

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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MEMBER OF THE MIDDLE COLLEGE NATIONAL CONSORTIUM

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BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT ON SEPT. 9

The Middle College Back-to-School Night is Wednesday, September 9 from 6pm-8pm in Bldg. 10, room 193. (See flyer for more information.) The Middle College teachers, Greg Lance and Michael Clardy, will present information to parents about the two high school classes and the special aspects of the Middle College program. Refreshments will be available.

Our goal is to have 100 percent of our students represented by at least one parent. Please attend; students also are invited. Parents/guardians can park that night in the Forum or Bulldog lots and will need the parking permit included in this mailing. If you park in another student lot, you'll need a student permit. No parking in the other staff lots.

Grade Reports, Engrade

MCHS is sending home progress reports during the third, ninth and 15th weeks of each semester to students who are experiencing academic difficulties. All students will receive a progress report during the sixth, 12th and 18th weeks.

The teachers are using Engrade (engrade.com) to post grades, attendance and assignments. All students were given access codes to the website. Parents also can request access codes. For more information, call Mr. Quigley.

How to contact staff:

Greg Lance, English teacher: 574-6537

Email: glance@smuhsd.org

Mike Clardy, social science teacher: 574-6114

Email: mclardy@smuhsd.org

Principal's Corner

By Greg Quigley



Welcome to the new school year! Students have finalized their class schedules and settled into their classes by now.

We have 50 new students this semester. The teachers and I took new students on a campus tour on Aug. 21, viewing the several learning labs on campus (math lab, Integrated Science Center, Learning Center, etc.) as well other key locations: library, health center, public safety office, bookstore, and the Student Life office.

Students are concluding their third week of college classes and by now, our students should be discovering the differences between high school and college classes. Students need to recognize when they need help understanding the course materials or concepts and seek help immediately. Students can see the professors during office hours or they can visit one of the learning centers.

Here are some differences our students should notice in college classes:

- ✓ High school instructors are "teachers"; college instructors are "professors."
- ✓ Professors may not always check completed homework, but they will assume you can perform the same tasks on tests.
- ✓ Professors may not remind you of incomplete work.
- ✓ Professors are usually open and helpful, but want students to initiate contact for assistance.
- ✓ Professors expect and want you to attend their scheduled office hours.
- ✓ Professors may not follow the textbook. Instead, to amplify the text, they may give illustrations, provide background information, or discuss research about the topic you are studying. Or, they may expect you to relate the classes to the textbook readings.
- ✓ Professors may lecture nonstop, expecting you to identify the important points in your notes.
- ✓ When professors write on the board, it may be to amplify the lecture, not to summarize it. Good notes are a must.
- ✓ Professors expect you to read, save, and consult the course syllabus; the syllabus spells out exactly what is expected of you, when it is due, and how you will be graded.

Professors don't want to hear from parents. If you have questions about your student's performance in a college class, contact one of the Middle College teachers, who will call the professor, then report back to you. Have a great semester!

*Information from the Southern Methodist University website. View <http://www.smu.edu/alec/transition.asp>

MIDDLE COLLEGE CALENDAR

Date	Event	Time	Location
September 4	Last day to drop semester-long classes without course showing on records		
September 9	Middle College Back to School Night	6-8pm	CSM. Bldg. 10, room 193
September 18	End of six-week grading period		
Weeks of Oct. 5/12	College mid-terms		
October 8	COUN 122 final exam		
October 13	COUN 121 begins		
October 19	SMUHSD College and Career Fair	6:30-8:30pm	Mills High School
October 22	Spring 2016 application deadline		
November 9	No school, Veteran's Day holiday		
November 25-27	No school, Thanksgiving holidays		

✓ Attendance

Parents are reminded that they must call the MCHS office (574-6101) to report when their student is absent; otherwise the absence is considered truant. Students cannot 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 assignments at home and not fall behind.

✓ Transcripts

We revised transcripts for students who took summer classes either at CSM or in high school. Seniors should review their transcripts to ensure they are taking classes needed for high school graduation. Students can get a transcript from Mr. Quigley.

✓ Parking

Students who are driving to CSM must have a valid parking permit. CSM security frequently patrols parking lots and tickets students who don't have permits, or who park in staff lots.

✓ SAT/ACT dates

The first SAT and Subject Tests for the year will be Saturday, Oct. 3. The registration deadline is Sept. 3; late registration is Sept. 18. The next test is Nov. 7. See collegeboard.org for more information. The next ACT test is Oct. 24; registration deadline Sept. 18.

✓ Finals Dec. 17-18

Reminder that the Middle College finals are Dec. 17 and 18 from 11:10-1:40pm. College finals begin Saturday, Dec. 12. Students must attend the high school final exams. (English 7CP and US History on Dec. 17; Economics and English 5CP on Dec. 18). School resumes Jan. 12.

✓ COUN 122 class

Middle College students are required to pass COUN 122 and COUN 121 to meet a MCHS requirement. The eight-week COUN 122 class, "Study Skills," began on Aug. 19. The class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays and runs until Oct. 8.

✓ Emergency Text

Middle College students and their parents are encouraged to sign up for the CSM Emergency Text system. In case of an emergency situation at CSM, students and parents will receive a text message from the college. Go to www.smccd.edu/alertu/ to register your phone.

Reports from the Classroom, Week 4

By Greg Lance, English teacher

Senior English students have begun their first novel, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini, and will explore this semester's theme—the search for self. The theme can be especially rich for seniors, who will be making significant life choices in the coming year about where their next journey will take them. With a third of the class new this year, I am gauging where they are as readers and writers. Students will be asked to reflect on their own search for self as well as to demonstrate increasing awareness of the author's intentions and use of various literary strategies to communicate a theme. We will be looking at the degree to which the characters have "a voice," have "agency," and where they stand in terms of development along Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. We are incorporating vocabulary development, especially important for those taking the SAT or ACT. I have enjoyed getting to know the seniors; they are mature and dedicated and I am thrilled to be working with them in their final year of high school.

Juniors have begun *The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini and will explore this semester's theme—the relationship between the individual and society. As junior year is focused on American Literature, we'll be looking at what makes this novel particularly "American" and striving to make connections between our class and the history class. We will incorporate vocabulary and writing practice so students are well-prepared for the SAT and/or ACT tests in the spring. Juniors have a community service project and paper this year. They have received a broad outline of the assignment. For now, they should be seeking to identify a place to volunteer that connects to a problem in American society or the world. Juniors are in the process of having initial conferences with me to check on their adjustment to college classes, discuss their community service project, establish goals and review transcripts. We have a great group of juniors and I look forward to working with them the next two years!

By Michael Clardy, social science teacher

If students plan to apply to a four-year college, they need to take the SAT or the ACT. They must take either test by December to qualify for Fall 2016 admissions. The UC application is due by Nov. 30. CSUs require just the SAT. The CSU applications should be submitted by Nov. 30. This is not a hard deadline. However, admissions categories will close as soon as they have reached their limit. Students who know that they will attend a community college do not need to take the SAT. Contact me if you have questions. Discuss with your student their personal, academic, and career goals. These will likely change with time, but it's critical for students to articulate where they want to go. Knowing this will help guide them on pursuing those goals. It's also important to discuss the cost of college and your ability to contribute to those costs.

Students taking Economics will work on several projects throughout the semester. However, the Urban Plan project will be the most complex, running Oct. 14 through Nov. 13. It is imperative that they not miss class during this project. The first week is filled with critical information on how to build a successful project. The remaining time will be spent in groups testing out various scenarios with their groups. This is where they must deal with financial and political opportunity costs and trade-offs. This is a very challenging and engaging activity and I believe the students will enjoy it.

The junior history class stated the year by looking at the reasons power is unevenly divided in the world. This leads into a discussion about how cultures evolve and change over time. The goal is for students to understand the dynamics involved in the creation of the American identity. From there, we examine the colonies in North America and the birth of this nation. Please take time to discuss current events with your students. This will help establish connections between historical events and their current developments.

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.

