

# Middle College High School @ Seattle University

## Celebrating Our First Year On Campus!



*Middle College High School is a Seattle Public School in partnership with Seattle University.*

*Cindy Nash, Principal*

*Beth Brunton, Coordinator & Humanities Teacher*

*Patty Borman, Math & Science Teacher*

## Building a Meaningful Partnership: Cross-campus Activities Support First Year Success

Middle College High School at Seattle University (MCHS@SU) was established Fall Quarter 2012. The school is located in Loyola Hall and currently enrolls 50 high school students from the surrounding community and wider Seattle area.

### **A Warm Welcome to Campus by University Staff and Students**

In November 2012, MCHS students arrived on campus and were welcomed by a number of university offices and key staff who provided a range of campus orientation activities. Dominique Maryanski, Office of Public Safety, and Bob Novak, Lemieux Library and McGoldrick Learning Commons, provided an introduction to campus safety and services. Student Development Administrators were also on hand to discuss

campus life and answer the high school students' questions about what it means to be a high school student on a college campus. Upon arrival to campus and at different times during collaborative projects, students have toured the university campus and various offices, departments and classrooms. The opportunity to participate in guided tours and attend university classes and events related to their studies has helped the high school students feel very much a part of the SU community.

### **College Access Support by COE faculty and the CSCE**

Through the College of Education (COE) and the Center for Service & Community Engagement (CSCE), MCHS students have received continuous college access support. In collaboration with her Student Development Administration graduate

students, Dr. Erica Yamamura, Associate Professor in the College of Education, developed a college pathways workshop series for MCHS students during the 2012-13 Academic Year. The college pathways series included various college student panels, admissions information sessions, and residence/campus life presentations and tours.



**Dr. Erica Yamamura and her graduate students lead a college pathways workshop for MCHS students.**

## College Access Support (con't)

Duron Jones, CSCE student leader, worked with Sally Haber, Associate Director in the Center for Service and Community Engagement, to develop a College Access Course specially tailored to the MCHS students' interests and needs. The students can earn credits toward their high school diploma and prepare for post-secondary education simultaneously. These cross-campus partnership activities are designed to develop the students' college readiness and help them articulate goals and an action plan for their lives after high school. Ensuring comprehensive college access support, students from the COE Student Development Administration program were also available to MCHS as trainers and mentors, giving MCHS students additional individual guidance and support.

*“Middle College helps me to focus on the classes that I need, to stop, ask teachers, and get more help than I would in a larger setting.”*

Issac Constantine,

MCHS Student, 12<sup>th</sup> grade

## Year One Highlights

### Faculty Developed Courses for High School Students

#### *“Financial Literacy & Street Law”*

- Prof. Margaret Fisher, Patricia Sully & Law Students

#### *“Social Studies StoryPath”*

- Dr. Margit McGuire, College of Education

#### *“Youth-Involved Participatory Research”*

- Dr. Laurie Stevahn & Dr. Charisse Cowan Pitre, College of Education

#### *“Cognition Training & Attention Development”*

- Dr. Amy Eva, College of Education

#### *“Introduction to Service Learning (with Master in Teaching students)”*

- Dr. Mark Roddy and Dr. Bethany Plett, College of Education

#### *“Participation in the Law School Social Justice Series”*

-SU Law Faculty and Students

#### *“Coaching and Mentoring by School Counseling Faculty”*

- Dr. Mary Graham, College of Education

## SU Faculty and Students Partner to Develop and Deliver Courses

A significant highlight of our first year is the development and delivery of academic courses by the College of Education, Law School and Center for Service and Community Engagement.

Faculty and students across campus engaged MCHS students in a range of educational experiences to authentically engage students and deepen learning. During Winter Quarter 2013, Dr. Margit McGuire, professor and program director of the Master in Teaching Program, co-taught a social studies course with MCHS humanities teacher, Beth Brunton. The unit of study was entitled, "The Civil Rights Movement: Freedom Summer Storypath." The high school students imagined themselves as civil rights workers traveling to and living in Jackson, Mississippi in the summer of 1964. They delved into primary documents that featured the events of the summer including voter registration forms, security bulletins, the FBI poster of the disappearance of three civil rights workers, and firsthand accounts of civil rights workers.

*“Middle College High School has taught me to have confidence in myself to go out and succeed in life.”*

Noe Ramirez-Toefilo,  
MCHS student, 12<sup>th</sup> grade



**MCHS @ SU Open house, January 2013: Seattle Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Jose Banda and Dr. Deborah Wilds, SU Board of Regents, are pictured with students.**



**Dr. Laurie Stevahn and MCHS students explore equity issues in a student-led research project investigating perceptions of freedom 100 years after the Emancipation Proclamation.**



**Career exploration included “teaching as a career path.” Students joined social justice educators at the Martinez Foundation Luncheon, Bellevue, WA, October 2013.**



**MCHS students discuss diverse perspectives on charity and its role in society. Duron Jones, Albers School of Business undergraduate and CSCE student leader, facilitates the discussion.**

“At MCHS@SU, I get to see the college student experience and observe what the university is like.”

Daniel Ghebre,

MCHS Student, 12th Grade



**Using mindfulness, Dr. Amy Eva teaches stress reduction and attention development to MCHS students.**

# Middle College High School: Just the Facts!

## What is Middle College High School?

Middle College is an alternative high school, administered by the Seattle Public School District. It is open to all high school students, 16 and older, who are looking for an educational option to prepare for college and complete their high school graduation requirements in a small school setting.

## History and Seattle Locations

The first Middle College High School opened in New York in the 1970s. Seattle Central Community College, led by SU College of Education alumnae Dr. Julie Hungar, opened the first MCHS site in Seattle in 1991 (it has been housed at Northgate Mall for the past 11 years). South Seattle Community College opened a MCHS site in 1996 (housed at High Point Center Neighborhood House), and the University of Washington followed in 1998. In 2001, the American Indian Heritage Program joined Middle College High School (located at Wilson Pacific Center). [www.mchslic.com](http://www.mchslic.com).

## Who can enroll in Middle College High School at Seattle University?

A maximum of 50 high school students are enrolled annually (this includes on campus and distance learners). Students must be between ages 16-20 and have a minimum of 10 credits earned at a previous high school, usually a comprehensive high school in Seattle Public Schools. Students residing in the Seattle University Youth Initiative catchment area are recruited.

**Contact or visit us at:**  
**Middle College High School**  
**@ Seattle University,**  
**Loyola Hall**  
**901 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue,**  
**Seattle, WA 98122**  
**(206) 720-3078**

SU Faculty Contact: Dr. Charisse Cowan Pitre, MCHS  
 Partnership Director, [cowan@seattleu.edu](mailto:cowan@seattleu.edu)

## What Does a Typical School Day Look Like?

Breakfast is served daily at 8:30am, and the classes begin at 9 a.m. There are usually three class periods. Most mornings consist of core classes (humanities or math/science). Afternoons tend to be student-directed or include special programming, such as special guest speakers.

## Can Middle College High School students receive college credit?

Students in MCHS have the option of taking community college, college-level courses free of charge through Running Start. These courses can transfer as credit to any institution of higher learning.

## How can my department become involved with Middle College High School?

Having upper-level high school students on campus provides unique learning opportunities for colleges and departments across campus. There are opportunities for research and bridging theory and practice, allowing SU students to apply learning immediately to a classroom of high school students. Please contact Dr. Charisse Cowan-Pitre ([cowan@seattleu.edu](mailto:cowan@seattleu.edu)) for information on how to connect the students in your college with MCHS.



**“Middle College’s small classes help me to focus on what’s important: my goals.”**

Jerry Au, MCHS Student, 12th Grade