Back-to-School Night on September 8

The annual Middle College Back-to-School Night is Wednesday, September 8 from 6pm-8pm in Bldg. 14, room 215. (See flyer for more information.) The Middle College teachers, Jennifer Fraser and Michael Clardy, will present information to parents about the two high school classes and the special aspects of the Middle College program. Refreshments will be available.

Our goal is to have 100 percent of our students represented by at least one parent. Please attend. Parents/guardians can park that night in lot 2 (Beethoven) and will need the parking permit included in this mailing. If you park in another student lot, you’ll need a student permit. No parking in the other staff lots.

Grade Reports, Engrade

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

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

How to contact staff:
Jennifer Fraser, English teacher: 574-6537 Email: fraserjen08@yahoo.com
Mike Clardy, social science teacher: 574-6114 Email: clardymichael@hotmail.com

Principal's Corner

By Greg Quigley

Welcome to the new school year!

The students experienced an unexpected power outage at CSM on morning of August 19. The college administration decided to cancel all classes that day due to lack of power. I reminded students that they needed to sign up on Websmart for the emergency text message system so they can be alerted when there is an emergency on campus.

We also sent out emails and phone calls regarding the campus closure. Hopefully, students and parents received all forms of communication from Middle College and CSM.

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

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

✓ High school instructors are “teachers”; college instructors are “professors.”
✓ Professors may not always check completed homework, but they will assume you can perform the same tasks on tests.
✓ Professors may not remind you of incomplete work.
✓ Professors are usually open and helpful, but want students to initiate contact for assistance.
✓ Professors expect and want you to attend their scheduled office hours.
✓ Professors may not follow the textbook. Instead, to amplify the text, they may give illustrations, provide background information, or discuss research about the topic you are studying. Or, they may expect you to relate the classes to the textbook readings.
✓ Professors may lecture nonstop, expecting you to identify the important points in your notes.

When professors write on the board, it may be to amplify the lecture, not to summarize it. Good notes are a must.
✓ Professors expect you to read, save, and consult the course syllabus; the syllabus spells out exactly what is expected of you, when it is due, and how you will be graded.

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

*Information from the Southern Methodist University website. Wiew http://www.smu.edu/aiie/transition.asp

Middle College Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 8</td>
<td>Middle College Back-to-School Night</td>
<td>6pm-8pm</td>
<td>Bldg. 14, room 215</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 10</td>
<td>Last day to drop college classes without record</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 24</td>
<td>End of first six-week grading period</td>
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<td>Weeks of Oct. 11/18</td>
<td>CSM Midterm exams</td>
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<td>October 12</td>
<td>CRER 122 final exam</td>
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<td>October 13</td>
<td>Student Education Plan (SEP) due</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 14</td>
<td>CRER 121 class begins</td>
<td>11:10-noon</td>
<td>Bldg. 18, room 203</td>
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<td>November 12</td>
<td>No classes, Veterans Day Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 25-26</td>
<td>No classes, Thanksgiving</td>
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✔ **Attendance**  
Parent/guardians are reminded that they must call the Middle College office (574-6101) to report when their student is absent; otherwise the absence is considered a truancy. Students should not take any vacations during the semester.
Students, not parents/guardians, should call the high school or college teachers when the student will be absent. Two reasons: the teachers sense that the student is concerned about missing the class and class material; and, the student can complete assignments at home and not fall behind.

✔ **Transcripts**  
The Middle College staff has revised the transcripts for students who took summer classes either at CSM or in the high school district. Seniors should review their transcripts to ensure they are taking the classes needed for high school graduation. Students can get a transcript from Mr. Quigley.

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

✔ **SAT/ACT registration**  
The first SAT and Subject Tests for the 2010-2011 school year will be Saturday, Oct. 9. Regular registration deadline is Sept. 10; late registration is Sept. 24. The next test will be Nov. 6. View www.collegeboard.com for more information.

✔ **Finals, Dec. 16-17**  
Reminder that the Middle College final exams are Thursday and Friday, Dec. 16 and 17 from 11:10-1:40p.m. College finals begin Saturday, Dec. 11. Students must attend the high school final exams. (English 7CP and US History on Dec. 16; Economics and English 5CP on Dec. 17). Vacation begins Dec. 18; school resumes Jan. 11.

✔ **CRER 122 class**  
Middle College students are required to pass CRER 122 and CRER 121 to meet a MCHS requirement. The eight-week CRER 122 class, “Strategies for Educational Success,” began on Aug. 19. The class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays and runs until Oct. 12.

✔ **SM Athletic Center**  
The San Mateo Athletic Club and Aquatic Center is a full-service fitness and wellness facility at College of San Mateo with memberships available to the students and the public. Membership reps are available to answer questions and provide tours of the new facility. Student membership rates are $35 per month. For more information, call 378-7373

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### Reports from the Classrooms

**By Michael Clardy, Social Science teacher**

All seniors should have met with me to discuss their senior internship and project. Students are required to complete the 24-hour internship by the end of the fall semester. We will begin the senior project in January. The project involves examining the internship experience and devising recommendations on how to make the work site more efficient. The project culminates in late May when students deliver a presentation to me, the work supervisor, and three other Middle College students. Be aware that students must pass the senior project to pass the American Government class. If they do not pass the project, they do not graduate. We will all work hard to ensure that everyone passes.

If your student is interested in applying to a four-year university, they need to take the SAT. (collegeboard.com) The UCs require students to take the SAT and two of the SAT-Subject tests. The UC application is due by November 30. CSUs require just the SAT. The CSU applications should be in by November 30. This is not a hard deadline. However, admissions categories will close as soon as they have reached their limit. Students who know that they are going to continue at a community college do not need to the SAT. Please call me (574-6114) if you have any questions.

Please take this opportunity to discuss with your student their personal, academic, and career goals. While these will most likely change with time, it is important for students to articulate where they want to go. Knowing this will help you guide them on how to achieve those goals.

**By Jennifer Fraser, English teacher**

In junior English, we are examining early American paintings, song lyrics, historical literary works, and advertisements to determine what is the image of an “American.” Students are practicing notetaking skills and have written their first essay, a reflection on a quotation by Henry David Thoreau. The essay parallels the prompts given on the SAT Writing Test. Juniors also have met with me regarding their first college goals counseling session.

By the time this letter arrives home, many students will have completed our annual “Simplify, simplify” experiment during which they attempt to follow some of Thoreau’s precepts and simplify their lives. They are to wear the same clothes for five days in a row. (They may wash them as needed.) They will then write about their observations during the experiment. Those who opt out of the experiment still write the essay, but they analyze what they felt they could not do the experiment and what this reveals about themselves and their society. The experiment always provokes good discussion and personal insights!

### Middle College Textbook Policy

The high school textbooks used by Middle College students will be checked out to the student during the school year. Students are expected to take good care of the textbooks and return the textbooks to the Middle College staff members by the conclusion of the course. Students who do not return the textbooks or who damage high school textbooks will be responsible for paying for a replacement textbook.

Middle College requires that students purchase their own college textbooks from the CSM Bookstore or from an online textbook service. Students will be able to write in and highlight in the books as needed, and later resell the textbook to the CSM bookstore or to an online business for a portion of the original purchase price. Students can rent textbooks from the CSM Bookstore. Many college students keep their college textbooks and use the books as a resource either for other courses or for occupational experiences.

Middle College has set up an account to help purchase textbooks for students with a financial need. Students who need financial assistance for textbook costs can complete a rationale for fee waiver. See the administrator for more information. These textbooks remain property of the SMUHSD and Middle College. Students who do not return these textbooks or who damage them will be responsible for paying for a replacement textbook. Student may not write in or deface the textbooks in any way.

The following guidelines have been established for Middle College students who need the program to purchase some or all of the college books:

- Books for dropped or withdrawn classes must be returned within first two weeks of the semester or student is responsible for purchase price of the book.
- Students are responsible for the cost of books in courses in which they receive an F or a non-credit grade.
- Students are responsible for paying for study guides, workbooks, solution manuals, course syllabi, class supplies or materials, other disposable items, and other non-textbook items.