

# Middle College News

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## High school grades mailed; college grades on-line Jan. 7

Enclosed in this month's Middle College News mailing are the final grades for the three high school classes. College grades will not be mailed home, but will be available on-line at Websmart on January 7. Some college grades may already be available on-line on Websmart. Students should view their unofficial transcript.

The college grades will be placed on the student's high school transcript. If there are questions about grades, contact the MC office or call/email the high school teachers directly.

## Textbooks issued Jan. 12

We've made plans for our students to get college textbooks prior to the start of college classes. Students should get their books on Wednesday, Jan. 12 (noon-1pm) in the CSM Bookstore. It's imperative that students pick up books at the assigned time. CSM instructors expect students to have books on the first day of class.

We will not distribute books to a student who has not returned books from the fall semester. Also, students must pay for college books if they didn't pass a class or withdrew from a class after the first two weeks. Checks can be made out and mailed to "San Mateo Middle College."

Middle College expects students to be able to get their own college books. Students can get their books by buying or renting from the CSM bookstore, or buying from an on-line dealer. We can help purchase books for students who have financial limitations. All students will receive books for their high school classes.

## Principal's Corner

By Greg Quigley

*With the holiday season upon us and the fall semester over, we should reflect on what's taken place personally and academically in the past year. Many Middle College students learned what it takes to be successful on a college campus and in college classes. Seniors are engaged in the process of applying to colleges and anxiously are awaiting acceptance letters from their chosen institutions.*

*Many students will enjoy the three-week break and continue with us in the spring. Others have chosen to continue their education at another location and we wish them well. Seven students expect to graduate this month and most will stay at CSM. Congratulations!*

*We'll welcome several new students for the spring on Jan. 11 and wish them well as they begin life as a Middle College student.*

*Middle College students start one week prior to the college students, meeting on Jan. 11 from 9am-noon in Bldg. 19, room 121. The students also have Middle College classes on Jan. 12-14 from 9am-noon. This head start allows students to get back into the school routine before CSM starts on Jan. 18 and gives new students a chance to meet the continuing students.*

*College grades will be available on Jan. 7. At that time, I'll update high school transcripts and check the spring schedules for seniors to determine if they're enrolled in the classes needed for graduation.*

*Middle College students will be off Friday, February 18 and Monday, February 21 in observance of the Presidents' Holiday. There are no college classes either day. Please note that some versions of the Middle College calendar listed the holidays as February 11 and 14. The six-week grading period ends February 17.*

*Continuing and new students have registered for spring classes. Seniors should meet with Mr. Clardy to ensure they are enrolled in the classes needed for graduation. Students must select their classes carefully, then be sure they stay enrolled in them. Many classes are filled, so students will have little chance to get into classes after the semester begins.*

*Many continuing students are on wait lists. There are no Middle College holds on their records, so once students receive an email at their my.smccd.edu account that says there is an opening, the student must register for the class via Websmart.*

*Have a relaxing and safe holiday season!*



## MIDDLE COLLEGE CALENDAR

Date	Event	Time	Location
January 11-14	Middle College classes	9am-noon	Bldg. 19, room 121
January 12	College textbook purchases	Noon-1pm	CSM bookstore
January 17	No school, Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday		
January 18	First day of college classes		
January 31	Last day to add semester-long classes		
February 18, 21	No school, Presidents' Holidays		
March 11	Middle College classes only	9am-noon	Bldg. 19, room 121
Wks of 3/28, 4/11	STAR Testing for juniors		

## ✓ SAT/ACT DEADLINES

The SAT and Subject Tests will be Saturday, Jan. 22 with a registration deadline of Dec. 23 and late registration due Jan. 7. The next test (SAT only) will be March 12 with a registration deadline of Feb. 11. View [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for details.

The next ACT will be Feb. 12; the registration deadline is Jan. 7. See [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) for more information.

## ✓ COMMUNITY DAY FUND

Middle College students coordinated two Community Days in the fall. The staff request that students contribute \$10 each for the Community Day Fund to help offset the costs of food and supplies for the Community Days, events that bring all Middle College students together. Checks or cash should be given to staff members on Jan. 11.

## ✓ CAREER 122

All Middle College students are required to take and pass CRER 122 ("Strategies for Educational Success") to meet a graduation requirement for Middle College. Most new students and some students who haven't passed the class will begin CRER 122 on Tuesday, Jan. 18 from 11:10-12:00 in Bldg. 18, room 302. This eight-week class covers such topics as time management, organization, note-taking and test-preparation. The class runs through March 15.

## ✓ CSM SCHOLARSHIPS

College of San Mateo offers many scholarships, with awards ranging from \$100 to approximately \$2,000. Who is eligible to apply? CSM/Middle College students who have . . .

- at least 12 graded CSM units
- a cumulative G.P.A. of 2.75 or above

Middle College students can get an application from the scholarship website: [www.collegeofsanmateo.edu/scholarships](http://www.collegeofsanmateo.edu/scholarships) Applications are due Feb. 1.

## ✓ MCHS SCHOLARSHIPS

Middle College has established a scholarship fund for graduating seniors. To contribute, go to <http://collegeofsanmateo.edu/middlecollege/scholarshipfund.asp>

## ✓ STAR TESTING

All Middle College juniors will take the state-mandated STAR tests, just as they would have at the comprehensive high schools, the weeks of March 28 and April 11. Make-up tests are the week of April 18. The testing will be conducted during the three-hour block of high school classes.

## ✓ OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Six Middle College students will work as camp leaders at the San Mateo County Outdoor Education program in La Honda from Jan. 10-14. The program is for fifth and sixth graders in San Mateo County public schools. The students have received transportation information from Mr. Quigley. For more details, contact Mr. Quigley at [gquigley@smuhsd.org](mailto:gquigley@smuhsd.org)

## ✓ GRADUATION INFORMATION

Seniors will be contacted by staff assistant Carol Ullrich regarding graduation info. Seniors need to provide their full name, which will be listed on their diploma. Also students will be placing orders for caps/gowns/tassels. The graduation is May 31 at 5:30pm in the CSM Theater.

## ✓ CSM FLEX DAY IN MARCH

Please note that College of San Mateo faculty will have a staff development day from March 11. However, the Middle College students will attend high school classes that day from 9am-noon. High school students are required to attend classes more than the community college students, thus our students must attend class March 11.

# Need money for college? FAFSA can help



By Michael Clardy, senior advisor

Without filling out the FAFSA (government financial statement), students applying for financial aid to almost every college and university will be ineligible for consideration! This is the first piece of information every college views before determining which students will be awarded grants or loans.

How do you fill out the FAFSA? The staff at FAFSA prefers that students apply online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) However, this form is very time consuming. Students may want to gather all the information needed offline first, then fill in the information on line.

If so, first download a worksheet at the FAFSA website. The worksheet should be available by Jan. 1. Students also can get a copy of the worksheet from me.

Fill out the worksheet, then after January 1, 2011 (the first time the site is available to take your information) go online to complete the form.

NOTE: There is an advantage to getting this form in as soon after January 1 as possible, especially if applying to UC or CSU. Financial awards are usually determined as soon as a student's college application and FAFSA form are both in. For information, call me at 574-6114 or email me at [clardymichael@hotmail.com](mailto:clardymichael@hotmail.com)

## Parents, students access Engrade for grade updates



Middle College teachers will continue to use web-based Engrade to record student grades and attendance through the spring semester. Students and their parents will receive an access code to view grades and assignments for their students. The website is [www.engage.com](http://www.engage.com)

## Parents, friends sign up for eScrip

Parents, students and family members are encouraged to sign up for escrip to help Middle College earn money for the scholarship fund. Go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) and sign up to have "San Mateo Middle College High School" benefit from your purchases from hundreds of retail and on-line business. We included escrip information in this month's mailing. The group code is 500025253. If you have questions, contact the Middle College office.

## Contact MCHS staff

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