@smuhd.org



MIDDLE COLLEGE CALENDAR

Date	Event	Time	Location
Weeks of Oct. 7/14	CSM Midterm Exams		
October 9	CRER 121 final exam		
October 14	CRER 122 class begins		
October 16	Screening of documentary "Half the Sky"	6:30pm	CSM Theater
October 23	Middle College application deadline		
October 23	SMUHSD College/Career Fair	6:30pm-8:30pm	Mills High School gyms
October 24	Student Education Plan (SEP) due		
October 29	Student Testing/Parent Information for applicants	6pm	Bldg. 10, room 193
October 31	End of 12-week grading period		
November 10	Spring 2014 registration begins		
November 10	No school, Veteran's Day holiday		
November 26-28	No school, Thanksgiving holidays		

✓ **Spring '15 App**

We are accepting applications from seniors and juniors interested in joining Middle College for Spring 2015. 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 deadline is October 23.

Current MC students do not need to reapply. Application paperwork includes recommendations, a CSM application, a transcript and attendance report. Students can schedule a visit to CSM by calling 574-6101.

✓ **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.

✓ **MCHS Finals**

Reminder that the Middle College finals are Thursday and Friday, Dec. 18 and 19 from 11:10-1:40pm. College finals begin Dec. 12. Students must attend the high school final exams. Vacation begins Dec. 20.

✓ **CRER 122 finals**

The final exam for CRER 121 will be on Thursday, Oct. 9. CRER 122 starts on Tuesday, Oct. 14.

✓ **Veteran's Day**

Middle College and the College of San Mateo will be closed on Monday, Nov. 10 in observance of Veteran's Day.

✓ **College Fair**

The SMUHSD hosts its annual College and Career Fair on October 23 from 6:30-8:30 at the Mills High School gymnasiums. More than 100 college/career reps will attend. Parents and students also can attend presentation on UCs, CSUs, community colleges, and financial aid.

Reports from the classrooms...

By Greg Lance, English teacher

The seniors have been reading *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Kahled Hosseini. Through reading, we have explored the importance of developing a voice and a sense of agency in reaching one's full potential, applied to Abraham Maslow's theory of the hierarchy of human needs and Joseph Campbell's "Hero's Journey" lens to the novel. We examined the forces that perpetuate vicious cycles and the keys to breaking them. We analyzed not just the plot of a novel, but what is revealed through the language and imagery Hosseini used in telling his story. Students begin an essay this week that will be their main assessment for showing what they have learned. The novel focuses on the struggles of women living in a patriarchy and this has sparked a lot of discussion about current events in our own society and others around the world. This will tie in with the screening of "Half the Sky" that students will be putting on Oct. 16 and we hope that parents will support the students' efforts. The next unit will be centered around Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.

The juniors have been reading Hosseini's first novel *The Kite Runner*. We have been using this novel to practice skills of close analysis and reading to discover an author's intent. We have been exploring what the novel says about the effects of privilege, especially in terms of its focus on the power and failure of individuals to end the perpetuation of a status quo that supports inequality and injustice. Students are in the process of writing an essay that will be the major assessment of their learning and writing skills for the unit. The themes of this book tie in with the screening of "Half the Sky" that students will be putting on Oct. 16 at the CSM theater and we hope that parents will support the students' efforts. The next unit will be centered around Mark Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

By Michael Clardy, social science teacher

Juniors just finished looking at the evolving American identity and the Constitution. We are going to study Westward Expansion with an emphasis on the causes and consequences of the American Civil war. The juniors should look at the website csumentor.edu. If they go to the "plan for college" tab, they can set up an account and begin inputting info that they will be able to transfer over the CSU application in Fall 2015. I highly recommend using this site as it will provide another layer of college advising that should make the transition to full-time college smoother.

The seniors have finished their units on Economic Fundamentals and How Markets Work. We will begin our unit on Economic Institutions and Organizations the week of Sept. 29. The unit test is Oct. 14. The following day is the start of the Urban Plan unit, when students work in teams to redevelop a blighted area of a fictitious town named Elmwood. I will give students key dates where they need to be sure not to miss. Please check in with your student so that you can be sure to adjust doctor's appointments, etc. The final presentation day for this unit is scheduled for Nov. 17.

In terms of college applications, UCs and CSUs are available to fill out now. However, they cannot be submitted until November. Students have until December to take the SAT or ACT. They must take one of the tests in order to be considered for admission into either system.

SEPs due Oct. 24; spring registration on Nov. 10

All Middle College students are required to complete a Student Education Plan (SEP) by Oct. 24. The SEP is a five-semester academic plan that students design with the assistance of the counselor. The SEP must be completed prior to the time students register for spring classes on November 10.

Seniors can meet with Mr. Clardy (574-6114); juniors can meet with Mr. Lance (574-6537). Students in the CRER 121 class will work on the SEP with Ms. Diaz. Students who don't meet the deadline will have their registration date delayed at least one week and cannot register until the SEP is done.

UPCOMING TESTS

CHSPE

The California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE) is a voluntary test that assesses a student's proficiency in reading, writing and math skills taught in public schools. The CHSPE has enabled students (16 years and older) to take the test and receive an equivalent to a high school diploma upon passing the test. The next test date is Oct. 18. The registration deadline was Sept. 19; the late registration deadline is Oct. 3; the emergency registration deadline is Oct. 14. Results are mailed in late November. Visit the website at www.chspe.net for more information.

SAT/PSAT/ACT

The next SAT will be Saturday, Nov. 8. Regular registration deadline is Oct. 9; late registration is Oct. 24. The next test will be Dec. 6. View www.collegeboard.com for more information. Several juniors are planning to take the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) on Wednesday, Oct. 15 or Saturday, Oct. 18, depending on the student's home school. Students can sign up for the test at their home school by calling the career center advisor.

The next ACT is Oct. 25; the late registration deadline is Oct. 3. The next test is Dec. 13. For information, view www.act.org

HIGH SCHOOL EXIT EXAM

A few Middle College juniors and seniors haven't taken or passed the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE). The next tests for seniors are Oct. 7 and Oct. 8; the next dates for juniors are Nov. 4 and Nov. 5. Students will take these tests at their home school. Contact the home school to determine the time and location for each test.