

Middle College Welcome Back Meeting FAQ

There are likely many logistical questions some of you still have. Some of these will be addressed in your student's orientation modules and some are addressed here in this document. The following are questions you have asked in the google form; we have done our best to answer them collectively and with the most current information we have available.

If you missed our Welcome Back Meeting, please find the Zoom recording here: [Fall 2020 Welcome Back Zoom \(August 4, 2020\)](#)

ORIENTATION

When does orientation begin? Orientation begins **August 10th**; students are expected to show up on time to this Zoom room at **10am**: <https://smuhsd-org.zoom.us/my/tlien>

What will orientation look like? This year, we have planned an orientation that will give us a chance to meet **online** as a whole program, in small groups, in even smaller groups, and one-on-one. Students should plan on the following schedule:

August 10th

10am-11am: Meet with the whole MC Program

11am-12pm: Meet with your Advisory Class

August 11-14th + 17th

Meet with your Advisory Cohort

10am - 11am: Cohort A

11am - 12pm: Cohort B

12pm - 1pm: Cohort C

**students should now know which cohort they are in, as it was indicated in the email from their Advisor*

In addition to meeting "in-person" on Zoom on these days, we will be asking each student to complete an online activity + assignment; this should take an additional hour each day, so they should plan to protect an additional hour of their time.

August 18th

11am-12pm: Meet with your Advisory Class

Students should have all received an email from their Advisor that includes links to the Zoom meetings, as well as an assignment we are asking them to complete prior to orientation.

HIGH SCHOOL (MIDDLE COLLEGE) CLASSES

When do high school classes begin? High school classes begin on August 19th.

Is Advisory a daily requirement? Yes, Advisory is a class; students are required to attend Advisory 5x per week at 11am.

What if one of my college classes conflicts with my Advisory class? If you are in a CSM class during your Advisory class, that college class is considered your "advisory" for the day. Your advisor will follow up with you periodically to ensure you are on target in that particular class.

For students that do have Advisory fewer days each week (due to college schedule conflicts), how do you suggest they stay connected to their group? Breakouts are a good option, but is there a risk they get left behind a bit in community/relationship building? MC English and Social Science classes are the core of the program and a lot of community building happens here. Middle College will still be holding clubs online, so this is also a place where students can meet and socialize as well. Additionally, we plan on holding Community Days on CSM Flex Days, which will create another opportunity for students to connect outside of their core curriculum classes.

My student has 504. How do we meet over this? Primary/initial contact would be Mr. Morales.

My student's Middle college classes are overlapping the 3 high school classes. How can we prevent this next time? Middle College classes are the high school classes.

Balance of communication from home high school vs middle college vs college? For example, a message from home school about orientation... ignore it? For all intents and purposes, Middle College should be your primary source of information. For example, our academic calendar is set according to the CSM calendar and so these dates are different than those of the comprehensive sites. Orientation, Back to School Night, winter/spring Breaks, etc. are all in accordance with a unique Middle College schedule. Emails regarding your student ID, senior portraits, tryouts for athletics, theater, etc. will come from your homeschool.

Do the Seniors get information related to Senior portraits from Middle College or from their homeschool? This will come from their home school.

If students get instructional materials from the District office, does that mean they do NOT attend their home high school registration? Correct. They do not need to attend their registration at their home school.

My student has opted for asynchronous learning; what does this mean?

Students who opt for "Independent Study" have opted out of Middle College. MC classes will have days of synchronous and asynchronous learning. Students should have a schedule that allows them to virtually attend their MC classes each day at the scheduled time. Independent Study is an online curriculum very different from Middle College.

At some point, the district or state, not sure which, was considering reducing the graduation requirements for high school (maybe dropping certain math or science requirements - I'm not sure). Have HS graduation requirements changed at all due to Covid-19 or do they remain the same as before? No change has been made to HS graduation requirements, as a result of COVID.

Where do I access / join my virtual Middle College (nonCSM) classes? I received my assigned class times for English, US History and Advisory but the teachers were not assigned yet/no other info was provided other than the class time. Am I missing something? Each teacher will have their own Zoom class link; these teachers will be clarified for your students during Orientation.

COLLEGE (CSM) CLASSES

When do college classes begin? College classes begin on August 19th.

My student is currently on a waitlist for one of their college classes; what should I do? Past experience suggests that some enrolled college students will not attend on the first day and will be dropped. Your student should keep checking his email everyday and should show up in class on the first day. It wouldn't hurt to email the professor a day before the class starts in case they need the log-on info for the class. We cannot guarantee that they will get in, but past experience suggests that they will if they have a low number on the waitlist. Nevertheless, it would be a good idea to have a back-up plan that includes enrolling in another class.

I understand we will need to pick up MC materials but how do we/our student know what materials are needed for their CSM courses? CSM course requirements are told to students through the course description, syllabus, and directly from the Professor once the class starts meeting.

How and when do I pick up books/class materials for my classes? Go to Class Schedule Summary, scroll to the bottom and click the "purchase textbooks" link. That link will take you to the CSM Bookstore and you will purchase all of your CSM textbooks online and they will be delivered to your residence.

In my CSM account, it says I have a bill for \$27. Do I go ahead and pay that? Yes, because it is probably an online textbook that you need. If you have any sort of fee over \$100, you should email Angela for clarification.

The SMUHSD Board had agreed to give HS students (not in Middle College) a GPA/grade bump if they take classes at a Community College (started this summer)...is this the same process that Middle College students receive as they've been taking classes at CSM? Can you provide more information about this? Once we get further clarification re: grade bumps from the District Office we will notify all Middle College students/parents.

One of CSM classes says "NONE" under "virtual meeting" - what does that mean? No live instruction? Yes - we anticipate that this means this will be an asynchronous class; however, it might be a good idea to email the professor of the class to confirm.

RETURN TO SCHOOL

If Middle College classes resume meeting indoors at some point this semester, will students still have the option to attend remotely? Yes, students will have the option to continue with distance learning should they not be comfortable with in-person.

Once we go back to onsite learning for the HS courses, how will students manage getting on CSM zoom calls and being in person for HS classes - can they go online at the district office? / I may have missed it, but as we return to part virtual, part in person, how will it work to go from new classroom locations at SMHS and college classes at CSM? / My student has MC and CSM classes that are fairly close together (10 minutes) which is fine while in full distance learning. When the MC classes/ Advisory are in-person, there won't be enough time to commute home to participate in his CSM class. I understand this is only 1-2 times per week but how will this work? / When in person, what is the plan for students that end a HS class and then have a CSM class 10 minutes later? Will there be a place at the hub where they can log on to CSM ? There will be designated spaces for students to work while at the District Office - separate from their MC class times. These spaces have power and internet access. CSM has committed to being online for the entire Fall 2020 semester. Once the determination has been made for in-person meetings to resume, we will relay information about parking/permits and eating/food availability.

I'm concerned over the classes since my student depends on public transportation and currently that is not consistent and is a possible risk for them. For the time being, all classes are online, so this isn't a problem. There will be safe space available for students to stay and do their CSM online classes before or after MC classes, once we are meeting in person. We will be looking into ways to allow students with concerns to continue our classes online, once we go back.

TECHNOLOGY

What are computer hardware and software requirements for incoming Middle College students for Fall 2020? We have no specific hardware/software requirements for MC students, but they will need a computer and internet access. Students should have the ability to get reliably online, work comfortably with Google suite (and perhaps some Microsoft Office), open/use PDFs, and take/submit work via link, photo, attachment and online submission. CSM classes may have specific requirements outlined in the specific course syllabus or course description. Should you need a computer or a hotspot, please contact Angela: azepeda@smuhsd.org

How do I access the Aeries Parent Portal? It's on the school district website: <https://www.smuhsd.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=11648>

APPLYING TO COLLEGE

How does MC support the college application process from helping find the right fit to helping track application deadlines, etc.? The application process is supported by the advisors during their Advisory class, as well as in workshops with Mr. Morales.

What is the plan for 11th graders taking the PSAT in October? This is determined by the students comprehensive sites and we will forward the information along to our Middle College students once we receive it.