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MIDLAND SCHOOL PROFILE 2016-2017

Midland School, located on a 2,860-acre ranch at the edge of the Los Padres Wilderness, is the leader in place-based education. Everything we do—from how we maintain our campus to the way we feed ourselves to the courses we choose to teach—originates from an intentional curriculum that focuses not only on college preparatory classes, but also on leadership, community, and stewardship.

THE STUDENTS

- 85 boarding only
- 24% domestic students of color
- 56% receive financial aid; avg grant \$33,553
- Grades 9-12
- 16% international
- 91% plan to enroll in 4-year colleges or universities
- 21 seniors
- 12% from 6 states not CA
- 9% plan to enroll in a community college

THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Graduation Requirements – a minimum of 20 units

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| 4 yrs English | 1 yr General Science | 1 yr Visual Arts | 1 sem Senior Thesis |
| 3 yrs Mathematics | 2 yrs Laboratory Science | 1 yr Midland 101 | 1 to 2.5 yrs Electives |
| 3 yrs Spanish | 3 yrs History & Social Science | | |

COURSES AVAILABLE to the class of 2016 during their time at Midland are listed below.

An *asterisk denotes an elective.
 "Advanced" indicates a second year and further study in a subject.
Bolded courses may be taken for honors credit; honors indicates deeper level of study.

Electives that don't fall within the traditional curriculum include Wilderness First Aid (graded .5 credit) and Mindfulness, Farm Internship, and Kitchen Internship (P/NC .25 credit).

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p><u>ENGLISH</u> English 9 World Studies: Literature American Studies: Literature English 12 *Writing & a Sense of Place (.5 cr) *Graphic Novels (.5 cr)</p> | <p><u>HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE</u> Midland 101: Natural History (.5 cr) World Studies: History American Studies: History *Water: CA's Liquid Gold (.5 cr) *Current Global Issues</p> | <p><u>SPANISH</u> Spanish 1 Spanish 2 Spanish 3 *Spanish 4 *Spanish 5: Latin American Literature</p> |
| <p><u>SCIENCE</u> Midland 101: Ecosystems (.5 cr) Chemistry Biology Physics *Anatomy and Physiology *Conservation and Agriculture (.5 cr) *Ecol. Field Research (.25 cr) *Marine Biology (.5 cr)</p> | <p><u>MATHEMATICS</u> Algebra 1 Geometry Algebra 2 *Precalculus *Calculus 1 *Calculus 2 *Statistics</p> | <p><u>VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS</u> Foundations of Visual Art *Representational Drawing *Drawing and Painting *Metals *Beginning Ceramics *Advanced Ceramics *Honors Art *Chorus (.25 cr) *Theater (.25 cr)</p> |

UNIQUE COURSES EXPLAINED

Midland 101: Ecosystems and Natural History is an interdisciplinary academic course that introduces first-year students to the ecosystems, geology, topography, botany, history, anthropology (our land is the site for what was the largest Chumash community in California), and water science of Midland's 2,860 acres. Transcript readers should credit students for one semester of science and one semester of social science. Midland 101+ is an abbreviated version for new upperclassmen.)

SENIOR THESIS: All seniors complete a Thesis as a graduation requirement. This work culminates each student's Midland education by embodying the values of academic self-reliance, personal responsibility, and information literacy. For this second semester course, seniors explore a topic of their choice, prepare a lengthy (minimum of 10 pages, often as long as 20 pages) thesis paper, and give a 20-minute oral presentation to the entire school community during the day-long Senior Symposium. They must also complete a week-long related internship.

TYPICAL COURSE LOAD:

Midland requires students to take a minimum of five classes per semester, though six is typical; the schedule has seven periods in the day. Due to our small size, most students have remarkably similar schedules the first three years. We advise students to keep one or two periods available for studying to supplement the 1.5 hour evening study hall. High achieving juniors often take two honors classes; some honors options may be limited due to the student's level of math and Spanish when they enrolled. Flexibility in coursework increases slightly in the senior year when English and Senior Thesis are the only mandated classes. Seniors typically take English, Senior Thesis, and three to five electives. We try to accommodate those students who wish to take more than five classes or a variety of electives, but scheduling conflicts due to our small size can prevent some students from taking extra classes.

STANDARDIZED TESTING AND AP'S:

Midland does not offer AP classes. However, students often take the AP exam if they are in American Studies: History Honors, Spanish 4 Honors, or high level math courses. Midland does not offer SAT or ACT test preparation, nor do our teachers tailor their classes to accommodate standardized tests. Because we have classes Monday through Saturday and obligations on Sundays, some students who want test preparation don't have time during the academic year and must meet those needs during the summer. However, most choose to work, travel, volunteer, camp, or take college courses instead. The Midland culture does not focus on standardized testing, and many students hail from middle schools that also emphasized classroom work over tests.

Outliers unduly affect testing stats for our small school. That said, the average scores over the last five years are:

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|--------------------------------|---------|
| ACT Composite mean | 29 |
| ACT Middle 50% | 22-30 |
| SAT Critical reading | 584 |
| SAT CR Middle 50% | 500-660 |
| SAT Math | 587 |
| SAT Math Middle 50% | 510-650 |

MARKING SYSTEM AND RANKING:

Midland's marks are A through F, where an A is 100-93, A- is 92-90, B+ is 89-87, B is 86-83, B- is 82-80, and so on. GPAs are calculated using an unweighted 4.00 scale. "A+" marks are not awarded. A "D-" is a passing grade, but we often require a student who earns a C- or lower in core courses to take an approved summer course if we feel they are not ready to advance or to help them be eligible for the University of California.

Transcript grades are not weighted for Honors courses. Transcript GPA's are calculated using grades from each semester and from courses taken ONLY at Midland.

Midland does not rank its students because there are so few students per grade level. We have selective admissions criteria and offer only college preparatory classes. Students who do not have the ability or motivation to succeed in college do not make it to the senior year at Midland. Our experience is that most graduates earn similar and often higher GPAs in college.

THE SELF-RELIANCE AND LEADERSHIP CURRICULUM:

Through the Job System, our community relies on students to maintain the campus under the management of two school prefects and additional seniors who act as heads of specific jobs. The school has no maintenance or janitorial staff. For decades, Midland students have taken pride in their responsibility for the school's appearance and basic operations. The average job requires 20 minutes per day for underclassmen and slightly more for seniors. Some students work in the dining hall, kitchen, bathrooms, athletic facilities, or library; others bring food to our tables from the organic garden, feed the pigs, deliver mail, operate the student store or bank. Often a particular skill set or interest will determine what job a student has.

The Prefect System gives seniors tremendous responsibility for the well-being of younger students. Each year, the faculty selects 12 senior Class Prefects. These prefects teach their prefectees about Midland's philosophy and traditions, and they act as positive role models, counselors, and guides. Two Head Prefects oversee the Class Prefects and the Job System (assigning jobs and making sure they are done well), and they are the primary liaison between the Head of School and the students. Head Prefects also play an important role in disciplinary matters, working together with teachers through the student-faculty council.

Together, the demands of the Job System and Prefect System make life at Midland uniquely challenging, requiring students to balance academics and athletics with responsibilities that their peers at other schools do not have. Midland students attend classes six days per week and have responsibilities on Sunday and thus do not have time for traditional extracurricular activities. Our students have few opportunities for extracurricular community service "hours," but they *all* perform a service to their immediate community every day, and they understand the value of helping others. Graduates report that the Midland experience equipped them exceptionally well to meet the academic challenges of college and beyond with confidence, integrity, and success.

DISCIPLINE REPORTING POLICY:

Because only .1% of students board nationwide and because these students are subject to significantly more scrutiny than a typical day student whose weekend behaviors generally go unnoticed by school officials, Midland has decided to answer the question about student discipline with "school policy prevents me from responding." We encourage students to report major disciplinary issues to colleges; however it is rare for students to reach senior year and graduate if they have had unresolved issues with disrespect, thievery, plagiarism, alcohol, or drugs. Midland recognizes the developmental challenges of adolescence and views discipline issues as opportunities to teach the importance of personal integrity, honesty, and community. Midland values its relationships

with colleges and universities, and we will communicate about discipline issues if we feel the incident in question has not been thoroughly resolved on our campus or may have an impact on future communities.

WHAT SOME STUDENTS DO IN THEIR FREE TIME:

Build treehouses, go on camping trips or day hikes, play chess, give admissions tours, play Dungeons & Dragons, make desert for the whole school, participate in events sponsored by the Common Ground service club, or join the Social Committee and organize dances, dress-up-as-your-twin day, or field day.

THINGS STUDENTS BRING TO MIDLAND:

Axes, Lighters, Dogs, Horses, Hammocks, Bicycles, Work gloves, Pocket knives, Camping gear, iPods, Laptops, TI 84 calculators, and a plethora of musical instruments and costumes.

SHOWER-FIRES:

Student bathrooms do not have gas or electric water heaters. Instead, students gather wood, use an ax to chop it into manageable pieces, and prepare a shower-fire in tanks that heat the water. Not as onerous as it seems, the job rotates among the students in each of the three lower classes, and the senior Prefects are available to teach and/or help those who need assistance. If there are 12 freshman girls, then each, with the help of a partner, makes the shower fire for her class once every 6 days. They will light the fire after lunch, stoke it during the afternoon, and hot water is ready for all freshman girls and their Prefects at 5:00 pm. Solar panels provide hot water during the warmer months. This anachronistic holdover from the 1930's before Midland had electricity still demonstrates the vital role of each student's contributions to the community.

TECHNOLOGY:

Midland students have no cell phones. We ask students not to play video games or watch movies in their rooms. Students may only access the internet in the library (faculty, however, have access to the wireless network). We provide Chromebooks to juniors and seniors to reduce congestion in the computer lab and to facilitate college applications and thesis work. No student may have a car. We want our students to live unplugged lives, to communicate directly with peers and adults, and to use free time to engage with others and explore our 2,860-acre property.

ACCREDITATION AND MEMBERSHIP:

Midland is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools, the California Association of Independent Schools, The Association of Boarding Schools, and A Better Chance.



MIDLAND SCHOOL COLLEGE PROFILE 2016-2017

Typically 100% of Midland seniors enroll in 4-year colleges or university. This year 91% have such a plan; two students plan to enroll at 2-year colleges, one to study gunsmithing and one to study dental hygiene. Members of the Classes of 2012-2016 matriculated to 4-year colleges and universities including:

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|------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Bates College | Howard University | San Jose State University |
| Berklee College of Music | Kenyon College | Smith College |
| Boston University | Lake Forest College | Stanford University |
| CalPoly, San Luis Obispo | Lehigh University | Tufts University |
| Centre College | Lewis & Clark College | Tulane University |
| Clark University | Loyola Marymount University | UC Davis |
| College of the Atlantic | MA College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences | UC Merced |
| College of Wooster | Marymount California University | UC Santa Cruz |
| Colorado College | Middlebury College | UCLA |
| Cornell University | MT State University, Bozeman | University of La Verne |
| CSU, Channel Islands | Northwestern University | University of Oklahoma |
| CSU, East Bay | Oberlin College | University of Puget Sound |
| CSU, Sacramento | Parsons - The New School | University of Redlands |
| Evergreen State College | Penn State - University Park | University of San Diego |
| Fort Lewis College | Philadelphia University | University of Wyoming |
| George Washington University | Pitzer College | Ursinus College |
| Guilford College | Pomona College | Wartburg College |
| Hampshire College | Quest University Canada | Wellesley College |
| Harvard University | Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute | Wells College |
| Harvey Mudd College | San Francisco State University | Whitman College |
| Hendrix College | | |

Since 2010, graduates also have attended or been accepted to colleges and universities including:

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|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Alfred University | Drew University | New York University | University of Arizona |
| Allegheny College | Earlham College | NC State University | University of British Columbia |
| Amherst College | Eckerd College | Northeastern University | University of Chicago |
| Babson College | Emerson College | Northern Arizona University | University of CO at Boulder |
| Bard College | Emory University | Occidental College | University of Denver |
| Beloit College | Fordham University | Otis College of Art and Design | University of Houston |
| Bennington College | Furman University | Pace University | U of IL at Urbana-Champaign |
| Berry College | Georgia Southern University | Pratt Institute | University of Iowa |
| Bowdoin College | Gonzaga University | Prescott College | University of MT, Missoula |
| Bradley University | Goucher College | Reed College | University of New Mexico |
| Bryn Mawr College | Grinnell College | Ripon College | University of Oregon |
| Butler University | Guilford College | RIT | University of Pittsburgh |
| California College of the Arts | Hamilton College - NY | Rutgers University | University of San Francisco |
| California Lutheran University | Hampshire College | Saint Mary's College | University of South Carolina |
| Calvin College | Hartwick College | Santa Clara University | University of St Andrews |
| Carleton College | Haverford College | SCAD | University of the Pacific |
| Case Western Reserve | Hawaii Pacific University | SAIC | University of Vermont |
| Chabot College | Hobart and William Smith | Scripps College | University of Washington |
| Chapman University | Humboldt State University | Seattle Pacific University | University of WI, Madison |
| Coe College | Ithaca College | Seattle University | Vassar College |
| Colby-Sawyer College | Juniata College | Sewanee | Wake Forest University |
| Colorado School of Mines | Knox College | Sonoma State University | Warren Wilson College |
| Columbia College Chicago | Linfield College | Southern Oregon University | Western WA University |
| Connecticut College | Lynchburg College | St. Lawrence University | Westminster College |
| Cornell College | Marquette University | St. Mary's College of MD | Wheaton College MA |
| Cotter College | Marymount California | Stevens Institute of Tech | Whittier College |
| CSU Chico, LA, Monterey Bay | McGill University | Stony Brook University | Willamette University |
| DePaul University | Miami University, Oxford | Swarthmore College | Williams College |
| Dickinson College | Michigan State University | Trinity College | Woodbury University |
| Dominican University | Morehouse College | UC Berkeley, UCI, UCSD, UCSB | Worcester Polytechnic Institute |