

New Student Orientation

September 3–7, 2008

Please note: Many of the activities throughout Orientation have been scheduled by Commons, and occur in Commons-specific locations and at alternate times. Please read the schedule very carefully and highlight the event times and locations that apply to your Commons. Unless specifically designated as “optional,” your attendance at all Orientation events is expected.

Wednesday, September 3

8:00 A.M.–3:00 P.M.

Check in at Commons Welcome Centers

Your first stop should be your Commons, where you can pick up your Orientation packet and room key, meet your Commons team and residential life staff, and move your belongings into your room.

Locations:

Atwater: Allen Hall Brainerd: Stewart Hall Cook: Battell North
Ross: Ross Commons Office Wonnacott: Battell South

9:00–10:30 A.M.

Welcome for All International and Exchange Students, followed by Immigration Responsibilities and SEVIS meeting.

Exchange students and international students in F-1 visa status who did not attend international student orientation on August 29 should attend this session. It is essential that all international students understand how visa status is maintained, and what circumstances might put your visa status in jeopardy. The International Student and Scholar Services staff will address your responsibilities as an F-1 student visa holder according to U.S. immigration laws, review the SEVIS system, visa issues, and other important topics that are unique to international students. Axinn Center 103 and 104

10:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M.

Information Center, Main Library

After checking into your Commons (or for family members awaiting the return of students on MiddView trips) stroll over to the Library to talk with key members of the Middlebury staff and faculty who oversee some of the most important aspects of student life on campus. Representatives from the following offices will be on hand to share information and answer your questions:

ACE (Alliance for Civic Engagement)
ADA (the Americans with Disabilities Office)
ACTR (Addison County Transit Resources)
Chellis House (Women’s Studies)
CTLR (the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Research)
CCHR (the Center for Counseling and Human Relations)

Computing Helpdesk
CSO (the Career Services Office)
CCAL (the Center for Campus Activities and Leadership)
The Parton Health Center
Office for Institutional Planning and Diversity
Department of Public Safety
Student Employment Office
Student Insurance
The Scott Center for Spiritual and Religious Life
Environmental Affairs Office

Representatives from three local banks, the National Bank of Middlebury, Key Bank and Citizens Bank, will be present at the Information Center to assist those interested in establishing local checking accounts.

11:30 A.M.—2:00 P.M.

Lunch for New Students and Family Members

A complimentary “drop-in” light lunch will be available in Ross and Atwater dining halls from 11:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Other options include The Grille, located in McCullough Student Center, for families who wish to purchase lunch on campus, or any of the local restaurants on the list provided at the Commons Welcome Centers.

Brainerd and Ross Commons: Ross Dining Hall

Atwater, Cook and Wonnacott Commons: Atwater Dining Hall

4:15–4:45 P.M.

Welcome from President Liebowitz

President Ronald D. Liebowitz shares a welcoming address with new students and families. Acting Dean of the College Gus Jordan will offer brief opening remarks.

Nelson Arena

4:45 P.M.

Family Reception

All new students and families are invited to enjoy light refreshments and beverages with President Liebowitz and members of the Middlebury staff and faculty before dinner.

Library lawn (Rain location: tent behind Battell Hall)

5:30–8:00 P.M.

Dinner in Campus Dining Halls

Enjoy a casual dinner with other students and families. In order to ensure that we can accommodate all of our visitors, please eat at the dining hall assigned to your Commons:

Atwater/Cook residents: Atwater Dining Hall

Brainerd, Ross, and Wonnacott residents: Ross Dining Hall

Please bring your free dinner tickets, which will be available at the Commons Welcome Centers. You may also choose to eat in any of Middlebury’s local restaurants if you wish; to explore some of these options, visit www.midvermont.com/ or www.middkid.com/college/eating/.

8:00–9:00 P.M.

Final program for MiddView participants (students only)

Tent on Battell beach (rain location, Nelson Arena)

9:00 P.M.

First-year Students Settle In

Meet the other students and residential life staff on your floor and spend the evening settling into your new environment. Family members still remaining on campus may depart for the evening.

Please note: If you would like to have lunch with your family on Thursday, please see the information under “Placement Exams” on pages 18–20 to make arrangements to meet your family.

Thursday, September 4

7:00–8:00 A.M.

Breakfast for Students by Commons

All first-year students will go to breakfast with their first-year counselors (FYCs) and floor-mates to review your schedule for the day (and fuel up). Exchange students may sleep in; breakfast will be served in the dining halls until 9:00 A.M.

Brainerd and Ross Commons: Ross Dining Hall

Atwater, Cook and Wonnacott Commons: Atwater Dining Hall

7:30–9:00 A.M.

Breakfast for Parents and Family Members

Parents and family members are invited to a drop-in complimentary continental breakfast in McCardell Bicentennial Hall’s Great Hall and outside on the adjoining terrace.

Great Hall in McCardell Bicentennial Hall

8:00–10:00 A.M.

First-year Students: First-year Seminar Meetings

This will be your first meeting with your seminar class and first-year academic adviser. Each professor chooses to structure this class differently: while some may cover administrative topics and class guidelines in some depth, others will use this session to begin exploring the topic of the seminar. During this class meeting, you will schedule an individual appointment with your adviser for Thursday afternoon or Friday. Please review your schedule for Thursday and Friday carefully before signing up for your appointment to be sure that it doesn’t conflict with other events taking place that morning.

Please see your Orientation packet for first-year seminar locations

9:00 – 10:00 A.M.

Family Members:

A Taste of the Classroom or Student Development Sessions

Family members can experience a taste of the Middlebury classroom, or may choose to explore one of three important issues in student development and planning.

A Taste of the Classroom

Energy and Climate

The use of energy far beyond what our bodies can provide is one feature that distinguishes humankind from other species on Planet Earth. Yet today we know that our energy use has significant deleterious effects on the environment, the most global of these being climate change. This sample class, taught by Benjamin F. Wissler Professor of Physics Rich Wolfson, will combine aspects of the Environmental Studies course “Global Climate Change” and the introductory physics sequence to explore the energy/climate link. Expect an interactive lecture complete with demonstrations and student participation.

McCardell Bicentennial Hall 216

Realism and fantasy in musicals on film

By its very nature, the musical precludes strict realism, but the choice of what to stylize, and how, enables similar cinematic and musical means to achieve very different ends. Visiting Assistant Professor of Music Brian Robison will briefly survey realistic and unrealistic elements in *Guys and Dolls* (1955) and *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* (1964), and will suggest what these films have to say about their time, place, and genre.

McCardell Bicentennial Hall 219

The Dark Ages?

The Middle Ages get a bad rap in the modern world: peopled with barbarians, ravaged by disease, and riddled with ignorance, superstition and oppression. We see the lights go back on in the Renaissance and breathe a sigh of relief. This lecture, taught by Assistant Professor of History Professor Louisa Burnham and drawn from the introductory history course “The Making of Europe,” will take a hard look at the myth of the dark ages and will explore three bright beacons from their supposed darkest moments (6TH-8TH centuries): the religious vitality of the Mediterranean, how the Irish saved civilization, and the encyclopedic world of Isidore of Seville.

McCardell Bicentennial Hall 104

Student Development Sessions

Exploring and Applying a Liberal Arts Education

Through the study of the liberal arts, Middlebury students develop the professional competencies most valued by employers and graduate schools: critical thinking, teamwork, managing projects, scientific and research competency, quantitative/analytical skills, creativity, and communicating effectively. But how do students find those jobs and graduate programs that best combine these skills with their passions? With a four-year plan of programs and resources, Middlebury's Career Services Office helps students to explore ways to apply their strengths through meaningful professional and graduate work. Middlebury students and young alumni will speak briefly about how their studies and the programs of the Career Services Office combine to prepare them for post-college work. Moderated by Executive Director of Career Services Jaye Roseborough.

Dana Auditorium in Sunderland Language Center

Ten Common Concerns of First-Years and Their Families in the Transition to College: Making the Most of Phone Calls, Letters, E-mails, and Vacations

Gary Margolis '67, director of the Center for Counseling and Human Relations and the parent of two former college students, will review common issues that arise for first-year students and their parents and answer questions about supporting your son or daughter and yourself during this transition.

McCardell Bicentennial Hall 220

Preparing to Study Abroad

Middlebury is widely regarded as a leader in international studies, which includes classes and majors; co-curricular programs; summer Language Schools; graduate programs at the Monterey Institute of International Studies (our affiliate); and undergraduate study-abroad opportunities in all academic disciplines. More than 60 percent of Middlebury students study abroad, and we strongly encourage students to do so for their entire junior year. This does, however, require careful planning. In this session, Michael Geisler, Vice President for Language Schools, Schools Abroad, and Graduate Programs will provide an overview of Middlebury's study abroad options, financing, and the planning process students should undertake, which begins in their first year of college.

Wright Theater

9:15–10:15 A.M.

Exchange Student Breakfast

Christie Jones and her colleagues in the Office of Off-Campus Study welcome you to a continental breakfast in their office. OCS is responsible for the exchange agreements with your home university and regularly sends Middlebury students to study there. Come and meet the staff of the study abroad office.

Sunderland Language Center 129

10:00–10:30 A.M.

Coffee Break for Students and Family Members

Please note that this may be the last opportunity for family good-byes, as family members should plan to leave after their Commons meeting. We encourage you to make your own arrangements for a meeting place.

McCardell Bicentennial Hall, Sunderland Language Center Lobby, Wright Theater Lobby

10:30 A.M.–12:30 P.M.

Pre-Advising at the Center for Teaching, Learning and Research

The morning session is available to students who have consulted the placement exam chart and determined that they do not need to take any exams. The afternoon session will be a repeat of the morning session and offered for those who could not attend the morning session due to placement exams. The Center for Teaching, Learning, and Research is hosting a pre-advising session to assist new students with exploring their options for course selection and understanding Middlebury's distribution requirements. This session will help you prepare for your meeting with your first-year seminar instructor/advisor, where you will discuss your fall course selection and begin long-term planning. Join us for personalized attention from professionals and student staff. Center for Teaching, Learning, and Research

Library Suite 225

10:30 A.M.–12:30 P.M.

Students: Placement Exams

If you are interested in enrolling in the following departments, consult your Placement Exam Information Chart on pages 18–20 to determine if you should complete an exam: Biology, Chemistry, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Math, Music, Psychology, Russian, and Spanish.

If you are planning to connect briefly with family members after you complete your exams, you should review your placement exam schedule together on Wednesday to determine approximately how long your exams will last, and designate a meeting time and place in advance.

10:30–11:30 A.M.

Family Members: Introductions to Commons Teams

Family members meet their student's Commons team. These individuals serve as the students' primary support system throughout their Middlebury experience. This meeting is an important opportunity for families to connect with their student's Commons Head(s) and Dean, learn about Middlebury's Commons system of residential and academic life, and ask questions. Space capacity issues dictate that this session is for parents and family members only.

Atwater Commons Meeting: Le Château Grand Salon

Brainerd Commons Meeting: Center for the Arts (CFA) Concert Hall

Cook Commons Meeting: Dana Auditorium in Sunderland Language Center

Ross Commons Meeting: McCardell Bicentennial Hall 216

Wonnacott Commons Meeting: Warner Hemicycle

- 11:30 A.M. **Family Members Depart**
Family members who are still on campus should plan to depart at this time.
- 12:30–1:30 P.M. **Lunch with Floor or Exchange Group**
All new students will eat lunch with their FYCs, while exchange students will eat with a small group of returning students. Over lunch, you will learn how the Academic Forum works, and how to get the most out of this event. Bring your course catalogue (in your Orientation materials) to lunch, as you will go directly from there to the Academic Forum and will find it useful to have with you. Floor meeting locations to be determined by FYCs and exchange leaders.
Brainerd and Ross Commons: Ross Dining Hall
Atwater, Cook and Wonnacott Commons: Atwater Dining Hall
- 1:30–2:30 P.M. **Academic Forum**
The Academic Forum is your opportunity to explore Middlebury’s wide array of academic departments and programs before you meet with your adviser to select your fall courses. Representatives from each department will be available at individual tables to answer questions about specific courses and help you to identify the classes that best meet your interests. Other resources, such as the Study Abroad Office, Pre-Medical Adviser, Learning Resource Center, Writing Program, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Office, will be there to offer additional guidance. Bring your course catalogue!
Kenyon Arena
- 2:30–4:00 P.M. **Individual Meetings with Advisers Begin**
Students’ one-on-one adviser meetings, scheduled at the first-year seminar on Thursday morning, begin. Students who scheduled their meeting for Friday may choose to attend Pre-Advising at the CTLR (below).
Locations and times scheduled at first-year seminar
- 2:30–4:00 P.M. **Pre-Advising at the Center for Teaching, Learning and Research**
See description above at 10:30 a.m.
Center for Teaching, Learning, and Research (Library Suite 225)
- 4:00–5:30 P.M. **Commons Meetings**
What is a “Commons team?” How does Middlebury’s Commons system work, why was it developed, and what are its goals? In these interactive and informative meetings, all new students will divide into their Commons, meet their Commons team, and learn more about the Middlebury residential experience from students, staff and faculty.
Atwater Commons: Wright Theatre
Brainerd Commons: Center for the Arts (CFA) Concert Hall
Cook Commons: Dana Auditorium in Sunderland Language Center
Ross Commons: McCardell Bicentennial Hall 216
Wonnacott Commons: Warner Hemicycle

5:30–6:30 P.M.

Dinner in Dining Halls

Brainerd and Ross Commons: Ross Dining Hall

Atwater, Cook and Wonnacott Commons: Atwater Dining Hall

6:30–8:00 P.M. AND
8:30–10:00 P.M.

(Atwater and Cook residents)

(Brainerd, Ross, and Wonnacott residents)

Sex Signals

“A real-life, funny, sort-of-improv show about sex and stuff.”

Blending a unique combination of improvisational comedy, education, and audience participation, “Sex Signals” provides a provocative look at the issues of dating, sex, and gender roles on college campuses in the new millennium. What signals do you send? Please make note of the specific time slot that you have been assigned (based on your Commons)

Dana Auditorium

9:30–11:30 P.M.

Square Dance

Take part in one of the Middlebury Orientation program’s most beloved traditions: the classic Vermont square dance. Great fun for participants and spectators alike, and a wonderful chance to meet new classmates.

Battell Beach

Friday, September 5

7:00–9:00 A.M.

Drop-in Breakfast

Brainerd and Ross Commons: Ross Dining Hall

Atwater, Cook and Wonnacott Commons: Atwater Dining Hall

8:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M.

Individual Meetings with Advisers

Students’ 30-minute meetings with advisers, scheduled at Thursday’s first-year seminar meeting, take place throughout the day.

Locations and times scheduled at first-year seminar meetings

9:00–10:00 A.M.

Tax Issues for Students from Non-Tax Treaty Countries

Isabel Smidy, the College’s Assistant Controller for Tax Compliance, will provide an overview of your tax status while studying in the U.S. You will complete important paperwork and will need your travel documents. For students from countries that do not have tax treaties with the U.S. only. Please see below for a list of tax-treaty countries. If your country of citizenship is not on the list, and you are not a U.S. or Canadian citizen, you must attend this session.

Monroe 222

10:00–11:00 A.M.

Tax Issues for Students from Tax-Treaty Countries

Isabel Smidy, the College's Assistant Controller for Tax Compliance, will provide an overview of your tax status while studying in the U.S. You will complete important paperwork and will need your travel documents.

Monroe 222

Please Note: The United States has tax treaties with the following countries: Antilles, Armenia, Aruba, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Bermuda, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakstan, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Netherlands, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, PRC (China), Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan.

If you are a citizen of one of the above counties, attend this tax issues session. If you are not a citizen of one of the above countries, attend the tax issues session from 9:00–10:00 A.M.; see above.

11:30 A.M.–1:30 P.M.

Lunch and Bike Registration

Registering your bike with the Office of Public Safety is painless, free, and useful. Should your bike wander off, a registration number will assist with its identification and safe return. Members of the Public Safety staff will be available at tables outside Atwater and Ross dining halls from 11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. Bring your bike (and your bike lock) to lunch and take care of this important process.

Brainerd and Ross Commons: Ross Dining Hall

Atwater, Cook and Wonnacott Commons: Atwater Dining Hall

11:30 A.M.–1:30 P.M.

Applying for a Social Security Number Drop-In Session

If you are not a U.S. citizen and wish to apply for a Social Security Number, a representative from the Social Security Administration and the ISSS staff will be available to accept your Social Security Application and answer questions. Please note that you must have a Social Security Number in order to receive wages for employment at the College. This is a drop-in session; you can stop in at any time to complete a Social Security application. You do not need to be present for the entire event.

Carr Hall Classroom

1:00–2:00 P.M.

Rhythms of the Semester: Time Management at Middlebury

Yonna McShane, Director of Learning Resources, will provide a humorous and useful look at the rhythms of the semester at Middlebury. This optional session will help you to manage your course work, extracurricular activities, job, and leisure time to ensure a balanced schedule. This event has been strongly recommended for all students by previous attendees. If you think you won't need time management strategies at Middlebury...think again.

McCardell Bicentennial Hall 220

4:30–6:00 P.M.

Common Reading Discussion

All members of the class of '12 received the anthology, “Poetry of War: Giving Voice to Conflict,” from their Commons Head(s), who will also introduce this event. Gathering in small groups led by faculty and staff members, you will have the opportunity to discuss with your peers your responses to and reflections upon this collection. The Common Reading discussions introduce you to the kinds of rich intellectual exchange that you are likely to experience in your Commons, with fellow students and with many staff and faculty members from across campus.

Meeting locations:

Atwater: Meet at Wright Theater

Brainerd: Meet in Mead Chapel

Cook: Meet in McCardell Bicentennial Hall 216

Ross: Meet in Dana Auditorium in Sunderland

Wonnacott: Meet in Abernethy Room, Axinn Center

6:00–7:30 P.M.

Commons Barbeques

Following the discussions, students, staff and faculty discussion leaders, and FYCs will dine at BBQs hosted by the Commons Teams and served adjacent to first-year residences.

Locations for Barbeques:

Atwater: Atwater Patio

Brainerd: Stewart Woods

Cook: Battell Beach

Ross: Lawn between Milliken and Hadley

Wonnacott: Battell Beach

7:30 P.M.

Voices of the Class

A great Middlebury tradition: this theatrical presentation, always one of the highlights of Orientation, is based on anonymous excerpts from your class's college application essays (with the authors' permission) and is performed by returning Middlebury students. This is an amazing window into the wide array of backgrounds and perspectives of the Class of 2012. Following the performance, your FYCs will meet you with snacks and lead you back to your Commons for dynamic, small-group conversations about what you've just seen and heard.

Mead Chapel, Commons lounges

Saturday, September 6

7:00 A.M.—2:00 P.M.

Breakfast, Brunch, and Lunch

Breakfast, brunch, and lunch will be available throughout the morning and early afternoon.

Atwater and Ross Dining Halls

7:45 A.M.—11:00 P.M.

CIRP Survey and Fall Class Registration

At the times noted below, all first-year students will arrive in Kenyon Lobby to participate in the country's largest ongoing empirical study on first-year college students. The CIRP survey will be held in the Kenyon lobby, and students will be admitted to complete the survey by registration number (REG# on your registration card and on the packet envelope). After completing the survey, which should take approximately 20–30 minutes, proceed to registration in *Kenyon Arena*.

Please note that after you complete your CIRP survey, you will be admitted to the registration arena in small registration number blocks, so you may take your time on the survey.

Transfer and exchange students do not take the CIRP survey, and should arrive at the skate room on the first floor of Kenyon at 8:15 A.M. **All students will need to bring the registration materials in your Orientation packet, including your adviser-signed Registration card with course selections.**

REG #	Begin CIRP Survey in Kenyon Lobby
1–150	7:45 A.M.
151–300	8:30 A.M.
301–450	9:15 A.M.
451 AND ABOVE	10:00 A.M.

Please see your registration packet, included in your Orientation folder, for more information on class registration details.

At the entrance to the CIRP survey, you will also receive your permanent Middlebury identification card if you did not obtain it upon arrival. You **MUST** bring your temporary access card to exchange for your permanent card.

NOON—12:30 P.M.

Honor Code Introduction and Signing Ceremony

Middlebury's honor code was developed in 1965 by the student body itself and remains one of the community's most essential guiding principles for academic life. Although this session will not cover honor code logistics, such as citation methods and plagiarism definitions, these issues will be explored through your first-year seminars and in subsequent meetings. At the conclusion of this ceremony, all new students will formally sign the Honor Code, and your signatures will be displayed on campus for the duration of your years at Middlebury.
Mead Chapel

6:30–7:30 P.M.

Dinner in the Dining Halls Atwater and Ross Dining Halls

8:00 P.M.

Craig Karges, Extraordinarist

What are you thinking right now? Craig Karges won't have to ask you that question—he'll tell you. Karges' show has been described as a "live version of The Twilight Zone," during which tables "walk" and levitate; three borrowed finger rings are linked together in a chain; minds are read and predictions are made—and verified. Karges has been named NACA's Entertainer of the Year for 12 consecutive years, and has appeared on the Tonight Show, Larry King Live, E! Entertainment Television, and CNN. When he steps on stage, you begin to believe that nothing is impossible.

Mead Chapel

9:30 P.M.—12:30 A.M.

Tent Dance with The Doughboys

Come dance the night away with one of Middlebury's most popular bands. The Doughboys mix rock, Latin, soul and country in a way that makes them all seem compatible and complementary. And you never know....one of the band members might very well turn out to be one of your professors in this or a future semester!

Battell Beach Tent

Sunday, September 7

7:00 A.M.—2:00 P.M.

Breakfast, Brunch, and Lunch

Atwater and Ross Dining Halls

3:30 P.M.

Line Up for Convocation

CRAs will lead students from each Commons to Mead Chapel for this important tradition. Please line up outside of your residence hall promptly.

3:45 P.M.

Convocation Procession Begins from Old Chapel

4:00 P.M.

Convocation

Convocation is the traditional academic ceremony that opens the school year. It includes a faculty procession in academic regalia, welcoming remarks by a member of the faculty, the singing of traditional College songs, and an address by President Liebowitz. Convocation is a secular event for all new students.

Mead Chapel

5:15 P.M.

Class Photo

Mead Chapel Lawn

8:00 P.M.

Orientation Jam

Several of Middlebury's student performance groups, new and traditional, welcome you to campus with a brief but dazzling introduction to their varied talents, pursuits, and styles.

Tent on Battell Beach