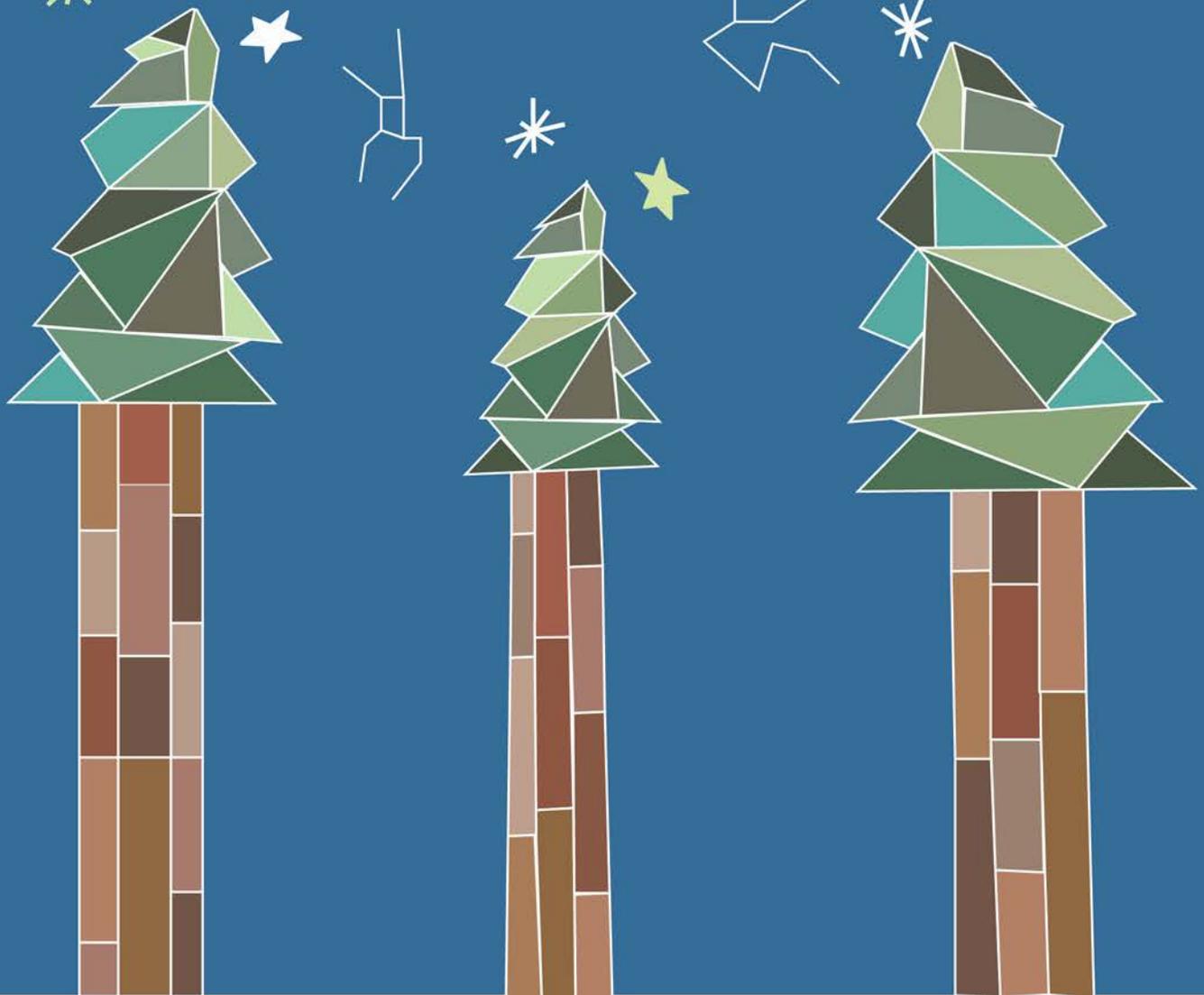


MIDDLE COLLEGE

2019-2020

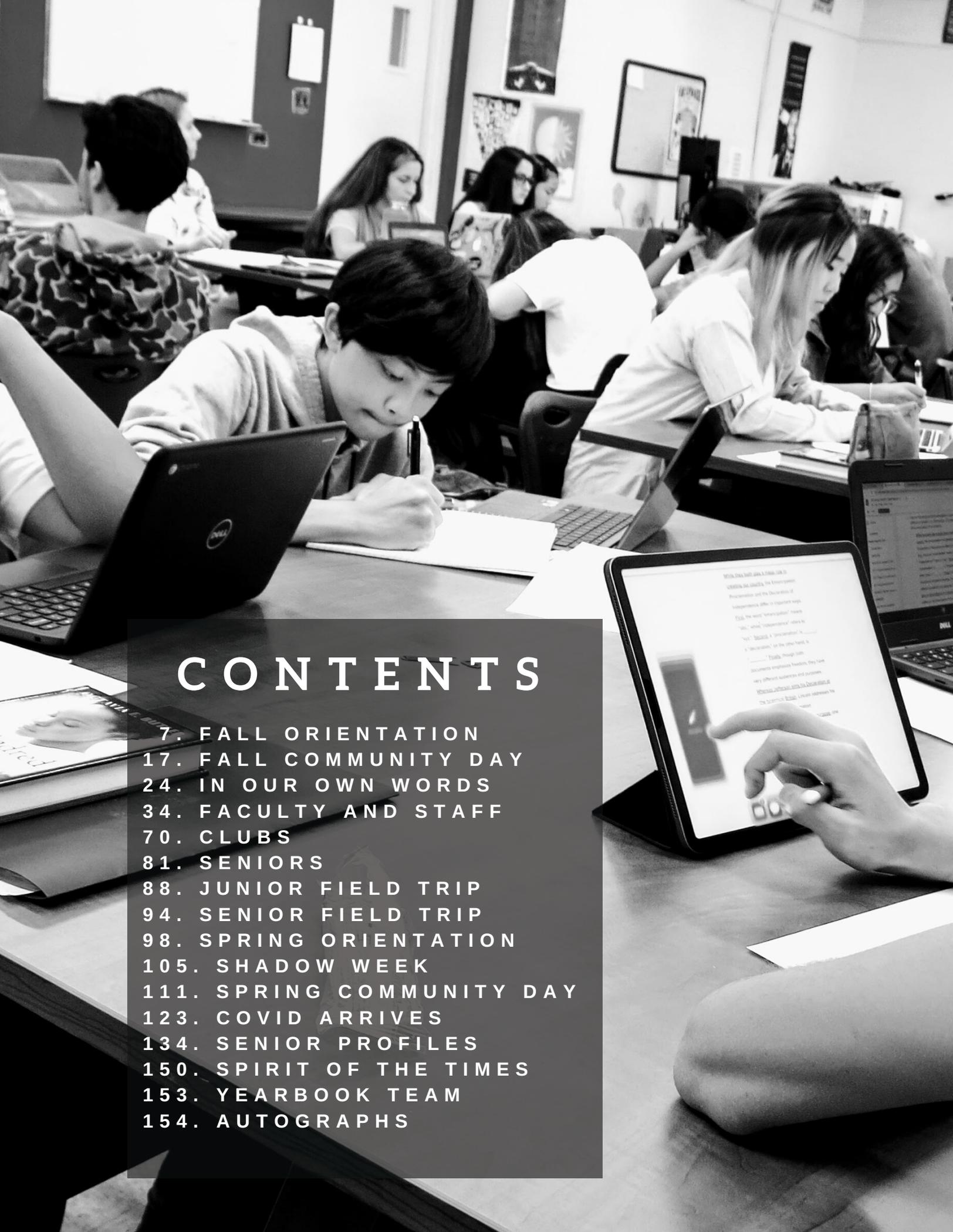


THE COVER

The yearbook team's idea for the cover was to showcase something that was truly representative of Middle College. What inspired us were the murals seen in the Middle College classrooms, which everyone of the Middle College community should be able to recognize.

DEDICATION

This yearbook is
dedicated to the class of
2020. Let the pictures
here remind of your time
at Middle College!



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MIDDLE COLLEGE

Fall Orientation



Welcome to Middle
College!

FALL ORIENTATION

Introductions!





Why did you leave your homeschool?

Identify the most powerful reason you left.
Come up with one word or short phrase that captures this and write on the pink post it.

I left
because...

I left because
I didn't feel
challenged or accepted.

I left b/c I
wanted a fresh
start & more of
a challenge.

I LEFT BECAUSE THE
TRADITIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
EXPERIENCE HAD ALREADY
GIVEN ME ALL IT HAD TO OFFER.

I left because
I wanted to
see change in
myself.



i wanted
a
change

I left Mills High
School to pursue my
interests and to
leave the drama
and get a
new start

WHY I LEFT MY HOME
HIGHSCHOOL:
THEY DID NOT
OFFER CLASSES I WAS
LOOKING FOR, AND
MANY PEOPLE IN MY
CLASSES DID NOT
SEEM TO TAKE LEARN
ING SERIOUSLY.

seeking a
strong community

I left because
I wanted to find
new challenges.

What do you want from Middle College?

Identify the most powerful desire you have. Come up with one word or short phrase that captures this and write on the green post it.

I'm hoping to find...

I'm hoping to find . . .
opportunities for growth

I'm hoping to find
myself at middle college

I want to have more
independence to do what
I want / have time to do
what I want inside &
out of school.

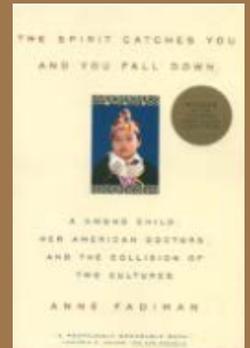
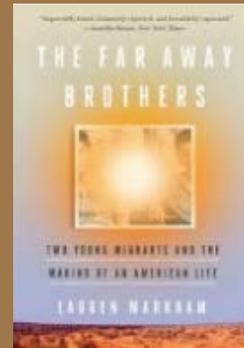
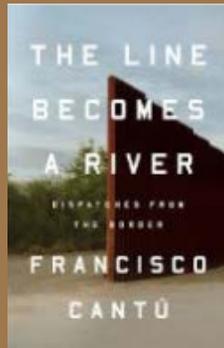
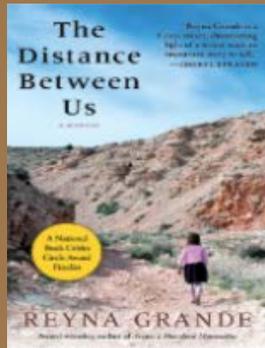
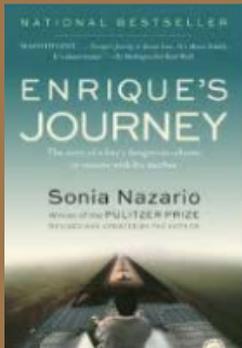
I want to be able to
learn what my future
major will be and to
discover my likes and
dislikes on my college
interests

WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR @
MIDDLE COLLEGE:
CHALLENGES (IN A
GOOD WAY), NEW
FRIENDS, CLASSES
THAT I FIND
INTERESTING AND
CAN HELP ME WITH
FUTURE CAREERS.



SUMMER READING

And Story Structures



WHERE ARE YOU IN THIS STORY STRUCTURE?



EVERYTHING IS A STORY. WE THINK IN STORIES.



Middle College is a story.



You are a story.



Your future is a story.

FALL ORIENTATION

In The Theater



FALL ORIENTATION

Outside







MIDDLE COLLEGE

Fall Community Day



FALL COMMUNITY DAY

Pumpkin Painting







FALL COMMUNITY DAY

Games





MIDDLE COLLEGE

*In Our Own
Words*

EVERYTHING IS A STORY. WE THINK IN STORIES.

*Middle College is
a story. You are a
story. Your future
is a story.*



*i wanted
a
change*

*I hope to
build skills
relevant + to
my career path
and make new
friendships*

I left because
I didn't really exist.
I was a nameless shape
who just took up space
without ever being
acknowledged.



WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR @
MIDDLE COLLEGE:
CHALLENGES (IN A
GOOD WAY), NEW
FRIENDS, CLASSES
THAT I FIND
INTERESTING AND
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WHY I LEFT MY HOME
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THEY DID NOT
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ING SERIOUSLY.

COMMUNITY

I want to be able to
learn what my future
major will be and to
discover my likes and
dislikes on my college
interests

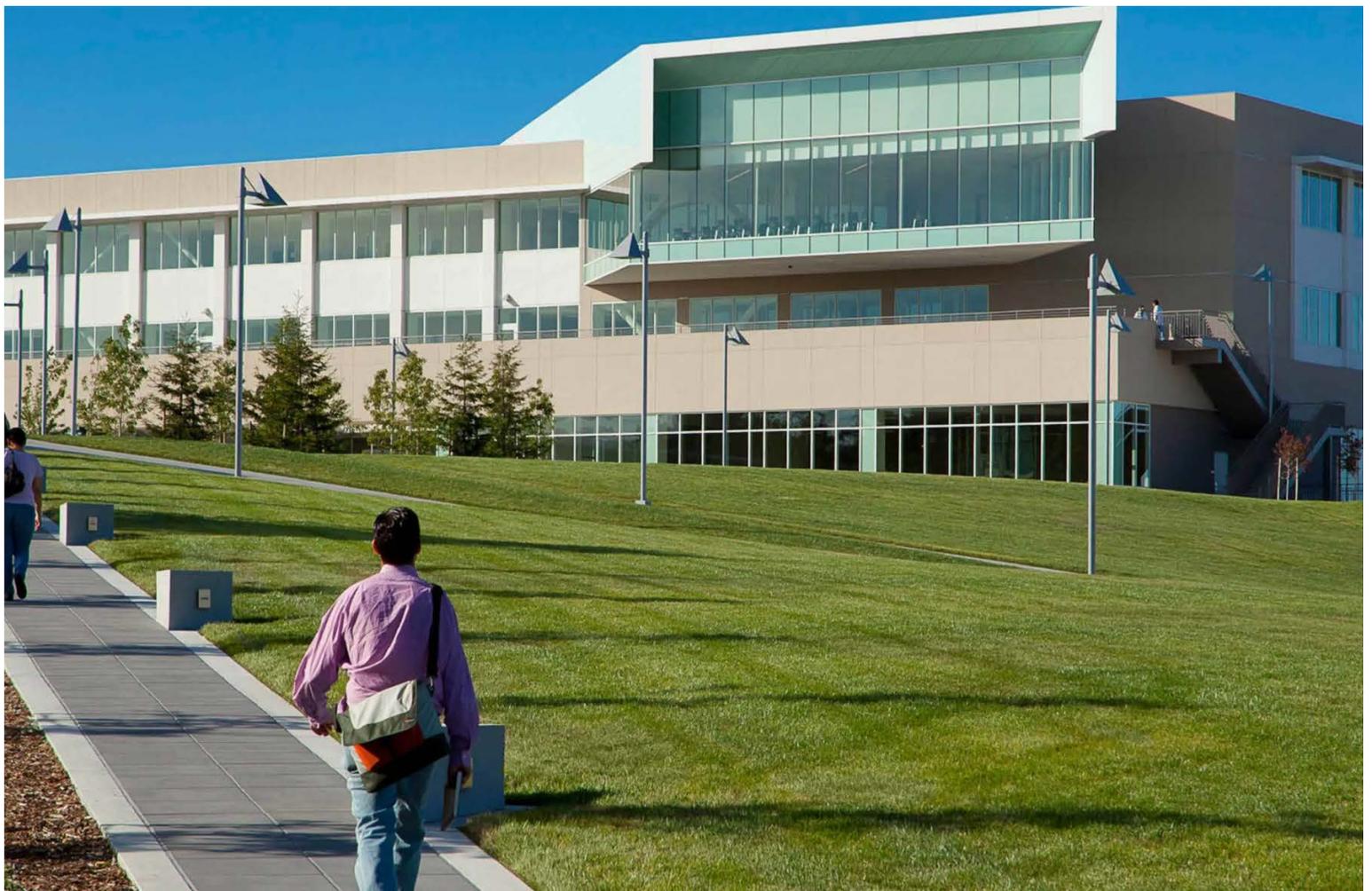




BOND

"My most memorable moment so far in Middle College would be making friends that I have now because I finally feel very comfortable in my friend group and I can be who I want to be without being judged. I have never felt as happy or loved in a friend group as I do now."





"On the CSM campus, my favorite place to hangout is the College Center. There I get to have lunch with my friends and we have an amazing view of the Bay Area."



"My favorite place to hang out on campus is the Middle College hallway because there are always people."





"Meeting new people and making new friends is something that I accomplished and am proud of. I've always been a shy person and talking to people was a bit hard. But some people didn't know anyone so it was easier and I'm sure I've made long time friends."

"One accomplishment I have achieved that I am proud of was leading the Dialogue Through Film and making people aware of the effects of the animal agriculture industry. I have felt so warm inside since people have been coming up to me and telling me I inspired them to make the transition to vegetarianism/veganism."





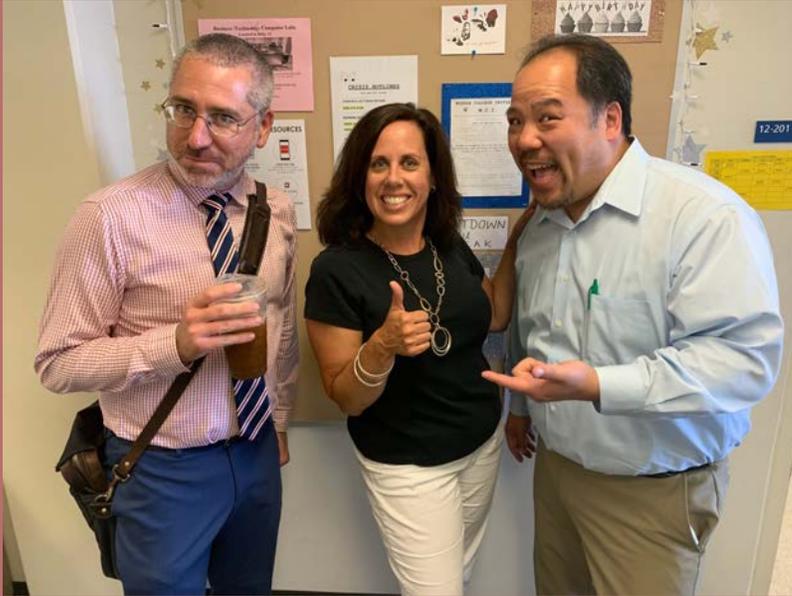
"I feel like my biggest improvement has been my grades. I have been way more motivated & supported this year."



"I think one of my favorite things has been that I have been able to meet so many new people from so many different schools and communities."



FACULTY *And Staff*



JENNIFER ROHRBACH



"My favorite part of my day in Middle College classes is being around Mrs. Rohrbach. She is the most unique teacher I have ever had. Her energy to teach my class is something that must makes me feel good. Thanks, Mrs. Rohrbach." –Anonymous Junior

GREG LANCE



"My most memorable moment at Middle College was at the end of my junior year. I felt overwhelmed. I had a meeting with Mr. Lance and my mom. In the end, it was full of tears and a new understanding of myself. I learned in 30 minutes that it was okay to ask for help."

Dear Class of 2020 (and 2021),

I've been thinking a lot about time lately--the way it sometimes speeds up and sometimes slows wayyy down. In these unique times this effect appears especially pronounced. Our days sheltering in place run together and blur; some days drag on in a groggy haze, while others fly by as if someone found a fast forward button that slides the sun across the sky x4.

Maybe it's more a function of age, but the years can pass this way too. I remember when the seniors were first getting interviewed to join Middle College, nervous and wondering what we would ask, wondering if this was the right place for them. And, suddenly, you all are off to new places or new stages of life, and the juniors are almost seniors. It's not just quarantines that play with time this way. Us old folks can't help but look even further back and wonder at how quickly you have all grown up. In 2002, when you were born, there were no iPhones, *Harry Potter the Chamber of Secrets* and [the first] *Spiderman* were among the highest grossing films, gas cost an average of \$1.61 a gallon, and social media did not exist. Popular jeans were paradoxically "low rise," the Department of Homeland Security was created, Brittany Spears broke up with Justin Timberlake and Halle Berry was the first black actress to win an Academy Award.

And so much has changed...x8 in the age of Coronavirus. Some people are calling it "The Great Pause." How often in life have we wished there were a pause button we could hit? Sure, sometimes we want to rewind; sometimes we want to fast forward; sometimes we want to delete. There may be a few of you who make us wish for a mute button. But the most powerful button, the one I long for, is a pause button. It would give us just a bit more time to get an assignment done, allow us to slow things down and enjoy a special moment a few seconds longer, allow us time to think of what to say or to consider what really matters. Our community, our country and our world have hit that pause button. It's made me realize how much I get from being around young people like yourselves. How your energy, the boundless possibilities of your futures, your silliness, your smiles, your worries, your openness and the diversity of your experiences all give a richness to my life that is missing when the Zoom call ends, when summer vacation comes and when you move on.

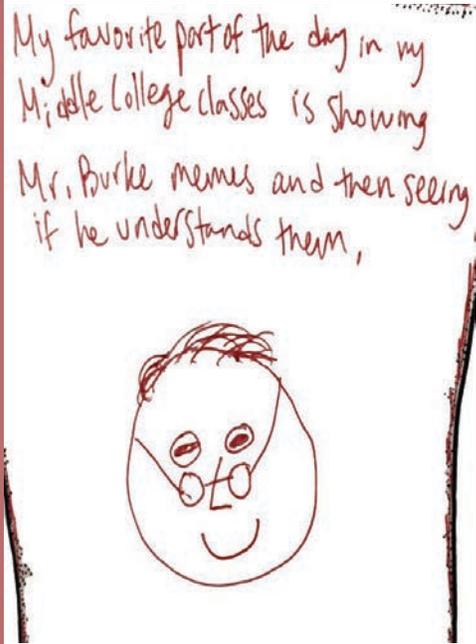
We have the unique chance to consider what the “normal” we want to go back to should be after "The Great Pause." I hope you will all consider that. What do we want to be different? What has been cultivated in these times that we want to hang on to? What do you still want to cultivate in what remains of this unique time, however long or short it is? How do we keep the ability to pause, to reflect and to choose, like Sisyphus, what this rock means to us?

I know this year has not gone as we all expected it to when it started. The times they are a-changin'. Maybe this can be a good thing. Maybe the class of 2020 will have unique abilities and perspectives and internal pause buttons that turn out to truly be gifts, gifts leading us to a better future. Call it 2020 vision. A superpower, if you will.

You all have been a gift in my life over these past two years and over these two unusual months, and I am excited to see what you do with your gifts in the years to come. Those years will fly by faster than you think. Remember to hit pause once in a while. I hope that, every now and then, during one of those pauses, you will let me know how you're doing.

Warmly,
Greg Lance

JIM BURKE



Dear Middle College Students,

They say our ability to accurately predict where we will be, what we will be doing in ten years is just terrible. On the surface, this sounds scary or depressing, as if we did a terrible job teaching you how to predict the future! But I think of it in a different way: you have so much left to discover—about yourself, the world, other people. How much more exciting to think with total certainty that you are going to be _____ or do _____. People often assume that Hamlet, in his famous soliloquy, “To be or not to be, that is the question,” is debating whether he should end his life, but others have a much more interesting interpretation: To be a _____ or not to be a _____, To do _____ or not to do _____. Those are the questions, and only you can answer them, and how you answer them will be the story your life tells over time.

A year ago, when I saw the posting for a job at Middle College, I did not hesitate to apply. Every day that I have come to this building, this school, these classrooms, this community, I have felt that decision validated. I have felt my decision to come to MC affirmed with every conversation I have had with every Middle College student I have spoken to in the last year—for some of you seniors I met last April when I began to hang around and drink in the MC culture. I felt my decision to leave Burlingame for the beautiful CSM campus validated the first day I visited last spring and Mark Bogatir welcomed me and introduced himself within minutes, as did Genni Zaidain with whom I was talking about books before I left that first day. I knew I had made the right decision when I attended the TED Talks last year at BHS and watched Christian give his great talk on immigration, watched the Voter Registration group make their impressive presentation, watched everyone encourage and support their classmates.

And now all those kids are this year’s seniors. Though I never taught any of you in the senior class, I have always felt welcomed from the beginning and enjoyed the conversations we have had about life, chess, your college essays, or anything else that came to mind at the time.

What we have all shared this year—teachers and students, juniors and seniors—is an historical moment that will shape us in ways we cannot yet know. But what I do know is that people who go through profound emotional experiences together share a bond that lasts long beyond that moment and links them to each other in ways that nothing else can. Your time at Middle College had already provided you with an experience unlike any of your peers outside of Middle College. What I also know is

that your time here and the experiences you have had prepared you for all that will come your way, though you can't know that yet.

As the news on any given day makes abundantly clear, the world needs you and those gifts that are uniquely yours. Whether you are a senior about to graduate or a junior returning in the fall, you are not alone as you take that next step, whatever it is. We are all standing alongside you, as are your friends and family. I am reminded of the ending of William Stafford's poem, "Vocation," when he recalls a moment he shared with his parents before he left home:

Now both of my parents, the long line through the plain,
the meadowlarks, the sky, the world's whole dream
remain, and I hear him say while I stand between the two,
helpless, both of them part of me:
"Your job is to find what the world is trying to be."

So that is my last wish for you, as you depart from Middle College—that you "find out what the world is trying to be" and, in the process, discover what part you wish to play in it. But to do that, you will, of course, have to discover who you really are, what your gifts really are, and how you can use them to make the contribution that only you can make to your community, country, and the world.

Now go make your life a story worth telling when we all see each other again!

Mr. Burke

JASON LETKE



Dear Class of 2020:

This sucks. We all know it does & the worst part is that it's not fair. You didn't deserve to have your last year of high school end like this. The most frustrating aspect of it all is that we have no control over the situation. Everyone wants to give you the farewell you deserve, the one you've worked so hard for. But sadly we can't.

We've all vented about the situation & it's good to vent. It's good to get those emotions out because it really is NOT FAIR & you have my permission to vent about this situation for years to come.

But one of the things that needs to come out of good venting is ACTION. How has this situation changed your views on education & school? How has it changed the way you value friendship & the need for camaraderie beyond a Zoom meeting? How do you want this sudden stop of normalcy to impact the way you approach your future when you finally get to step towards the next steps of your life, whether it be at a brand new university, or if it's back at CSM or even in the workplace...what clarity will you bring to your approach to the next few formative years of your life?

Look at your next steps as an opportunity, an opportunity to improve who you are as a student & more importantly as a human being. Constant improvement & reflection is what helps us grow as people. It's part of our evolution. If anything this situation has forced everyone to slow down & do that reflection.

It's cheesy...but true...your generation really is the future of the world. You're going to go on and do great things in this world, things that have a way bigger impact than anything we can even imagine given our current reality. But it's true...you are going to change someone's life...it may be just one person or millions of people...but each & everyone of you will have that kind of impact in the lives of others.

Lastly, I just want to say thank you. Thank you for being you & for making my own transition into a new environment go so smoothly. This has been my favorite year in education ever & I've been doing this for 20 years! Thank you & please keep in touch.

Jason Letke

TERENCE LIEN



Dear Middle College,

I miss you.

I miss the sense of community, the vibrancy, and the spirit energy. Most importantly, I miss YOU! Your smiles, laughter, and demeanor engage and motivate me daily. I have come to miss the daily peanut gallery commentary, eye rolls at my (awesome) jokes, games of chess and snake, and other assorted unsanctioned daytime activities.

Your perseverance and persistence continue to amaze me. These qualities have coalesced and percolated these past months and will continue to serve you well post-Middle College.

To the Middle College juniors: I am buoyed emotionally that I will see you again soon and be able to continue our learning journeys together.

To my esteemed colleagues: I miss the professionalism, teamwork, and camaraderie that we shared daily. I continue to learn from you daily and shudder to think what will fill the void for you once I solve all of your technology problems.

To the Senior Class of 2020: Congratulations! I wish I could have shared some more learning and laughs with you before you take that step into the great futures that await you. Your accomplishments and overall awesome-ness continue to bring me smiles and warmth. Please stay in touch.

I look forward to seeing you all shine and excel in life.

Be well. Stretch your comfort zones and limits. Help others.

Terence Lien

BRITTANY REDGATE



HEGEMONIC
The way in which a ruling group maintains power using ideas (ideology) and norms (rather than force)

HEGEMONIC POWER
The kind of power a (n) group has when they can successfully manipulate the



"The nicest thing here is seeing Ms. Redgate smiling everyday, because her being happy to see us and be here has made every day a little bit better since before I was even here."

From Ms. Redgate

This is Water: A Commencement Speech
by David Foster Wallace (2005)

There are these two young fish swimming along and they happen to meet an older fish swimming the other way, who nods at them and says “Morning, boys. How’s the water?” And the two young fish swim on for a bit, and then eventually one of them looks over at the other and goes “What the hell is water?”

This is a standard requirement of US commencement speeches, the deployment of didactic little parable-ish stories. The story thing turns out to be one of the better, less bulls****y conventions of the genre, but if you’re worried that I plan to present myself here as the wise, older fish explaining what water is to you younger fish, please don’t be. I am not the wise old fish. The point of the fish story is merely that the most obvious, important realities are often the ones that are hardest to see and talk about. Stated as an English sentence, of course, this is just a banal platitude, but the fact is that in the day to day trenches of adult existence, banal platitudes can have a life or death importance, or so I wish to suggest to you on this dry and lovely morning.

Of course the main requirement of speeches like this is that I’m supposed to talk about your liberal arts education’s meaning, to try to explain why the degree you are about to receive has actual human value instead of just a material payoff.

So let’s talk about the single most pervasive cliché in the commencement speech genre, which is that a liberal arts education is not so much about filling you up with knowledge as it is about “teaching you how to think.” If you’re like me as a student, you’ve never liked hearing this, and you tend to feel a bit insulted by the claim that you needed anybody to teach you how to think, since the fact that you even got admitted to a college this good seems like proof that you already know how to think. But I’m going to posit to you that the liberal arts cliché turns out not to be insulting at all, because the really significant education in thinking that we’re supposed to get in a place like this isn’t really about the capacity to think, but rather about the

choice of what to think about. If your total freedom of choice regarding what to think about seems too obvious to waste time discussing, I'd ask you to think about fish and water, and to bracket for just a few minutes your skepticism about the value of the totally obvious.

Here's another didactic little story. There are these two guys sitting together in a bar in the remote Alaskan wilderness. One of the guys is religious, the other is an atheist, and the two are arguing about the existence of God with that special intensity that comes after about the fourth beer. And the atheist says: "Look, it's not like I don't have actual reasons for not believing in God. It's not like I haven't ever experimented with the whole God and prayer thing. Just last month I got caught away from the camp in that terrible blizzard, and I was totally lost and I couldn't see a thing, and it was 50 below, and so I tried it: I fell to my knees in the snow and cried out 'Oh, God, if there is a God, I'm lost in this blizzard, and I'm gonna die if you don't help me.'" And now, in the bar, the religious guy looks at the atheist all puzzled. "Well then you must believe now," he says, "After all, here you are, alive." The atheist just rolls his eyes. "No, man, all that was was a couple Eskimos happened to come wandering by and showed me the way back to camp."

It's easy to run this story through kind of a standard liberal arts analysis: the exact same experience can mean two totally different things to two different people, given those people's two different belief templates and two different ways of constructing meaning from experience. Because we prize tolerance and diversity of belief, nowhere in our liberal arts analysis do we want to claim that one guy's interpretation is true and the other guy's is false or bad. Which is fine, except we also never end up talking about just where these individual templates and beliefs come from. Meaning, where they come from INSIDE the two guys. As if a person's most basic orientation toward the world, and the meaning of his experience were somehow just hard-wired, like height or shoe-size; or automatically absorbed from the culture, like language. As if how we construct meaning were not actually a matter of personal, intentional choice. Plus, there's the whole matter of arrogance. The nonreligious guy is so totally certain in his dismissal of the possibility that the passing Eskimos had anything to do with his prayer for help. True, there are plenty of religious people who seem arrogant and certain of their own interpretations, too.

They're probably even more repulsive than atheists, at least to most of us. But religious dogmatists' problem is exactly the same as the story's unbeliever: blind certainty, a close-mindedness that amounts to an imprisonment so total that the prisoner doesn't even know he's locked up.

The point here is that I think this is one part of what teaching me how to think is really supposed to mean. To be just a little less arrogant. To have just a little critical awareness about myself and my certainties. Because a huge percentage of the stuff that I tend to be automatically certain of is, it turns out, totally wrong and deluded. I have learned this the hard way, as I predict you graduates will, too.

Here is just one example of the total wrongness of something I tend to be automatically sure of: everything in my own immediate experience supports my deep belief that I am the absolute centre of the universe; the realest, most vivid and important person in existence. We rarely think about this sort of natural, basic self-centeredness because it's so socially repulsive. But it's pretty much the same for all of us. It is our default setting, hard-wired into our boards at birth. Think about it: there is no experience you have had that you are not the absolute centre of. The world as you experience it is there in front of YOU or behind YOU, to the left or right of YOU, on YOUR TV or YOUR monitor. And so on. Other people's thoughts and feelings have to be communicated to you somehow, but your own are so immediate, urgent, real.

Please don't worry that I'm getting ready to lecture you about compassion or other-directedness or all the so-called virtues. This is not a matter of virtue. It's a matter of my choosing to do the work of somehow altering or getting free of my natural, hard-wired default setting which is to be deeply and literally self-centered and to see and interpret everything through this lens of self. People who can adjust their natural default setting this way are often described as being "well-adjusted," which I suggest to you is not an accidental term.

Given the triumphant academic setting here, an obvious question is how much of this work of adjusting our default setting involves actual knowledge or intellect. This question gets very tricky. Probably the most dangerous thing about an academic education—least in my own case—is that it enables my tendency to over-intellectualize stuff, to get lost in abstract argument inside my head, instead of simply paying attention to what is going on right in front of me, paying attention to what is going on inside me.

As I'm sure you guys know by now, it is extremely difficult to stay alert and attentive, instead of getting hypnotized by the constant monologue inside your own head (may be happening right now). Twenty years after my own graduation, I have come gradually to understand that the liberal arts cliché about teaching you how to think is actually shorthand for a much deeper, more serious idea: learning how to think really means learning how to exercise some control over how and what you think. It means being conscious and aware enough to choose what you pay attention to and to choose how you construct meaning from experience. Because if you cannot exercise this kind of choice in adult life, you will be totally hosed. Think of the old cliché about “the mind being an excellent servant but a terrible master.”

This, like many clichés, so lame and unexciting on the surface, actually expresses a great and terrible truth.

And I submit that this is what the real, no b*****t value of your liberal arts education is supposed to be about: how to keep from going through your comfortable, prosperous, respectable adult life dead, unconscious, a slave to your head and to your natural default setting of being uniquely, completely, imperially alone day in and day out. That may sound like hyperbole, or abstract nonsense. Let's get concrete. The plain fact is that you graduating seniors do not yet have any clue what “day in day out” really means. There happen to be whole, large parts of adult American life that nobody talks about in commencement speeches. One such part involves boredom, routine and petty frustration. The parents and older folks here will know all too well what I'm talking about.

By way of example, let's say it's an average adult day, and you get up in the morning, go to your challenging, white-collar, college-graduate job, and you work hard for eight or ten hours, and at the end of the day you're tired and somewhat stressed and all you want is to go home and have a good supper and maybe unwind for an hour, and then hit the sack early because, of course, you have to get up the next day and do it all again. But then you remember there's no food at home. You haven't had time to shop this week because of your challenging job, and so now after work you have to get in your car and drive to the supermarket. It's the end of the work day and the traffic is apt to be: very bad. So getting to the store takes way longer than it should, and when you finally get there, the supermarket is very crowded, because of course it's the time of day when all the other people with jobs also try to squeeze in some grocery shopping. And the store is hideously lit and infused with soul-killing muzak or corporate pop and it's pretty much the last place you want to be but you can't just get in and quickly out; you have to wander all over the huge, over-lit store's confusing aisles to find the stuff you want and you have to maneuver your junky cart through all these other tired, hurried people with carts (et cetera, et cetera, cutting stuff out because this is a long ceremony) and eventually you get all your supper supplies, except now it turns out there aren't enough check-out lanes open even though it's the end-of-the-day rush. So the checkout line is incredibly long, which is stupid and infuriating. But you can't take your frustration out on the frantic lady working the register, who is overworked at a job whose daily tedium and meaninglessness surpasses the imagination of any of us here at a prestigious college.

But anyway, you finally get to the checkout line's front, and you pay for your food, and you get told to "Have a nice day" in a voice that is the absolute voice of death. Then you have to take your creepy, flimsy, plastic bags of groceries in your cart with the one crazy wheel that pulls maddeningly to the left, all the way out through the crowded, bumpy, littery parking lot, and then you have to drive all the way home through slow, heavy, SUV-intensive, rush-hour traffic, et cetera, et cetera.

Everyone here has done this, of course. But it hasn't yet been part of you graduates' actual life routine, day after week after month after year.

But it will be. And many more dreary, annoying, seemingly meaningless routines besides. But that is not the point. The point is that petty, frustrating crap like this is exactly where the work of choosing is gonna come in. Because the traffic jams and crowded aisles and long checkout lines give me time to think, and if I don't make a conscious decision about how to think and what to pay attention to, I'm gonna be pissed and miserable every time I have to shop. Because my natural default setting is the certainty that situations like this are really all about me. About MY hungriness and MY fatigue and MY desire to just get home, and it's going to seem for all the world like everybody else is just in my way. And who are all these people in my way? And look at how repulsive most of them are, and how stupid and cow-like and dead-eyed and nonhuman they seem in the checkout line, or at how annoying and rude it is that people are talking loudly on cell phones in the middle of the line. And look at how deeply and personally unfair this is.

Or, of course, if I'm in a more socially conscious liberal arts form of my default setting, I can spend time in the end-of-the-day traffic being disgusted about all the huge, stupid, lane-blocking SUV's and Hummers and V-12 pickup trucks, burning their wasteful, selfish, forty-gallon tanks of gas, and I can dwell on the fact that the patriotic or religious bumper- stickers always seem to be on the biggest, most disgustingly selfish vehicles, driven by the ugliest [responding here to loud applause] (this is an example of how NOT to think, though) most disgustingly selfish vehicles, driven by the ugliest, most inconsiderate and aggressive drivers. And I can think about how our children's children will despise us for wasting all the future's fuel, and probably screwing up the climate, and how spoiled and stupid and selfish and disgusting we all are, and how modern consumer society just sucks, and so forth and so on.

You get the idea.

If I choose to think this way in a store and on the freeway, fine. Lots of us do. Except thinking this way tends to be so easy and automatic that it doesn't have to be a choice. It is my natural default setting. It's the automatic way that I experience the boring, frustrating, crowded parts of adult life when I'm operating on the automatic, unconscious belief that I am the center of the world, and that my immediate needs and feelings are what should determine the world's priorities.

The thing is that, of course, there are totally different ways to think about these kinds of situations. In this traffic, all these vehicles stopped and idling in my way, it's not impossible that some of these people in SUV's have been in horrible auto accidents in the past, and now find driving so terrifying that their therapist has all but ordered them to get a huge, heavy SUV so they can feel safe enough to drive. Or that the Hummer that just cut me off is maybe being driven by a father whose little child is hurt or sick in the seat next to him, and he's trying to get this kid to the hospital, and he's in a bigger, more legitimate hurry than I am: it is actually I who am in HIS way.

Or I can choose to force myself to consider the likelihood that everyone else in the supermarket's checkout line is just as bored and frustrated as I am, and that some of these people probably have harder, more tedious and painful lives than I do.

Again, please don't think that I'm giving you moral advice, or that I'm saying you are supposed to think this way, or that anyone expects you to just automatically do it. Because it's hard. It takes will and effort, and if you are like me, some days you won't be able to do it, or you just flat out won't want to.

But most days, if you're aware enough to give yourself a choice, you can choose to look differently at this fat, dead-eyed, over-made-up lady who just screamed at her kid in the checkout line. Maybe she's not usually like this. Maybe she's been up three straight nights holding the hand of a husband who is dying of bone cancer. Or maybe this very lady is the low- wage clerk at the motor vehicle

department, who just yesterday helped your spouse resolve a horrific, infuriating, red-tape problem through some small act of bureaucratic kindness. Of course, none of this is likely, but it's also not impossible. It just depends what you want to consider. If you're automatically sure that you know what reality is, and you are operating on your default setting, then you, like me, probably won't consider possibilities that aren't annoying and miserable. But if you really learn how to pay attention, then you will know there are other options. It will actually be within your power to experience a crowded, hot, slow, consumer-hell type situation as not only meaningful, but sacred, on fire with the same force that made the stars: love, fellowship, the mystical oneness of all things deep down.

Not that that mystical stuff is necessarily true. The only thing that's capital-T True is that you get to decide how you're gonna try to see it.

This, I submit, is the freedom of a real education, of learning how to be well-adjusted. You get to consciously decide what has meaning and what doesn't. You get to decide what to worship.

Because here's something else that's weird but true: in the day-to day trenches of adult life, there is actually no such thing as atheism. There is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship. And the compelling reason for maybe choosing some sort of god or spiritual-type thing to worship -- be it JC or Allah, be it YHWH or the Wiccan Mother Goddess, or the Four Noble Truths, or some inviolable set of ethical principles -- is that pretty much anything else you worship will eat you alive. If you worship money and things, if they are where you tap real meaning in life, then you will never have enough, never feel you have enough. It's the truth. Worship your body and beauty and sexual allure and you will always feel ugly. And when time and age start showing, you will die a million deaths before they finally grieve you. On one level, we all know this stuff already. It's been codified as myths, proverbs, clichés, epigrams, parables; the skeleton of every great story. The whole trick is keeping the truth up front in daily consciousness.

Worship power, you will end up feeling weak and afraid, and you will need ever more power over others to numb you to your own fear. Worship your intellect, being seen as smart, you will end up feeling stupid, a fraud, always on the verge of being found out. But the insidious thing about these forms of worship is not that they're evil or sinful, it's that they're unconscious. They are default settings.

They're the kind of worship you just gradually slip into, day after day, getting more and more selective about what you see and how you measure value without ever being fully aware that that's what you're doing.

And the so-called real world will not discourage you from operating on your default settings, because the so-called real world of men and money and power hums merrily along in a pool of fear and anger and frustration and craving and worship of self. Our own present culture has harnessed these forces in ways that have yielded extraordinary wealth and comfort and personal freedom. The freedom all to be lords of our tiny skull-sized kingdoms, alone at the center of all creation. This kind of freedom has much to recommend it. But of course there are all different kinds of freedom, and the kind that is most precious you will not hear much talk about much in the great outside world of wanting and achieving and.... The really important kind of freedom involves attention and awareness and discipline, and being able truly to care about other people and to sacrifice for them over and over in myriad petty, unsexy ways every day.

That is real freedom. That is being educated, and understanding how to think. The alternative is unconsciousness, the default setting, the rat race, the constant gnawing sense of having had, and lost, some infinite thing.

I know that this stuff probably doesn't sound fun and breezy or grandly inspirational the way a commencement speech is supposed to sound. What it is, as far as I can see, is the capital-T Truth, with a whole lot of rhetorical niceties stripped away. You are, of course, free to think of it whatever you wish. But please don't just dismiss it as just some finger-wagging Dr. Laura

sermon. None of this stuff is really about morality or religion or dogma or big fancy questions of life after death.

The capital-T Truth is about life BEFORE death.

It is about the real value of a real education, which has almost nothing to do with knowledge, and everything to do with simple awareness; awareness of what is so real and essential, so hidden in plain sight all around us, all the time, that we have to keep reminding ourselves over and over:

"This is water."

"This is water."

It is unimaginably hard to do this, to stay conscious and alive in the adult world day in and day out. Which means yet another grand cliché turns out to be true: your education really IS the job of a lifetime. And it commences: now.

I wish you way more than luck.

Congratulations to you all! Be well, stay kind, and just keep swimming...in a Sisyphean sort of way :)

–Redgate

ANGELA ZEPEDA



Dear Class of 2020,

Congratulations!

It's been so awesome to see you grow into the independent and resilient young people you are today.

Thank you for all the great memories.

Wishing you all the best in your future endeavors.

angela

P.S.

THE BEST IS YET TO COME!

DON SCATENA



When I graduated from high school, my senior quote was something like "the scariest part about the next steps, is that I will solely be responsible for pushing myself." Meaning that I was the person who needed to push through adversity and overcome obstacles. No teachers, deans, counselors, or parents would be around to care for or guide me through life's adventures.

I needed to find my compass and point myself north.

I enjoyed that challenge and the next step, just as you are all embracing those next steps. I wish I would've had a Middle College when I was in high school. I would've been able to dip my feet into the waters of responsibility (like you all). With some guidance, you have been able to test your resilience and prepare for the next steps before you.

Your generation has amazing challenges before you, and Middle College is preparing you for those challenges as individuals and team members. I know the experiences at Middle College are preparing you for those responsibilities.

Embrace the challenge!

Mr. Scatena

FABIAN MORALES



Dear Class of 2020,

First, let me congratulate you on this milestone. Although we will not be able to celebrate your accomplishment in the traditional manner, it is a great time to stop and reflect on what this milestone means for you and your loved ones. I have always embraced the words of Gabriel Garcia Marquez who once wrote: “What matters in life is not what happens to you, but what you remember and how you remember it.” To me, that quote has empowered me to be able to decide how I experience and remember events in my life. I would encourage you to consider this quote as you reflect on this year.

The 2019-2020 academic year proved to be a challenge in many ways, but it allowed me the great honor to serve as your academic counselor. As your counselor, we shared laughs, disappointments, stress and some of you even survived my eight a.m. advisory presentations. My hope is that I was able to provide you with the support that you needed and I was able to help you get closer to your goals. For those of you for whom we only had brief interactions, I’m sorry, I wish I could have served you better.

As you begin this new stage in your life, I suggest the following:

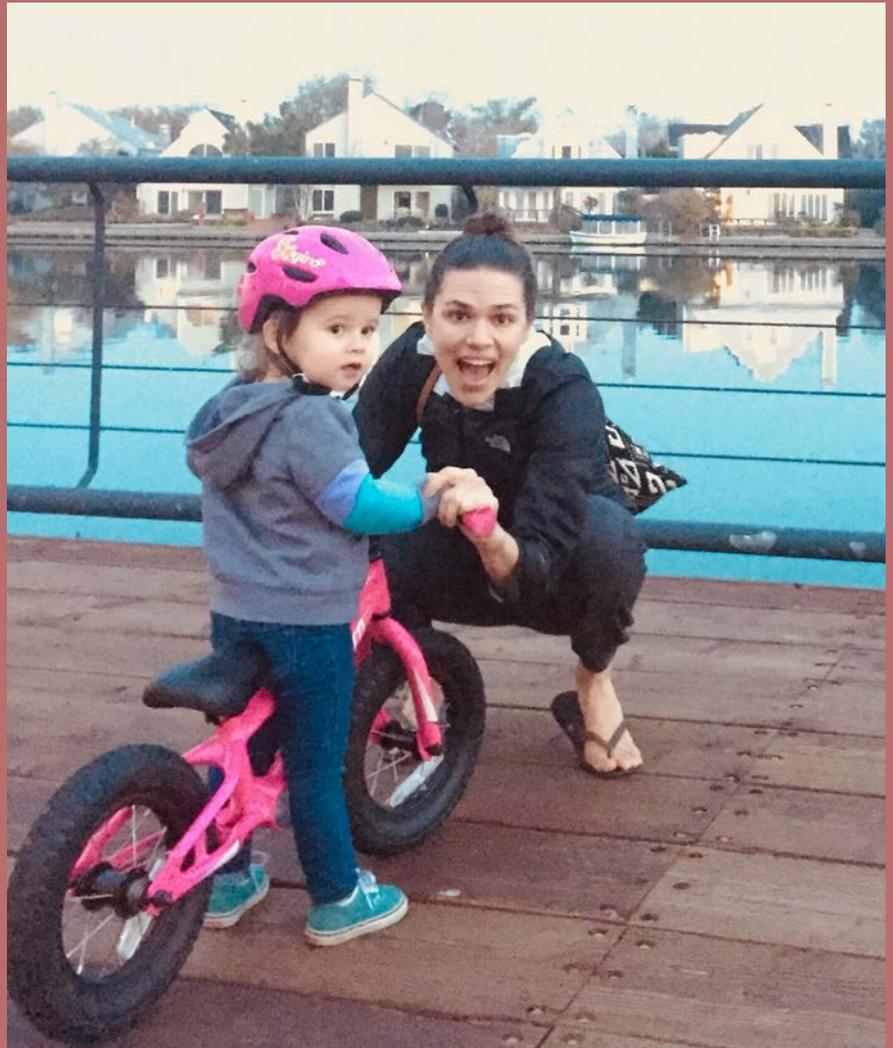
- Only you can define what success means, do not adjust your definition to meet someone else’s definition
- Be strategic in how you navigate challenging situations, work smarter not harder
- When in doubt, ask questions
- Be humble, genuine and authentic

I wish you continued success and you will always be surrounded by those that you love and support you. Congratulations Class of 2020!

Until our paths cross again.

Mr. Morales

LAURA ADAMS



Dear Middle College Community,

I have struggled with what to write to you all. As your Wellness Counselor, I feel the need to impart wisdom, inspiration, and uplifting words to buoy you in these uncertain times. It would be foolish of me to be sunshine and rainbows in a time that is indeed uncertain and unknown to me as well as most everyone. What I can say is that you all inspire and amaze me on a daily basis.

As a community, you show each other what it means to be strong, empathic, and real. You have each left a home school, including the staff, to embrace this alternative, unique, small-family style of learning. You work hard to balance Middle College with CSM classes, with family, with work, with friends, with sports, with other obligations and activities that are meaningful to you. It's amazing to see you working so hard, persevering, coping, and learning. I have the unique opportunity to be able to meet with all of you in some fashion, getting to know you and supporting you--whether it's one time in a tough moment, monthly in the classroom, or weekly in my office. I see each of you continuing to try new things, step out of your comfort zones, and be open to new experiences--which is never easy--and yet, you still do.

The end of this school year may not look like any has before, or how you imagined it to be, and I won't pretend that this is in any way "okay." I wish for you, classes of 2020 and 2021, that it could be more. As a staff, we are here for you, knowing that "here" is from a distance physically but not in our minds and hearts. We are always your community and your family, and we congratulate and celebrate you and your awesomeness, now and always.

With love,

Ms. Adams

Dear Graduates of the Middle College Program:

When I think of the over two thousand students graduating this year from San Mateo Union High School District schools, I have varying degrees of worry about how they will handle these most unsettled and unusual times. In your case, I think you got this! You have already shown you have three important characteristics other students may not have.

First, by making the decision to go to Middle College, you have already shown that you can deal with change. The successful transition from a comprehensive high school campus to Middle College is not easy and requires a level of adaptability many district students do not have.

Second, you have developed a voice and a sense of agency. You took the initiative to change paths. You either have a sense of what you need or, something almost as good -- people who know and love you who help you get what you need when you need it. Finally, you are already down the path to college success. In the past few months the world has utterly changed. But what hasn't changed is that education is a coin of the realm. And you have more of it than most at your point in life.

I join the teachers, staff, and those who love and care about you in congratulating you on your high school graduation. On you go with crucial characteristics that will serve you very well indeed!

Kevin Skelly
Superintendent
San Mateo Union High School District

We include here the text of Superintendent Skelly's commencement speech

Class of 2020, Esteemed Staff Members, Supportive Family and other members of the Class of 2020 Fan Club:

My name is Kevin Skelly and I am the superintendent of the San Mateo Union High School District

Most of us have heard at some point in our lives the song "Amazing Grace." It was written in the 1700s by John Newton, an Anglican member of the clergy who had been deeply involved in the slave trade. He eventually saw the terrible evil of his ways and became a strident abolitionist. The refrain of the song is:

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind but now I see

I think the most important line here is "I once was lost, but now I'm found." For most of us, if we can even remember it, being lost and then found was an experience as a toddler with our parents during a shopping excursion or at a busy public event. And unlike Reverend Newton, we may not have been as utterly lost or as rapturously found.

I have been thinking about the connection between Class of 2020 and this idea of lost and found quite a bit during this most strange and unsettled time. Like your family and those school staff who have been on this journey with you through high school, I mourn for your losses -- your senior year celebrations, your graduation, spring sports, awards, proms, performing arts, other school activities, and simply time with your friends. Endings are so important! I had the chance to live in Latin America where farewells, or Despedidas, were some of the biggest celebrations one could enjoy. We all yearn to celebrate the ending of your journeys with fervor and joy. You deserve it. And we will -- just not now.

So that brings me to the FOUND part of my comments. I wonder what you have found or what you will find in these times. Is it a greater connection to those with whom you have sheltered in place? Have you gained an appreciation for your unique skills or found your passions? Might these momentous times be ones you look back on and see that the trajectory of your life took a turn for the good? Those who love you hope for these things, and so much more.

Further, is there some connection between losing and finding? Are there things that you have lost since March 13 that have allowed you to find something else? Often my life losses were painful and debilitating, but from them I found new energy, creativity, and rebirth. With the benefit of hindsight, I see that it was only by losing something I held dear that I found something even more precious.

Congratulations to the Class of 2020. We wish all the very best to you as you go forth. And we look forward to finding ways to celebrate in person your most wonderful achievements soon.



Pictured above: Superintendent Kevin Skelly addressing the Middle College graduating class of 2019 at CSM and enjoying the ceremony with members of the Middle College faculty.



MIDDLE COLLEGE CLUBS

Chess Club

Environmental Club

MC Effect

Newsletter

INCLUDING SPECIALS OF

Volunteering

The Cookie Box

Meme Collection



CHESS CLUB

At Middle College



MIDDLE COLLEGE

Effect

ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

At Middle College



MIDDLE COLLEGE

Newsletter





Middle College.

Let's recap what just happened...

[Learn More](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS AT MIDDLE COLLEGE
Don't forget to mark your calendars!

CLUB HIGHLIGHTS

Sunshine Club

Sunshine Club is Middle College's stress ball. Spending hours of advisory time to plan events for the rest of the students is our game, and we happen to be excellent at it. With Mr. Lien and Mr. Letke moderating the discussion (and sometimes Ms. Rohrbach making a cameo), our productivity is off the charts, creating comprehensive plans to completely expel stress and anxiety from the student body, using fun and games as our instruments.



Sunshine Club meets:

Days: Tuesdays
Time: 11am - 12n
Bldg. 12 Rm. 221

Environmental Club

Environmental Club unifies Middle College students interested in creating a healthier relationship with the environment in the intent to promote environmental preservation and rehabilitation. We engage in a number of activities, ranging from student strikes to environmental youth leadership summits to dialogue through environmental documentaries. As we speak and act up for our values, we also reinforce the importance of community bonding, motivating all members to be participative in conversations and events. We offer a number of opportunities for volunteering and leadership.



If you have any interest in environmental activism, please join us:

Days: Tuesdays
Time: 11am - 12pm
Bldg. 12 Rm. 220

TEACHER HIGHLIGHT

Mr. Letke

This year, we welcomed multiple new teachers to the Middle College community. Here is an interview, conducted by Rachel Frankl, with one of our new teachers!

What made you first want to be a teacher?

I was a journalism major in college, but I didn't feel like I would have a job after college. I liked my history classes and I saw the major social sciences for teachers and I liked that. As a kid, I always imagined what it would be like to teach and it was also a bit of a reality check. I wanted a job. I also like the tangible effect I had on kids. Especially juniors and seniors. Impact. Change lives.

What did you do before Middle College?

I taught at Cap and East Palo Alto. I ran the AVID program at Cap. For the past three or four years, I was splitting time between coaching other teachers and teaching.

What drew you to Middle College?

I needed a new start after 15 years in the same place so I came to the interview here. I fell in love with the place. I already knew Ms. Redgate. I liked the fact that we could treat students like adults. The campus had a great vibe too. The whole place just felt special.



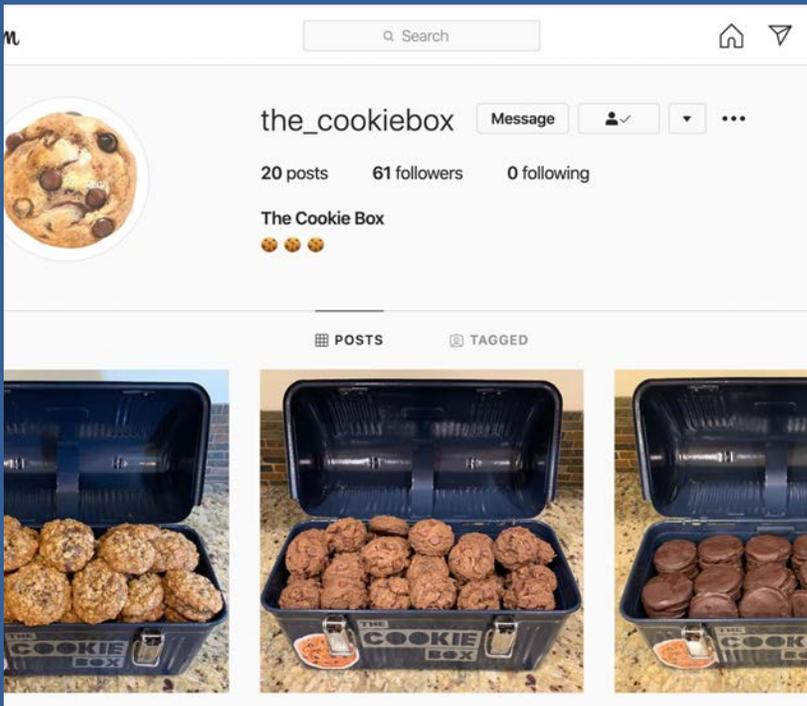
VOLUNTEERING

Outside of School



THE COOKIE BOX

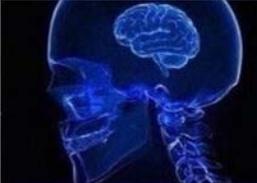
By Lindsey McMahon



MIDDLE COLLEGE

Meme Collection



title	
Kindred	
Kindred Freedom Essay	
The Paradoxical Freedom of Roles	



your classes
are cancelled

middle college
students

all your friends from
your home school
still have high school classes

middle college
students

Memos Created by Devin Robinson,
Cassia Smith, Deniz Ibrahimzade

the historians
in that one
movie

pronouncing
it car-neggy

pronouncing
carnegie
correctly

RUFUS DIDN'T DESERVE TO DIE

DANA DID WHAT SHE HAD TO DO, HE
WAS ONLY GETTING WORSE

HE WOULDVE GOTTEN BETTER IF
SHE STAYED WITH HIM

THAT'S NOT HER RESPONSIBILITY

HE WAS DEPRESSED

PLEASE DO NOT
MOVE THE
FURNITURE



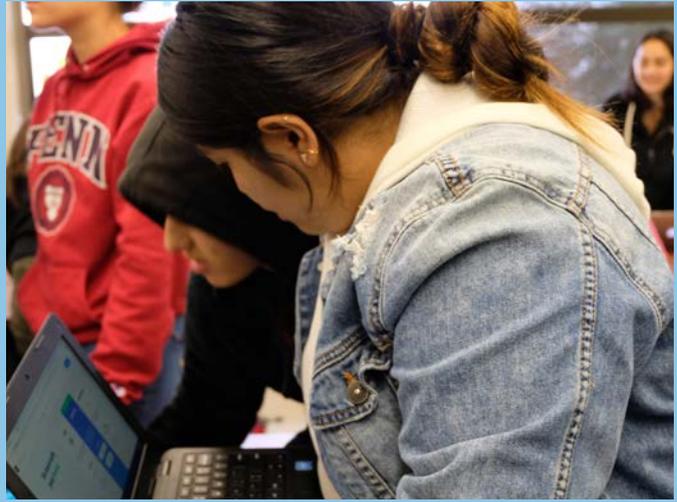
SENIORS

2020















JUNIOR FIELD TRIP

*To St. Mary's and The
de Young*



AT ST. MARY'S





AT THE DE YOUNG







SENIOR FIELD TRIP

To Scandia









MIDDLE COLLEGE

Spring Orientation

**MIDDLE
COLLEGE
SPRING 2020
ORIENTATION**



Welcome Back to
Middle College!

SPRING ORIENTATION

Lip Sync Battle

#MCLipSyncDanceOFF2020

THE LIP SYNC DANCE OFF

Each group picks a 30 second segment of their assigned song to either recreate the video & or come up with their own interpretation.



Miley Cyrus



The Bangles



MC Hammer



Britney Spears



Ariana Grande



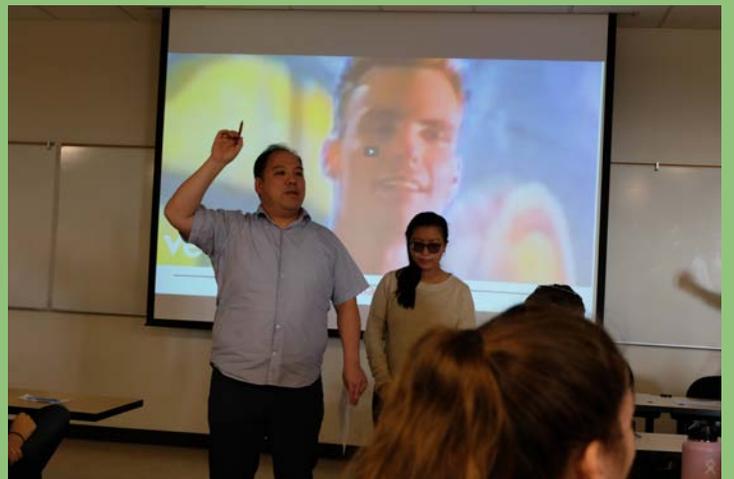
vevo



Justin Bieber



Polo







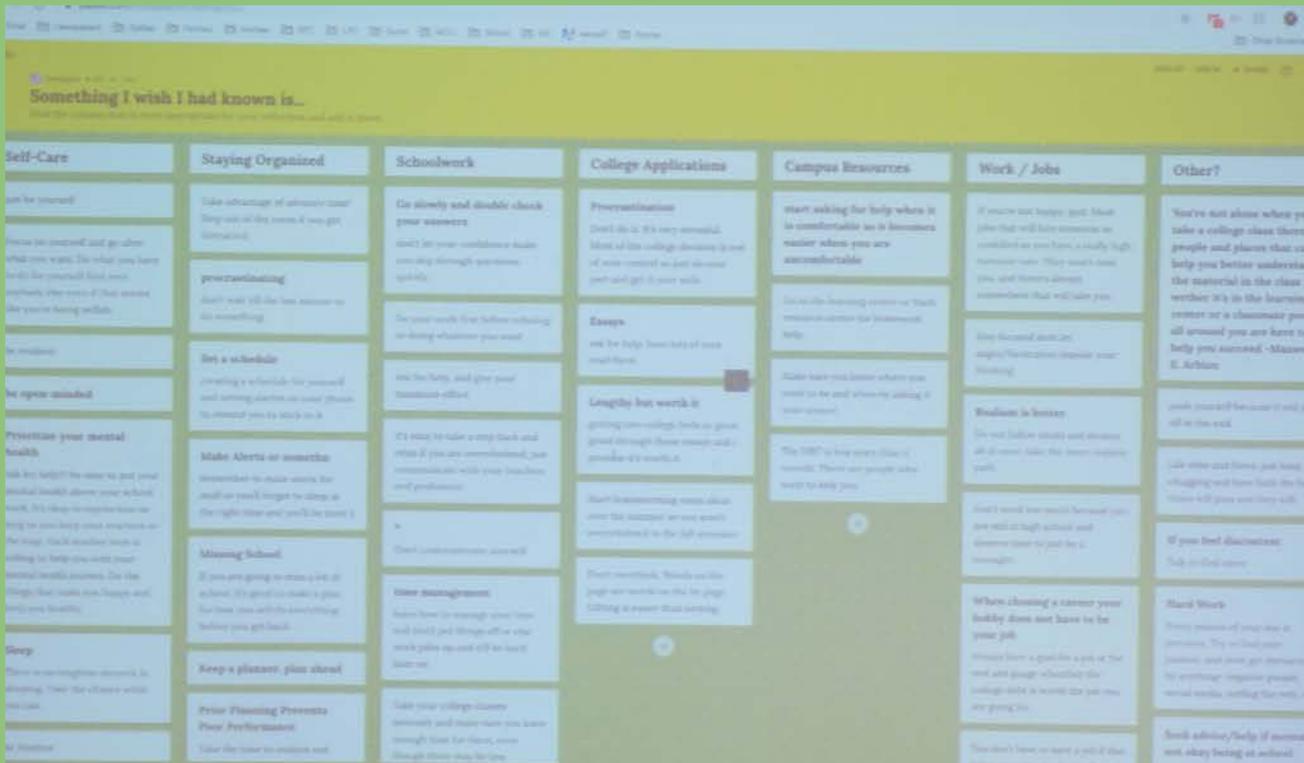
SPRING ORIENTATION

Red and Blue Wolf

Who remembers the story of the red wolf and the blue wolf (from fall orientation)?



Between you and your partner, decide who remembers it most clearly and have them retell it.





SHADOW WEEK





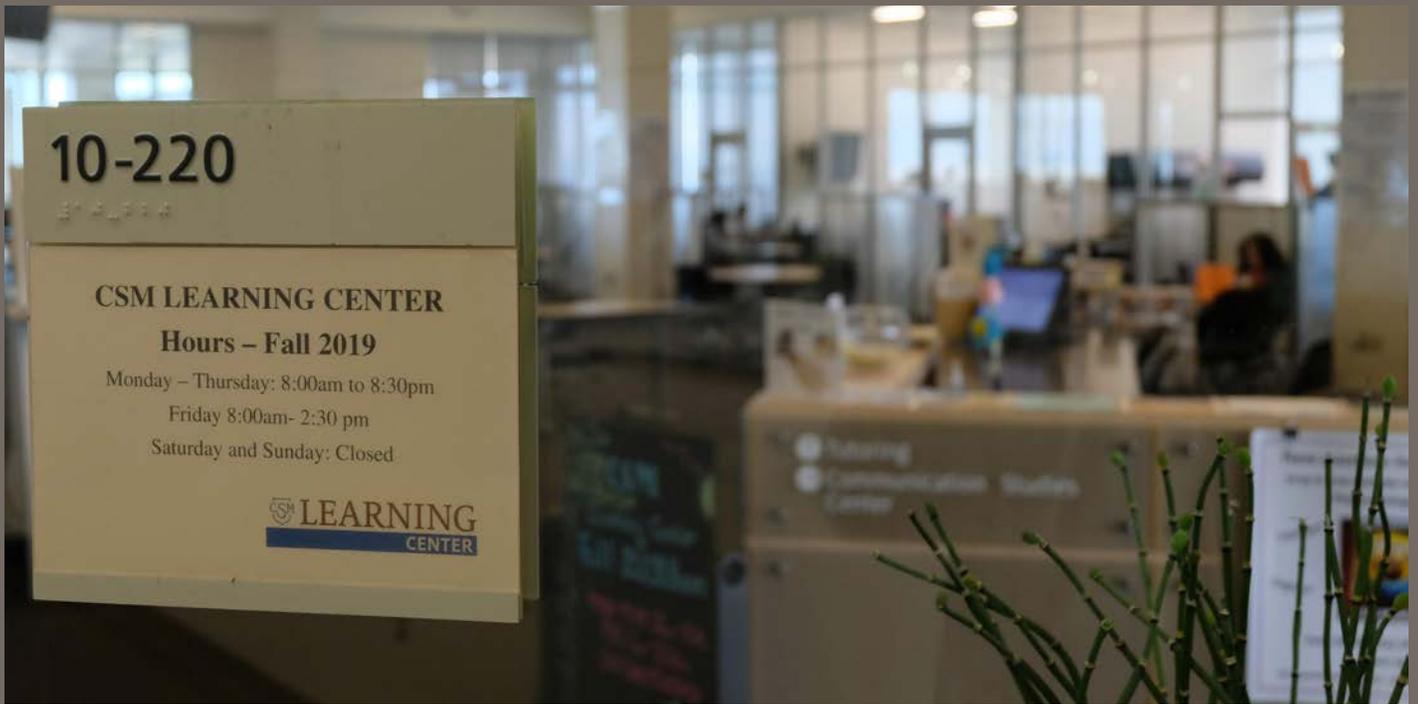


**Welcome
to CSM**

*Have Questions?
Please Ask Us!*

CSM







MIDDLE COLLEGE

Spring Community Day

























COVID ARRIVES

At Middle College

San Francisco Chronicle

SFChronicle.com | Tuesday, March 17, 2020 | CONTAINS RECYCLED PAPER | BLOG *****

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

STAY AT HOME

6 Bay Area counties order nearly 7 million people to shelter in place



Kathryn Sandretto, manager of Acote, closes the clothing store after learning that all non-essential businesses must close.

By Erin Alday

Six Bay Area counties announced "shelter in place" orders for all residents on Monday — the strictest measure of its kind yet in the continental United States — directing everyone to stay inside their homes and away from others as much as possible for the next three weeks in a desperate move to curb the rapid spread of coronavirus across the region.

The directive was set to begin at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday and involves San Francisco, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Marin, Contra Costa and Alameda counties — a combined population of more than 6.7 million. It is to stay in place until at least April 7. The three other Bay Area counties — Sonoma, Solano and Napa — did not issue similar mandates.

Just outside the Bay Area, Santa Cruz County late Monday also announced a "shelter in place" order for its 275,000 residents.

The orders — which are all similarly worded — fall just short of a full lockdown, which would forbid people from leaving their homes without explicit permission. The orders (read San Francisco's here in its entirety at tinyurl.com/waddyqy) call for county and city sheriffs and police chiefs to "ensure compliance," and local authorities said they would not "rush to enforce" the directives as residents adjusted to understand what activities are no longer allowed. Violation of the orders is considered a misdemeanor punishable by a fine or jail time.

Businesses that do not provide "essential" services must send workers home. Among those remaining open are grocery stores, pharmacies, restaurants for delivery only and hardware stores. Most workers are ordered to stay home, with



White House issues tougher guidelines

By Jonathan Lemire, Andrew Taylor and Jill Colvin

WASHINGTON — The White House on Monday urged all older Americans to stay home and everyone to avoid crowds and eating out at restaurants as part of sweeping guidelines meant to combat an expected surge of coronavirus cases.

marked shift in tone about a crisis that has enveloped the globe, for the first time acknowledged that the pandemic may send the U.S. economy into a recession and suggested that the nation may be dealing with the virus until "July or August."

With the U.S. economy shuddering to a near-halt, the Dow Jones Industrial Average plummeted nearly 3,000 points, or



Dr. Grant Colfax, Public Health Director, and Mayor London Breed announce San Francisco's shelter-in-place order.

Teachers, parents struggle to keep students learning

By Jill Tucker

Bay Area teachers were scrambling Monday to provide distance learning for 1 million students who were home due to the coronavirus shutdown, and confusion over state policies added to the uncertainty.

It's unclear whether teachers — who are in most cases continuing to work from home — can require students to learn new material, turn in assignments and get graded on them.

State law considers independent study "voluntary." And education officials question whether continuing with instruction would leave struggling students behind — children who are already dis-



Catherine Alexander reads bags of food for pickup at King Middle in Berkeley.

advantaged and often lacking computers, internet access or other resources at home. State officials did not respond to requests for clarification.

Schools continues on A11

Newsom seeks \$1.1 billion to cope with costs of crisis

By Alexei Koseff

SACRAMENTO — California lawmakers set aside up to \$1.1 billion Monday for health care needs, homelessness services and school cleaning to help the state deal with crushing costs being brought on by the coronavirus crisis.

The two-bill package passed both houses of the Legislature unanimously only a few hours

after it was introduced, a reflection of how pressing both Democrats and Republicans have come to see the situation. Gov. Gavin Newsom made an emergency request for the money, allowing lawmakers to waive a requirement that the measures be in print for at least 72 hours before they could be taken up for a vote.

"This budget has now been taken over by the coronavirus," Assemblyman Phil Ting, D-S.F.

Costs continues on A10

Get live updates and more online

Get the latest news about the COVID-19 pandemic, including The Chronicle's guide explaining what you need to know about it, at sfchronicle.com, and track the spread of the virus at sfchronicle.com/coronavirus-map

Biggest Dow plunge in three decades

Fear of global implications of the coronavirus sends stocks down 2,997 points or 12.9%. **B5**

Restrictions across Europe expanding

Spain becomes the fourth-most affected country in the world, and joins Italy and Germany in closing its borders. **A5**

Clip and save: What you need to know

A three-page resource to help you navigate life in the Bay Area during the lockdown. **A6-B**

BAY AREA, B1

There's plenty of food: East Bay grocers are well stocked and will remain open during the lockdown.

SPORTING GREEN, C1

The long wait: With Major League Baseball apparently planning no games before mid-May, Giants players are being told to go home from training camp.

DATABASE, C5

Cancelled: For holders of tickets to the performance that must not go on, here's what to do now.

Chronicle to keep bringing you news

To our readers: The San Francisco Chronicle started publishing during the Civil War and hasn't stopped since — not when an earthquake leveled parts of the region, not when floods overtook it, not when wildfires burned parts of it.

We haven't missed an issue in 155 years, and we will not during the ongoing health crisis. During the ongoing shelter-in-place order, media like The Chronicle have permission to continue operations in order to ensure access to reliable and accurate information.

Starting today you will notice some changes to the newspaper. We've combined sections and expanded others. We've focused on answering the myriad questions we all have. How this crisis will unfold is uncertain, but delivery of our newspaper and online news at sfchronicle.com is not.

We are taking considerable precautions at our production facilities, including staggering shifts and thoroughly cleaning equipment. We are also taking steps to keep the men and women who deliver your newspaper safe and healthy. They have our deep and sincere appreciation.

The health of our community and your access to critical information are our top priorities. To that end, if you haven't already, please activate your digital subscription at sfchronicle.com. You can sign up for emails that will keep you informed of the latest news. This is critical in the event that some unforeseen issue prevents us from getting the newspaper to you.

Thank you for relying on us during this time. If you have any issues, please reach out to our customer service team at sfchronicle.com/customer-service.

Bill Niegel
Publisher, San Francisco Chronicle

Weather
Passing showers.
High: 52-59.
Low: 36-45. **B5**

WELCOME TO MR. BURKE'S NEW CLASSROOM!



STUDY HISTORY AT MS. ROHRBACH'S HOUSE!



Jackie Harris



Jennifer Rohrbach



Evan Curry



Alyssa Huie



cassiasmith



Richard Li



Fernanda Pires



marisa weng



Emma O



Kelly Wong



Athena Barton



Deniz Ibrahimzade



Mikhail Reshetov



Peter King



Meg Graham



olivia bayless



Lisa Yokemura



Christian Chaidez



Aaron Chen



Jacob Basnage



Justin Lai



KeVIN

HAVE CLASS WITH MR. LIEN IN EXOTIC LOCATIONS!





MIDDLE COLLEGE CLUBS

Go Online

paulet

bredgate + 10 • 1mo

MC Community Board

Please use this as a space to communicate with fellow MC community members while we work and learn from home.

Announcements

+
bredgate 2mo
Chess Club is On!(line)
Chess Club will be held from 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. on Thursdays. In order to play with other Middle College Chess Club members, you will have to create an account on the free chess platform called lichess.org. Once you've made an account, join the team called "MC Chess" using [this link](#). If you have any trouble joining the team or making an account, shoot me an email, and I'll be happy to help you out. Next, you'll have to join the tournament, which can be found at

Something that made me smile today...

+
bredgate 1mo
tee hee


Gummy bear adele concert. Someone lik...
by Trendy
YouTube
0
Add comment

#MCSocialDistancing

+
bredgate 1mo
DJ PJs


1
Add comment
Anonymous 2mo

Ideas for motivation/joy:

+
Jim Burke 1mo
What Scott Kelly Learned about Isolation after a Year in Space
We can all learn a lot from this article by Scott Kelly.--even if we are NOT astronauts.


Opinion | I Spent a Year in Space, and I H...
Take it from someone who couldn't. Go o...
nytimes

MR. BURKE'S

Corona Diaries

The Corona Diaries

Reflections on Life, Literature, and Learning

THE REASONING AND THE RULES BEHIND THE CORONA DIARIES

I just think we need a space to meet and share whatever is on our minds as we go through all this together for the coming month. This is not a space to write about assignments or ask for help. It's like a cafe table where we can sit and jot down our thoughts for each other. We can be honest but must be considerate. I think it's fine to post photos or other visual content so long as it is appropriate; also it's okay to link to things, but help us understand why. I will be moderating this and contributing to it myself, which I hope will add a sense of safety here for those who want to post. Please give each entry some sort of name/title, include the date, and put your name at the end of it. If you wish to respond to someone's entry, please include your name.

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APRIL 21, 2020 Reflecting on the Story You Wanted this Year/Your Life to Tell

If you can, recall or even look at the story map you drew back in August at Orientation. This was the story you wanted this year/your life to tell. It was the one you came to Middle College to make come true.



So go into the Corona Diaries and reflect a little bit about that story you came here to tell, to make come true. Is it the same? Has it changed? All stories have conflicts and monsters and obstacles along the way. If

When I got to middle college, I hoped that I could make a lot of new friends and get a better education. But I was not expecting this COVID thing to come a long with it. I was doing fine with my classes and friends and now that this is here, I don't get to see my friends anymore and it feels like I'm getting a lot more work. But, my educational plan for the coming semesters were all relying on this summer and if I got into a summer dance program, but the organization isn't sure if they are holding the program, so I'm not sure what I'm doing this summer. I was planning on taking classes over the summer if I didn't get in but now the registration date is coming for csm and so I'll either have to drop the class or hope that I didn't get into the dance program. It also affects my next semester classes because if I don't take the class over the summer, I'll be taking it in the fall. And if anything, I see more people taking walks outside, so the coronavirus might last longer and other people will have even less direction of where we want our lives to go.

SENIORS

Coping with Quarantine



What brings me joy is knowing that I have 3 wonderful loyal cats that love me.

How are you feeling today?



How have you been generally been feeling this past week?



Company/product that will do well during shelter-in-place:



What has made me laugh or smile recently?



Feeling(s) about spring break next week



Couldn't care less since I can't really do anything.

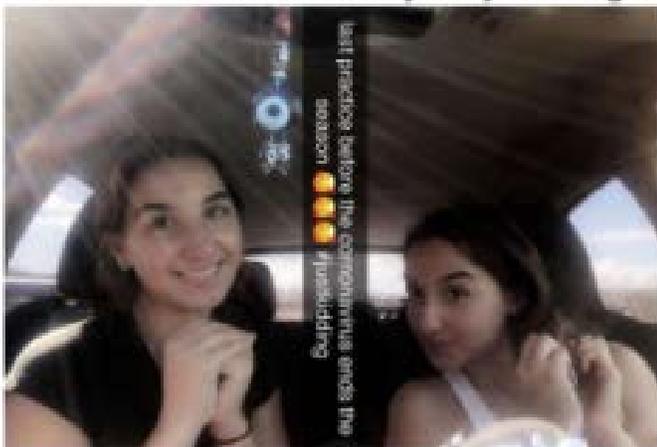
Where would you rather be?



Mexico

Something I miss

School, and having things to do. I miss being busy a lot. Relaxing is nice, but I have realized after all this relaxing time that I would rather be extremely busy like how I used to be. It was tiring, but it was productive. I liked that. Also rowing. I miss rowing a lot and my team and even the extremely early mornings.



Me and Ayla posted this picture before our last practice. I wish it wasn't true :(

Feeling(s) about spring break next week



yay





WESLEY
COLLEGE
DO NOT
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SENIOR

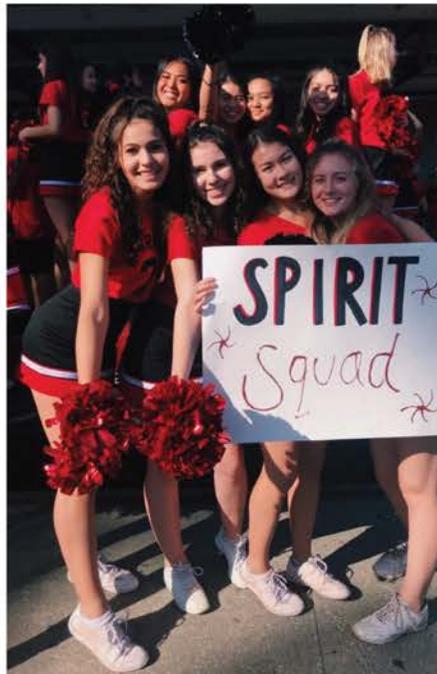
Personal Pages

STEPHANIE CASTROVIEJO

I CAME TO MIDDLE COLLEGE NOT KNOWING THAT MUCH ABOUT WHAT I WAS WALKING INTO BUT AFTER TWO YEARS OF ICED COFFEE, IMPORTANT LESSONS AND FUN MEMORIES I CAN CONFIDENTLY SAY I COULDN'T HAVE IMAGINED A BETTER PLACE TO HAVE COMPLETED MY LAST TWO YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL!!



MIDDLE COLLEGE GRANTED ME THE FREEDOM TO PURSUE HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CLASSES, GROW AS A STUDENT AND PERSON WHILE ALLOWING ME TO STAY CONNECTED TO ARAGON THROUGH CONTINUING VARSITY LACROSSE AND CHEER. I ALWAYS KNEW I WOULD ONE DAY LOOK BACK AND MISS HIGH SCHOOL AND ALL MY FRIENDS BUT I NEVER WOULD HAVE IMAGINED THAT MIDDLE COLLEGE WOULD HELP ME FEEL AS PREPARED AS I DO NOW TO START THE FIRST CHAPTER OF MY ADULT LIFE.



I THINK THE GREATEST GIFT MIDDLE COLLEGE GAVE US ALL WAS THE ABILITY TO MAKE OUR OWN DECISIONS REGARDING OUR FUTURE AND EDUCATION AND AS A RESULT GIVING US SPACE TO GROW AND LEARN. I WILL ETERNALLY BE GRATEFUL FOR THAT <3



NICOLE CORDOVA

THE UNIVERSE HAS MY BACK

"However, I did have my challenges at Middle College, but they were mostly internal. High School is an environment where you are so focused on the external. That once you come to Middle College, you notice yourself and realize what really was a part of you, and what were outside factors influencing you to be a certain way, an inauthentic version of yourself. Since after all, with the independence, you spend more time with yourself than anybody else.

I guess the real reason why I came here beneath it all, was to gain a clear perspective of who I am. To discover what I still need to learn, heal, and fix. So I can become the best version of myself in the world."

- Nicole Cordova

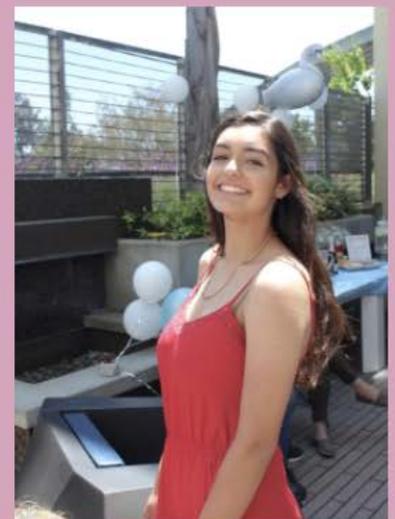
"Life, it is what you make of it..."



NAUTALIE HEMMAT



I AM SO GRATEFUL FOR MY HIGH SCHOOL MEMORIES, FROM BOTH ARAGON AND MIDDLE COLLEGE. THANK YOU TO ALL OF MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS FOR SUPPORTING ME THROUGH THIS JOURNEY!



SPECIAL THANK YOU TO MRS. ROHRBACH FOR ENCOURAGING ME TO APPLY TO COLLEGE :) MAMA SLEDGES ALL THE WAY

Nadia Hemmat

So grateful for the family and friends who have supported me all these years. I am so blessed to have been supported by all of my loved ones and teammates.

This one's for you, grandma!



W

UNIVERSITY *of*
WASHINGTON

I plan on studying Nursing at the University of Washington!
A huge thank you to Mrs.Rohrbach for her support.

It's Jared

I wasn't voted
best hair this
year.

This was me. I did
this. Just Jared
(and Caden too).

*I wonder what
order the yearbook
will be in*



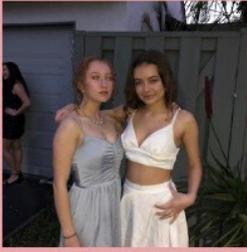
Listen to my
album. Tell
your friends



I will leave
random notes
on this page.
You can do
nothing to
stop me.

*Will it be alphabetical?
Perhaps in order of best
dancers?*

Long live Chess Club

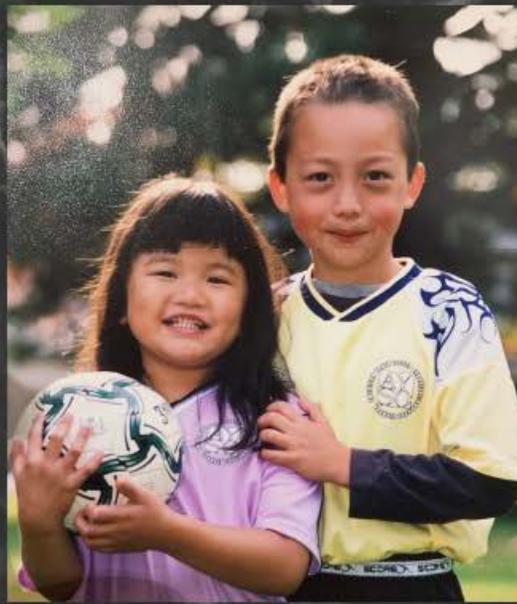


Alicia Martinez



thank you middle college for believing in me when nobody else did.





I came to Middle College my junior year for a fresh start. Since then MC has become a second home and allowed me to develop and learn new things about myself and what I am capable of.

Thank You for the memories
<3 :)

ANGELINA MCALLISTER



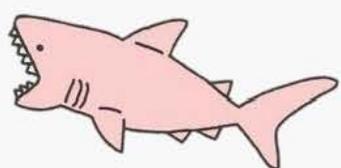
KILLIN' IT



Jamie McIntosh



BRAIN LIKE BERKELEY



Pamela Medina

Class of 2020

At Middle College I felt I was part of the community and I felt supported all the time. I loved all the activities we did and all the laughs we've had.



I met so many amazing students and teachers. I've made amazing friends and memories. I will never forget the people I've met at Middle College.



All the teachers are super supportive and you feel so included. Even if you don't have a class with that teacher they will still check up on you and get to know you better.



I will miss Middle College and all the laughs and smiles, but I will never forget. Thank you for everything.





Leah
Paul
2020



<--TRAVEL



CHEER-->

ROCHELLE RUBIN

"FIRST,
THINK.
SECOND,
BELIEVE.
THIRD,
DREAM.
AND
FINALLY,
DARE."
-WALT
DISNEY



During my past 2 years at Middle College, I have made

many unforgettable memories that I will cherish forever, incredible bonds with teachers and classmates, and a sense of community! Thank you class and faculty of **2020** for helping me grow into the person I am today :)



I PLAN ON ATTENDING CSM AND THEN TRANSFER TO UC DAVIS NEXT YEAR!



Middle College was a place where I was able to discover my independence and the opportunity to meet so many incredible people. It will always hold a special place in my heart.

Next year I will begin my freshmen year at the University of Washington. Go dawgs!



W
UNIVERSITY of
WASHINGTON



-Nur Schwartz





Attending Middle College has been the best two years of high school, and I'm so thankful for all the fun experiences I had with my classmates and teachers.

After high school, I will be attending the University of Washington and I am planning on majoring in English.

Thank you for an unforgettable two years!

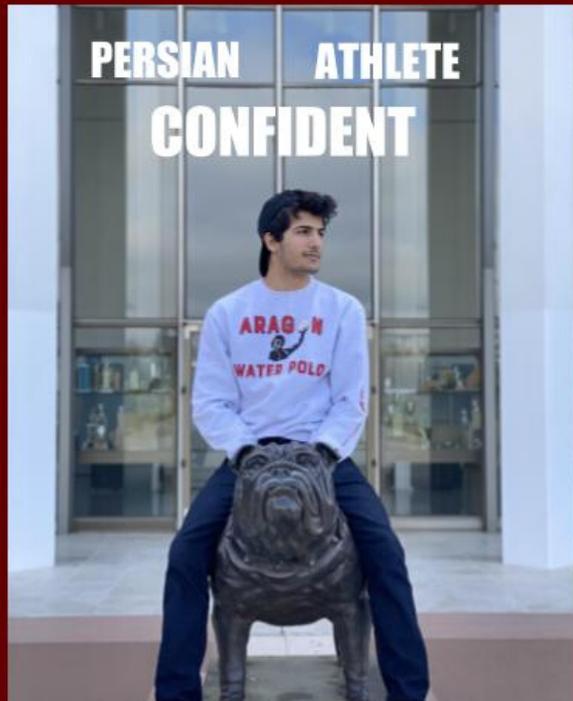
- Ayla Schwartz



UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON



BARSAM SHOKRI NIRI



PERSIAN ATHLETE
CONFIDENT

**“I DO HAVE A
PHD; POOR,
HUNGRY,
DETERMINED
” - Richard
Montanez**



Everything I do is for you guys  
American grown with Mexican roots 





Gabriel Terra

The last two years in Middle College have been the most extraordinary so far in my life. I got the fresh start I sought in the end of my sophomore year at Aragon High School, and found a better understanding of who I am both as a student and as a human being. I am leaving this place with a feeling of fulfillment and joy, for I know my legacy at Middle College will live long after I am gone.

Founder and President of the Environmental Club, I was honored to work alongside passionate environmental activists from Middle College in promoting environmental literacy and climate change awareness within our own community and among the local, state and global populace. Leading the club was a unique experience that truly allowed me to transcend into a much more well-rounded, multifaceted, and dynamic leader.



Leaving the program, I now bring with me all the incredible memories I built in Middle College as I get ready to move to New York City to attend New York University. I will forever treasure the friends, the mentors, and the colleagues who made these last two years so unforgettable.

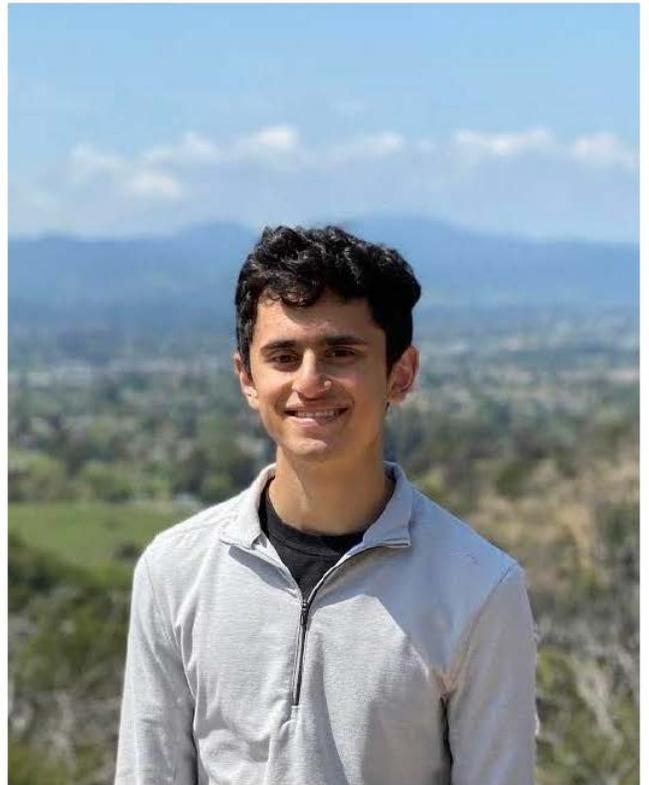


"You can be the solution for the problems you see in the world" - My Senior Quote



Caden Thun

My time at Middle College was everything I wanted it to be and more. Being around so many caring and genuine people has had a real, positive impact on me, and I will always be grateful for my time here. I hope everyone has been getting through the quarantine okay. Congrats to the class of 2020!



Chess club was fun. Thanks to Jared, Mr. Burke, and everyone else who helped made Thursdays at 11 so awesome.



Ally
Wright
*I am so grateful for
Middle College,
thank you all for
being a part of the
community where I
can feel that I
belong.*







Spirit of the Times

**Pop Culture
Elections**

Our Year in Pop Culture



Entertainment



Disney+ rocked the streaming industry when it launched in late 2019



TikTok has been downloaded over 1.5 billion times

Parasite won four Oscars in 2020 and made history by being the first non-English film to win Best Picture



Video Games



Minecraft was the most watched video game on Youtube in 2019.



In the 2019 Fortnite World Cup, the winner received 3 million dollars.

Music



Billie Eilish took home 5 Grammys in 2020

Billboard's top music artists of 2019

1		Post Malone
2		Ariana Grande
3		Billie Eilish
4		Khalid
5		Drake

Sports

The 49ers lost to the KC Chiefs in the 2020 Super Bowl



The Toronto Raptors beat the Warriors in the 2019 NBA Finals



Kobe Bryant's death in January of 2020 brought fans together nationwide in remembrance





Elections



The 2020 presidential candidates are Donald Trump and Joe Biden.



THE YEARBOOK TEAM



Jim
Burke



Cassia
Smith



Roshni
Sahu



Sam
Sarver



Gabby
Vilchez

AUTOGRAPHS

Sign Below

