

# New Student Orientation

September 1–September 6, 2009

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.

## Tuesday, September 1

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### 9:00 A.M.–3:00 P.M. **Check in at Commons Welcome Centers**

Your first stop should be your Commons office, 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.

*Atwater: Allen Hall*

*Ross: Ross Commons Office*

*Brainerd: Stewart Hall*

*Wonnacott: Battell South*

*Cook: Battell North*

### 11:00 A.M.–2:00 P.M. **Lunch in Dining Halls**

A complimentary “drop-in” light lunch will be available in Ross and Proctor dining halls from 11:00 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.

*Ross and Proctor Dining Halls*

### 4:00–5:30 P.M. **Hall Meetings**

Students meet with their First-Year Counselors (FYCs) and floor-mates for the first hall meeting of the year. Transfer students and exchange students will meet with their respective leaders and peers. These groups will function as the students’ orientation groups throughout the week.

*Locations distributed from Commons Welcome Centers*

### 4:00–4:45 P.M. **President’s Welcome**

President Ronald D. Liebowitz shares a welcoming address with parents and families of incoming students.

*Mead Chapel*

4:45–6:00 P.M.

**Family Reception**

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

*Proctor Terrace*

6:00 P.M.

**Families depart for the evening**

6:00–8:00 P.M.

**Dinner with Orientation Groups in Dining Halls**

Students eat in the dining halls with their orientation groups. Parents depart campus for the evening to enjoy local dining options, a guide to which can be found under the “Local Lodging and Dining” tab at [go.middlebury.edu/orientation](http://go.middlebury.edu/orientation).

*Ross and Proctor Dining Halls*

8:00–9:30 P.M.

**Hall Mixers**

Hall groups from different Commons pair up for a night of socializing. Transfer and exchange students meet with their respective groups.

*Locations distributed at afternoon Orientation group meetings*

**Wednesday, September 2**

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7:00 A.M.–8:30 A.M.

**Students: Drop-in Breakfast**

*Ross and Proctor Dining Halls*

7:00–9:30 A.M.

**Family Members: Drop-in Breakfast**

*Ross and Proctor Dining Halls*

8:30–10:30 A.M.

**First-Year Students: First-Year Seminars Meet**

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. Advising will occur Wednesday afternoon, Thursday afternoon, and Friday morning.

*Please see your Orientation packet for first-year seminar locations*

9:30–10:30 A.M.

### **Family Programming**

Family members are invited to explore one of three important issues in student development and planning.

- ***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*

- ***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.

*McCullough Social Space*

- ***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, Liz Ross, Associate Director, International Programs and Off-Campus Study, 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 Theatre*

**10:30 A.M.–11:00 A.M.      Family Members: Coffee Break**

*McCullough Student Center Gallery and the Grille*

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

**11:00 A.M.–12:00 P.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: Wright Theatre*

*Brainerd Commons Meeting: Mahaney Center for the Arts Concert Hall*

*Cook Commons Meeting: Dana Auditorium*

*Ross Commons Meeting: McCullough Social Space*

*Wonnacott Commons Meeting: Warner Hemicycle*

**11:00 A.M.–12:30 P.M.      Drop-In Pre-Advising**

*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 Center for Teaching, Learning, and Research is hosting a pre-advising session to assist 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/adviser, 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 (Main Library 225)*

**11:00 A.M.–1:30 P.M.      Students: Lunch in Dining Halls**

*Ross and Proctor Dining Halls*

11:00 A.M.–1:00 P.M.      **Students: Placement Exams**

If you are interested in enrolling in the departments listed below, and have not already completed your placement exam online, consult your Placement Exam Information Chart on the Orientation Web site ([go.middlebury.edu/orientation](http://go.middlebury.edu/orientation)) or in the First-Year Seminar Booklet that you received in the June mailing. [Arabic, Biology, Chemistry, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Math, Music, Psychology, Russian, and Spanish.]

*Refer to Placement Exam chart for locations*

12:00–12:30 P.M.      **Family Members Depart**

Family members who are still on campus should plan to depart at this time.

1:30–3:00 P.M.      **Drop-In Pre-Advising**

Please see 11:00 a.m. description above.

*Center for Teaching, Learning, and Research (Main Library 225)*

1:30–5:00 P.M.      **Individual Meetings with Advisers Begin**

Students' one-on-one adviser meetings, scheduled at the First-Year Seminar on Wednesday morning, begin. When students are not in their scheduled appointment, they may participate in optional activities (see below).

*Locations and times scheduled at First Year Seminar*

1:30–5:00 P.M.      **Makin' the Most of Midd (Optional Activities)**

Upon arriving on campus, students will receive a list of available activities through which they can meet new people while exploring their new home. The schedule is staggered in order to accommodate those students who will attend advising appointments during this time.

*Locations vary by activity (please see handout)*

5:00–6:30 P.M.      **Atwater, Cook, and Wonnacott Commons:  
Health and Wellness Session**

Middlebury's student Peer Wellness Leaders will provide an informal, interactive overview of some of the key health- and wellness-related issues Middlebury students encounter.

*McCullough Social Space*

5:00–6:30 P.M.      **Brainerd and Ross Commons: Free Time**

6:30–8:00 P.M.

### **Dinner in Dining Halls**

*Ross and Proctor Dining Halls*

8:00–9:00 P.M.

### **Orientation Group Meetings**

At this meeting, your group leaders will share with you their considerable wisdom about transitioning out of orientation and into the semester as a full-fledged Panther, including issues to look out for in your first few weeks and resources you can count on.

*Locations determined at prior meeting.*

9:00–10:30 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.

*Forest Quad (Rain site: Nelson Gymnasium)*

## **Thursday, September 3**

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7:00–9:00 A.M.

### **Drop-in Breakfast**

*Ross and Proctor Dining Halls*

9:00–10:30 A.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: Wright Theatre*

*Ross: McCullough Social Space*

*Brainerd: Center for the Arts Concert Hall*    *Wonnacott: Bicentennial Hall 216*

*Cook: Dana Auditorium*

10:45–11:30 A.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. At this ceremony, you will hear from returning students about how the honor code guides and

influences their lives at Middlebury on a day-to-day basis. At the conclusion of this ceremony, you will formally sign the honor code, and your signatures will be displayed on campus for the duration of your years at Middlebury.

*Mead Chapel*

11:30 A.M.–1:00 P.M.      **Lunch with Orientation Groups in Dining Halls**

Students eat with Orientation groups at a time determined at their last meeting.

*Ross and Proctor Dining Halls*

1:00–5:00 P.M.      **Individual Meetings with Advisers**

Students' 30-minute meetings with advisers, scheduled at Wednesday's First-Year Seminar meeting, take place throughout the afternoon.

*Locations and times scheduled at first-year seminar meetings*

1:00–2:00 P.M. (last names beginning with A–M) and

2:15–3:15 P.M. (N–Z)      **Academic Forum**

The Academic Forum is your opportunity to explore Middlebury's wide array of academic departments and programs before you register for 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. Bring your course catalogue!

*Kenyon Arena*

1:15–4:00 P.M.      **Information Forum**

On your way out of the Academic Forum we encourage you to take some time to meet with key members of the Middlebury staff and faculty who oversee some of the most important aspects of student life on campus. Representatives from a number of offices and local businesses will be on hand to share information and answer your questions. Several banks will have representatives available to help those students interested in opening a local bank account.

*Kenyon Lobby*

5:00–6:30 P.M.      **Common Reading**

All members of the class of 2013 received the novel *Everything is Illuminated* 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 novel. 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.

*Start locations:*

*Atwater: Wright Theatre*

*Brainerd: Mahaney Center for the Arts Concert Hall*

*Cook: Dana Auditorium*

*Ross: McCullough Social Space*

*Wonnacott: Bicentennial Hall 216*

6:30–8:00 P.M.                    **Dinner in Dining Halls**

*Ross and Proctor Dining Halls*

9:00–10:30 P.M.                **Voices of the Class**

A great Middlebury tradition: this theatrical presentation, always one of the highlights of Orientation, is based on anonymous answers to questions sent out to incoming students over the summer. Performed by returning Middlebury students, this should be an amazing—and fun—window into the Class of 2013.

*Pepin Gymnasium*

## **Friday, September 4**

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7:00 A.M.–9:00 A.M.            **Drop-in Breakfast**

*Ross and Proctor Dining Halls*

9:00–11:30 A.M.                **Individual Meetings with Advisers**

Students' 30-minute meetings with advisers, scheduled at Wednesday's first-year seminar meeting, take place throughout the morning. Any time a student is not meeting with his/her adviser may be spent doing optional activities (see below).

*Locations and times scheduled at previous meetings*

9:00–11:30 A.M.                **Makin' the Most of Midd (Optional Activities)**

*Locations vary by activity (please see handout)*

11:30 A.M.–1:00 P.M.        **Lunch in Dining Halls**

*Ross and Proctor Dining Halls*

1:00 P.M.–5:00 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.

**All students will need to bring the registration materials in your Orientation packet, including your adviser-signed registration card with course selections.**

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

*Kenyon Arena*

Time for entrance into Registration:

<u>REG #</u>	<u>Begin CIRP Survey in Kenyon Lobby</u>
1–150	1:00 p.m.
151–300	1:30 p.m.
301–450	2:00 p.m.
451 and above	2:30 p.m.

1:00–5:00 P.M.      **Makin' the Most of Midd (Optional Activities)**

*Locations vary by activity (please see handout)*

5:00–6:30 P.M.      **Brainerd and Ross Commons:  
Health and Wellness Session**

Middlebury's student Peer Wellness Leaders will provide an informal, interactive overview of some of the key health- and wellness-related issues Middlebury students encounter.

*McCullough Social Space*

5:00–6:30 P.M.      **Atwater, Cook, and Wonnacott Commons:  
Free Time**

6:15–8:30 P.M.      **Celebration Reception and Dinner**

All incoming first-year, transfer and exchange students are invited to attend this special reception and dinner that are

designed to introduce you to Vermont, and to give you the opportunity to share where you come from by wearing something representative of your own hometown. Local farmers and vendors will present their products during the reception, with a feast of dishes incorporating locally grown and produced ingredients to follow.

*Proctor Terrace and Dining Hall*

8:30–9:30 P.M.

**Orientation Group Meetings**

*Locations determined at previous meeting.*

9:30 P.M.–12:00 A.M.

**Evening at the CFA**

It's your first Friday night at Middlebury; what to do, what to do? Kick off the year in style at the Mahaney Center for the Arts where you will be given the opportunity to explore the hidden treasures located in the College Museum of Art and take part in a number of activities, including good old-fashioned board games and an open mic session. Activities will be accompanied by refreshments, followed by a DJ-ed dance on the outdoor patio.

*Mahaney Center for the Arts*

## **Saturday, September 5**

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7:00 A.M.–9:00 A.M.

**Drop-in Breakfast**

*Ross and Proctor Dining Halls*

9:00 A.M.

**A Morning at Bread Loaf  
(Wonnacott, Atwater, and Brainerd)**

If you are not scheduled to attend Beyond Facebook until the afternoon, you may choose to hop on a bus and spend a couple of hours on the College's picturesque mountain campus. Toss a Frisbee, take a short hike, or simply read a book on the lawn while you explore Robert Frost's Vermont get-away.

*Busses will depart from Adirondack Circle. Students should arrive early to ensure a spot, as space is limited.*

10:00 A.M.–12:45 P.M.

**Beyond Facebook**

You've been "friending," "poking," "texting," and "IMing" each other for months, and now you've finally met in person. But how well do you really know each other, and how much of yourself have you shared? Here's a chance to get real with each other, and to

learn more about the Middlebury community and culture you'll be contributing to.

*Ross Commons: Atwater Dining Hall*

*Cook Commons: McCullough Social Space*

12:30–2:00 P.M.                    **Lunch in Dining Halls**

*Ross and Proctor Dining Halls*

2:00 P.M.                            **An Afternoon at Bread Loaf (Ross and Cook)**

If you already attended the morning session of Beyond Facebook, you may choose to hop on a bus and spend a couple of hours on the College's picturesque mountain campus. Toss a Frisbee, take a short hike, or simply read a book on the lawn while you explore Robert Frost's old Vermont get-away.

*Busses will depart from Adirondack Circle. Students should arrive early to ensure a spot, as space is limited.*

2:00–4:45 P.M.                    **Beyond Facebook**

See description listed under morning time block.

*Wonnacott Commons: McCullough Social Space*

*Atwater Commons: Bicentennial Hall Great Hall*

*Brainerd Commons: Atwater Dining Hall*

6:00–7:30 P.M.                    **Dinner in Dining Halls**

*Ross and Proctor Dining Halls*

7:30–8:30 P.M.                    **Hall Mixers**

*Locations determined at previous meeting*

9:00–10:30 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*

## Sunday, September 6

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7:00 A.M.–2:00 P.M.      **Breakfast, Brunch, and Lunch**  
*Ross and Proctor Dining Halls*

11:00 A.M.–3:15 P.M.      **Yearbook Photos**  
Students will go with orientation groups at a designated time to the Axinn Center for a free, 90-second personal photo shoot.  
*Axinn Center Reading Room*

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 promptly outside of your residence hall.

3:45 P.M.      **Convocation Procession**  
*Begins from Old Chapel*

4:00–5:00 P.M.      **Convocation**  
Convocation is the traditional academic ceremony that opens the school year. It includes a faculty procession in academic regalia, the singing of traditional College songs, and an address by President Liebowitz. Convocation is a secular event for all new students.  
*Mead Chapel*

5:00–5:30 P.M.      **Class Photo**  
*Mead Chapel Lawn*

5:30–7:30 P.M.      **All Campus Picnic**  
Join the returning students, faculty, and staff of Middlebury College for an outdoor picnic accompanied by live music.  
*Proctor Terrace*