



STUDENT HANDBOOK

Midland School



“Today we are seeing the dreams of inspired poets
merging with the findings of careful scientists.

The dreamer and the doer are showing the thinker new vistas of life on earth.
New glories are coming to light for thoughtful minds.”

— *Paul Squibb, 1979*

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Welcome

From the Dean's Office

Dear Student,

Welcome to Midland! Here, you will engage in limitless possibilities, challenge your intellect and curiosity, develop a sense of adventure, and hone life skills for the future. In electing an education that is an alternative to the regular thing, you have chosen to join a diverse and dynamic community that will become your home-away-from-home over the next four years. It is my pleasure to welcome you as you begin your Midland journey and to share some important information to help you on your way.

This Student Handbook serves as a reference guide for your time at Midland. It contains staff contact information, practical procedures, information on our traditions, and clearly expresses our expectations of you as a community member. It includes the nuts and bolts of the academic schedule, daily schedule, various support systems available to you, details on our community life, jobs program, residential life, academic policies, athletics, communication systems, and community standards and expectations. In effect, the student Handbook serves as your Midland “compass.” Together with your family, please take time to read and familiarize yourself with the handbook information.

Midland's success relies on a strong partnership with our students and their families. We embrace this commitment wholeheartedly. Our faculty and staff strive to provide a safe and brave space where young adults can connect with themselves, feel part of a community and develop a sense of place and belonging. We believe individuals with a strong sense of self and deep connections to a place will thrive.

While one of our core tenets is self-reliance, you are not alone on this journey. As a Midland student, you have access to an extended family that is here to challenge and support you. The Handbook outlines many of these support structures, but I want to take a moment to emphasize that, as Midland's Dean of Students, my door is always open. Should any questions arise now, or later, please consider the Dean's office an excellent resource for you and your family.

On behalf of the entire Midland community, welcome. We are so excited to get to know you, work and learn alongside you, and watch you grow. See you on campus!

Sincerely,

José Juan Ibarra
Dean of Students

Mission & Philosophy

Mission

Midland School provides a unique college prep boarding school experience to a diverse student body. Through study and work, it teaches the value of a lifetime of learning, self-reliance, simplicity, responsibility to community and the environment, and a love for the outdoors.

Our Philosophy

Midland School is a community of students, teachers, and families in pursuit of academic excellence and moral lives. We are guided by the following principles:

- The essential ingredients of learning are a student, a teacher, and an idea.
- A high-quality college preparatory education should be accessible to families of all economic means.
- A simple, self-reliant lifestyle, close to nature, teaches us to develop our inner resources, to distinguish between needs and wants, and to appreciate life's fundamental joys and challenges.
- A school community entrusting students with authentic leadership roles, emphasizing individual and collective responsibility, and relying on its own work to meet its basic needs, prepares students to take care of themselves and to serve others.
- Connection to the environment, through academic education and everyday examples, teaches students to be good stewards of the earth.

Intro to the Student Handbook

The Student Handbook is intended as a guide to daily student life at Midland and to help students and their families navigate their four years in partnership with the school. Please be sure to review this document together prior to the student's arrival to campus. Should any questions arise about Midland's policies and expectations, don't hesitate to reach out to the Main House office at office@midland-school.org or 805.688.5114.

Who to Call for What

Daytime telephone (8am-4pm M-F): 805.688.5114

After Hours telephone (4pm-8am M-F, all day Sa & Su): 805.688.5114 & leave a message

Emergency after hours phone: 805.500.8279

To get in touch with a faculty or staff member individually, go to the [Midland Directory](#).

Academic Life

Midland Academics & Curriculum

You and your family have embarked on a great educational journey in a spectacular landscape. You have committed to an educational model that matters. Midland values experiential learning while meeting the rigors of college preparation. A Midland education builds one's inner resources - including critical thinking, problem solving, and work ethic - while cultivating a sense of community and purpose. Our curriculum challenges students to be of use, to connect to place and environment, to develop craftsmanship and voice, and to promote diversity, equity and inclusion. Along the way, there will be challenges and growth, guided by the North Star of our mission and philosophy.

Midland is an intentional community of learners. Together, the faculty, families and students are in a partnership to deliver a successful and meaningful education.

Midland's schedule, featured in [Independent School Magazine, Fall 2019](#), puts opportunities for experiential, place-based learning at our core, every week. Our bells align with teenage circadian rhythms. While highly structured, our daily and weekly schedule is intentional about transitions and homework, and faculty are available in office hours for extra support.

Students each carry a typical load of six courses (or sometimes five), with one free period (or sometimes two).

Our daily schedule, department goals, courses, course sequence chart, senior thesis description, and college matriculation list can all be found in Midland's Curriculum Guide. Descriptions of our dedicated blocks of time for experiential or field-based learning - specifically Experiential Saturdays, MIDterm, and Experiential Week - can also be found in the Curriculum Guide.

Midland Core Competencies

Midland belongs to an educational movement that believes that to be transformative, education must cultivate skills and competencies that have meaning in students' lives. Midland was conceived in 1932 to make education real by doing the community work right in front of us. We have always been at the leading edge of blending college preparation with cultivating a work ethic and taking care of our place. We are in the process of further codifying our educational model by aligning our curriculum around our core competencies. This means articulating what we value and stand for, measuring it, and directing our priorities towards delivering these core competencies. This work more fully engages students as active participants in their own learning.

Our core competency domains are connection to place and environment; diversity, equity and inclusion; being of use; craftsmanship; literacy and voice; critical thinking and analysis; and problem solving.

Academic Expectations & Status of the Library

Showing up is a basic expectation and requirement of every part of Midland's program. The academic day lasts from the start of classes at 8:30am to the end of classes by 3:30 pm or earlier, Monday through Friday (or until lunchtime on Wednesdays). During the academic day, internet access is to be used for academic rather than entertainment purposes.

Students are expected to use the scheduled, available, designated blocks of study time to complete their academic work outside of class. Five evenings each week are also considered part of the academic day and designated as "Status of the Library" (7:30-9:00), during which students focus and work in designated study locations. Additionally students use free periods during the academic day to complete their studies.

Achievement and Feedback

Letter grades are reported at 3-4 week intervals throughout the year so that students are aware of their current standing while at the same time being spared from an up-to-the-minute fixation on checking grades. Grades are delivered by advisors with face-to-face conversations. Advisors stay in close touch with students' academic status at all times and parents should feel free to contact advisors if they feel the need to be updated between formal reports.

Grade reports are available online to parents through their [MyMidlandSchool.org](https://www.mymidlandschool.org) account at times associated with the ends and mid-points of academic terms, with notifications coming from the Dean of Academics.

John Cosby Scholarship

In 1999, Midland trustee and alumnus Jon Cosby, class of 1963, established the Cosby Scholarship. Almost every year since 1999 one, and occasionally two, juniors have received funding to pursue a topic of interest during the summer prior to their senior year. The student selected can receive up to \$5,000 to cover the cost of the program they enroll in, as well as travel and living expenses. Students must submit a proposal for the scholarship in the spring of their junior year. All students are encouraged to apply. Contact Paul Gelles for more information.

Academic Support

Academic Support

Academic support is available to all students, although it does require a base level of student agency to take initiative, communicate with their teachers and advisors, and show up to designated meetings. Some students will meet with teachers outside of class (esp. during office hours), have structured peer tutoring or more study time, or work one-on-one with our study skills support faculty. The method of support is determined through consultation with the student and teacher, as well as a holistic look at

the student's background and history as a learner. At Midland students are encouraged to take ownership over their learning, and as such we urge students to take initiative and self-advocate when they are feeling in need of extra help.

Academic Probation

If a student is struggling to meet academic benchmarks consistent with college preparation, they may be placed in "Academic Probation" status. This happens when a student earns:

- A cumulative term grade below a C- in any class at any 6 week grade period.
- A GPA below 2.0 or precarious academic status across the board.

A student in Academic Probation will have additional academic support and study time. The student will meet with his/her advisor, the Dean of Academics, the Study Skills Support Faculty and the teacher of the class of concern to discuss their academic status, restrictions, and support. Together, this team will devise a studying/learning plan that can include:

- Additional structured study time. This will be completed before work laps, seeing an off-campus visitor, or going on an off-campus outing.
- One-on-one study time with a teacher, peer tutor, or learning strategist.
- Evaluation of the need for more in-depth or prolonged academic support.

College Counselling

A Midland education provides students with a strong foundation – as learners and resourceful citizens – to get a good education anywhere. Ultimately, all students are responsible for their own education. The process of applying to college tests their readiness to take on this responsibility, and they must take ownership of the process. Midland's college counseling program provides skillful support for this individualized journey by matching our graduates with colleges, universities, and gap year programs well-suited to each student's individual interests, plans, talents, skill sets, and needs.

Midland often transforms the lives of young people and, in doing so, prepares them for college, where they will have a transformational experience of a different nature. Ideally, the college search process is also transformational because it forces students to examine themselves and to identify what they want from life and from their education. If students can truly understand who they are and what they want, then finding the right college becomes significantly less complicated.

The goal of Midland's college counseling office is to provide the tools, resources, and support that will enable students to navigate this milestone, each step of the way.

9th, 10th, and 11th Grades

College preparation is central to Midland's mission. The process starts in the 9th and 10th grades as students establish patterns that help them determine what kind of student they are. The college counseling program begins gradually and subtly with every conversation that advisors have about course

selection, with the PLAN test (a practice ACT test) in the sophomore year, and with the PSAT test (a practice SAT test) in the junior year. All students have exposure to the approximately 30 colleges who send representatives to our campus each Fall.

11th Grade Spring College Counseling Seminar

The second semester College Counseling Seminar meets once each week to orient students to the college application process. Topics include: the college application calendar, resources to manage the process, GPAs, standardized testing, various types of applications, essay writing, college visits, interviewing, recommendations, and scholarships. All students have at least two individual meetings with the college counselor to discuss their own ideas, hopes, concerns, and questions about the college process. We encourage students to realistically consider not just which colleges they think they like, but also which might be affordable and are likely to offer admission. By the time they leave for summer break, they have a paper copy of the Common Application filled out, ideas for their essays, and an extensive list of colleges to research, from which they will choose approximately ten.

12th Grade Fall College Counseling Seminar

Seniors return in the Fall with tangible questions about what they will do after they leave Midland. They must think critically about who they are, and they must be able to articulate whether and why they want to go to college. Armed with the necessary tools, the seniors focus on completing applications and finding the best ways to communicate the essence of who they are to colleges. Once-per-week group meetings provide space and time for filling out applications in a setting where students can ask questions and get immediate answers. Ideally, students will have written college essays during the summer, but many aren't ready to write until the academic year begins. Students utilize many Midland resources to write and rewrite essays again and again. Standardized testing continues as needed. Each student meets individually with the college counselor as often as necessary, generally at least twice.

Family Involvement

The college application process challenges parents as much as it does students. While the focus is, necessarily, on the students, they aren't the only ones experiencing a transition. Midland works closely with parents to make sure they understand the college application process, the important deadlines, and the tasks their child needs to accomplish next. Parents have responsibilities in this process, too – among these are the responsibility to have realistic conversations about family finances, to help students visit colleges when possible, to recognize when to step back and let the student take necessary ownership of the process, and to be supportive and patient as their child experiences this developmental milestone. Midland's college counseling program utilizes an on-line tool called Naviance Family Connection, which helps parents stay informed during the process. We always encourage open and frequent communication between the college counselor and families.

Communication and Support

Advisor Structure

Every student at Midland has a faculty advisor to support and guide them throughout their years at Midland. A student's advisor is closely involved in all aspects of their life: academic, athletic, work program, and residential life. Advisors act as the primary liaison between students, the school and their parents, as well as the rest of the faculty working with the student. Advisors meet weekly with their students, provide support through challenging situations, and host advisee outings and activities throughout the year. Parents are encouraged to communicate directly and frequently with their child's advisor. At the end of each year, students have the opportunity to select their advisor for the following year to best suit their interests and needs.

Prefect Structure

Midland's senior class has significant responsibility as the leaders of Midland's campus and the prefect system. Each living yard has a representative School (Head) Prefect; together, the School Prefects oversee the school. In addition to the School Prefects, seniors take on the roles of class prefects for each consecutive class (9th, 10th and 11th grades). More specifically, two prefects for the ninth grade upper yard, and two for the ninth grade lower yard, and so on.

School (Head) Prefects

School Prefects serve as the primary communication hub between the Dean of Students, the senior leaders, the student body and the faculty. By keeping a finger on the pulse of life in the student living yards and the overall school climate, School Prefects work directly with faculty, staff and student leaders to cultivate and maintain a healthy and respectful campus climate. In addition to overseeing the student body and leadership structure, the School Prefects promote community spirit and positivity and run the all-school Assemblies.

Class Prefects

Class prefects are responsible for daily care, oversight, guidance, and support of their prefectees in the living yards. In pairs, they teach and role-model healthy human interactions, promote effective communication skills and instill good work habits. Class prefects are on the front line; they live with the younger students, check them in at night, help them learn how to be a good roommate, and set the tone for responsible, safe and fun behavior in the living yards. In order to preserve the spirit of Midland's community norms, class prefects uphold the student contract and hold their prefectees accountable in accordance with its requirements.

Mentor Program

Each new Midland student is assigned a Mentor — a member of the senior class — who will be the point person for support during the transition into life at Midland. Mentors welcome their mentees on Orientation Day, helping them move-in and get settled, and accompanying them to meals, activities, etc. for the first few weeks of school until they get the hang of it. They/she/he will help answer any questions, concerns, or fears a new student may have about attending a new school.

The Mentor program serves to facilitate a swift and supportive integration for our new students, as well as promote amiable social connections more quickly. Together, they create a stronger sense of community, one that enables everyone to feel a sense of place.

Faculty of the Day

The Faculty of the Day (FoD) at Midland is a team of one to three teachers or staff members on duty who are responsible for the general supervision and well-being of students. The FoD are available to students twenty-four hours a day and can be reached by radio anytime. The FoD's daily responsibilities include: Attend breakfast, keep track of the morning sign-in sheet (account for all students), check-in and check-out students leaving campus, monitor evening study periods, deliver a grace at dinner, administer meds as necessary, manage the laps system, be physically present and available to students throughout the day and check-in on all students at curfew. In a nutshell, the FoD are the point people supporting and helping students with anything they might need in Midland's day-to-day workings.

Administrator on Call

Midland's administrative structure is team-oriented and collaborative. The Head of School is the outward face of the school, supports all parts of the internal programs and supervises faculty and staff. The administrative team is composed of the Dean of Academics, Dean of Experiential Learning, Dean of Students, Director of Advancement, Director of Admissions, and Director of Finance and Operations

The administrator on call (AoC) is a member of the school's administrative team who is available twenty-four hours a day to assist the FoD as necessary. The AoC is present and available to meet with students, faculty and staff; they/she/he is the spokesperson for the school, concludes community assemblies and excuses sit-down meals.

Student Life

Life at Midland

Daily Schedule

Midland's daily schedule is finalized each August once placement tests are administered and processed; all official class assignments are known and shared at that time.

Half Holidays

Midland is not all about work and study; we schedule plenty of time for relaxation and fun throughout the week. The weekly schedule blocks out three to four afternoons and two evenings during the week in which students do not have academic, civic, or athletic obligations, called Half Holidays. Half Holidays are an important element of our school life and philosophy. We punctuate a very intensive weekly schedule with these intentional breaks to allow time for mindful reflection, active relaxation, and engagement with our natural surroundings. Frequently students are out on our 2,860-acre ranch walking, running, biking, and horseback riding.

Club Nights

During Half Holidays faculty and students may offer clubs, i.e. fun activities. Popular clubs include table games, movies, coffee-house, night hikes, Aroma Cafe (Tea), going to town for ice cream or dinner, hiking the property, or playing pick-up athletic games on the field or court. During club nights, faculty open their homes to the students for baking, knitting, conversation, reading, or simply lounging in a cozy home environment. Clubs are planned on a weekly basis, and are posted on MyMidland, so that students can see the clubs that faculty will sponsor for the upcoming week. Attendance to clubs is not mandatory, though occasionally advisors will offer advisee-bonding club activities that their advisees are highly encouraged to participate in.

Curfew & Check-ins

Midland's curfew and lights-out policy vary depending on the class level:

- At 10:00 pm, ninth, tenth and eleventh-grade students need to be in their cabins.
- At 10:20 pm, ninth-graders, light off (including flashlights and devices).
- At 10:45 pm, tenth and eleventh-graders, light off (including flashlights and devices)
- At 10:50 pm, twelfth graders need to be in their cabins and have their light off by 11:00 pm.

At Midland, *check in* references the time when the class prefects make their rounds (starting at 10:00 pm) going from cabin to cabin checking-in (touching base) with each one of their prefectees to say goodnight. Check-ins are an important way for seniors to connect with younger students and get a pulse read on how everyone is doing.

The FoDs also conduct check-ins, like the prefects, they visit every cabin to say goodnight to all the students. It is our way of ensuring that everyone is accounted for and doing well.

Living Yards

Within Midland's Upper & Lower Yards, students learn responsibility for their own spaces. Our small, simple cabins placed in quads within natural landscaping give students proximity to the outdoors in their daily life. We live naturally in the elements and our cabins reflect a calm, humble, comfortable space to come home to at the end of the day. Within the yards, students have access to communal bathrooms and laundry facilities. Together, students maintain these shared Yard spaces and take care of their surroundings. Any questions about communal spaces within the Yards are best directed to the Head Prefects, Dean of Students or Facilities Manager.

Showerfires

Showerfires are the primary mechanism for heating shower water. Students are responsible for building and maintaining showerfires according to the schedule set up by the Prefects. Students will all have support through learning how to build a showerfire; any questions should be directed to the student's Prefect(s).

Waste Management

Trash and recycling cans are provided for each cabin and each Yard has large trash cans students use.

Cabins

We believe a simple, clean living space provides the best residential experience for our students. Cabins are quiet, simple spaces for rest and relaxation, and are spaces for the students to make their own (with respect for fire safety, health, comfort and roommate consideration).

Furniture & Decorations

Due to simple living and limited space, all furniture is provided (bed, chair, bureau, lamp & window blinds) and there is no need for supplemental furniture. Please note: if you want bunk beds for more floor space, pre-approval by the Business Manager and/or Facilities Manager is needed to confirm safe installation. Students may bring a small throw rug that can easily be removed and cleaned outside.

Students are free to decorate their rooms in a way that increases personalization, comfort, and expression. We value freedom of expression and ask that you refrain from bringing any decorations that contain depictions of drugs, alcohol, or other inappropriate images that conflict with the moral values of our community.

Only seniors may have hotpots in their rooms. Electric heaters, televisions, or any other appliances are not allowed in student cabins for fire safety reasons; electric blankets are permitted but not preferred (bring extra blankets or a thick comforter)

Fire safety is a huge priority for our cabins. Except for fires in a stove during stove season, open flames of any kind, including, but not limited to, matches, lighters, candles, and incense are not permitted.

The fire department has prohibited the use of extension cords in student rooms. Students should plan on bringing one or two power strips in lieu of extension cords.

Taking Responsibility for your Space

Cleanliness: Students are expected to maintain clean and organized cabins at all times. Prefects inspect cabins daily and faculty inspect on Sundays to reinforce student learning that peace of mind comes from a clean, well kept space.

Should something break, we expect students to report the damage to their prefects and the Facilities Manager expediently. Accidental damage is understandable, and we will work directly with the student (and, in some cases, their family) to repair or replace the broken item.

Move-in / Move-out Inspection

The condition of each room, including furniture, windows, window treatments, walls, floors, wood stove-related infrastructure and smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, will be inventoried at the beginning of the school year, when any room change occurs and at the end of the school year before students depart. Families will be billed on an actual cost basis for deliberate or negligent damage to the room and any missing or damaged furniture, lighting, window treatments, smoke or carbon monoxide detectors or wood stove-related infrastructure. A \$100 cleaning fee will be assessed for rooms not cleaned and scheduled for inspection by Midland staff prior to the student's departure.

Pets

A student having a pet at Midland is a long-standing and cherished tradition. Bringing a pet to Midland is a privilege (not a right), and it requires maturity and responsibility on the student's part to make it work. The student pet population is limited to 10% of the student population. Advanced planning and application are required, and older students receive nominal preference. All the associated training and habituation required of a given pet to live in our community must occur prior to joining the community. Special note: at times the entire campus could be closed to all pets on the basis of a human allergen issue. A student may be allowed to bring a pet to Midland School if they/he/she meets and agrees to all the conditions listed below. The following criteria apply to all pets, including emotional support animals:

The student has and maintains:

- One or more years attendance at Midland
- 3.0 or higher GPA
- No academic or behavioral issues or probation
- Affirmative *and* ongoing approval from the advisor, roommate, and faculty overseeing student dogs

The pet *must* meet all of the following conditions:

- does not need to take medications
- be over one year old
- must be trained and respond to basic vocal commands given by anyone
- be up to date on vaccinations, neutered or spayed, and provide a record of such
- not exhibit aggressive behaviors (bark, growl, nip, bite, chase, or jump up) towards people or other animals (domestic, agricultural, or wild)
- not be noisy and distracting (e.g. excessive or frequent barking)
- be socialized to a multi-dog and community environment in advance
- have a collar and 2nd tag with the pets name & Midland School address & phone
- successfully complete a two week trial period demonstrating community compatibility and dog owner responsibility

The student's responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Request permission in advance, generally 2 or more months prior
- Pets must always be on a leash and may not be left in or on building entryways (e.g. Stillman Porch)
- No pets on any furniture anywhere on campus (dog beds recommended)
- Keep the pet clean and keep his or her room clean and odorless.
- No pets in any Midland vehicles.
- The pet is with its owner, appointed caretaker, or in its cabin at all times. Pets may not be left unattended, even for short time periods, in any public space, or in any cabin but the owners.
- Seek affirmative consent for attendance to any classes or activities on campus
- Students must take their pet with them over breaks or make arrangements to have the pet boarded locally (the School will not make these arrangements.)
- The student is expected to clean up after his or her pet. This includes, but is not limited to, filling in holes dug by dogs, picking up feces, cleaning up hair, and any and all cooperative pet owner cleaning tasks as assigned by any faculty member.
- When gone from campus (camping trips, sports games, etc.), the student must find a person to care for the pet in the student's absence (or make arrangements to send it home). The caretaker assumes all of the responsibilities of the pet owner.
- Student understands that breach in spirit or letter of the above conditions and expectation will result in the pets immediate removal from campus.
- Student must find out which teachers allow dogs in the classroom.
- Student understands and affirms that only nominal and inconsequential initial dog-on-dog aggression will be tolerated.
- Student understands that any aggression towards people will result in the immediate loss of the privilege of having the dog on-campus

If the student and family understand and are willing to meet the conditions and expectations above, they should email a detailed request to Gina Butala (gbutala@midland-school.org). Students desiring to bring a horse should also contact Gina for specific requirements and conditions.

What to Bring

Packing List

The “needs, not wants” mantra guides our [2021-22 Packing List](#). We believe that simple living will create the optimal learning and living environment for our students. In this vein, we ask our students to be mindful about what they choose to bring to Midland. For all our students, we suggest they approach packing for Midland as if packing for a two week backpacking trip. Then, once you’ve packed, take a look and leave half of it at home.

Please carefully review our suggested packing list and remember to include a formal outfit for Chapel and formal dinners. The dress code below, created for students by students, explains in detail our dress expectations in the different yards of campus and for formal dress occasions. Please review the dress code prior to packing.

Friendly reminder: clearly labelled clothing and other possessions are much less likely to be lost or misplaced (and most likely to be returned).

A note on the weather: in typical inland Central California fashion, our mornings are chilly, our middays, warm, and our evenings cold. Please pack layers that can be easily removed as the day warms up and you move through our unheated (and unairconditioned) classrooms and cabins.

A note on online shopping & excess clothing: while most Midlanders discover that functionality trumps style during the typical Midland day, we recognize that style and self-expression are fun and important parts of getting dressed everyday. We welcome students to dress in ways that make them feel happy & healthy. And, as an environmentally-conscious community, we request that students refrain from habitual online shopping during their time at Midland. Fast fashion has a huge impact on the environment, and we strive to limit our consumption and amazon-style deliveries as a community. Not only does habitual online shopping harm the global environment, it also clutters the cabin space, which we strive to keep clean and organized for best life-practices.

Dress Code

Dress Standards: Middle Yard and Public Spaces

During a typical academic day, in Middle Yard, and in other public spaces, students and faculty should wear clothing that demonstrates respect for the learning environment and each other.

All Midland students will wear clothes that:

- fully cover underwear, buttocks, breasts and pectorals, bellies when arms are down, and at least half of the back. Sheer clothing may not expose these areas.

- may include dresses and skirts that are longer than approximately mid-thigh.
- are clean, neat, and in good repair, without rips, even if purchased as such.
- are appropriate for weather including rain (jacket and boots) and cold (as low as 20°F).
- may contain images or text that follow other Midland school rules (i.e., no obscenity, harassing or offensive language; no promotion of drugs, tobacco, or alcohol; no nude images).

Work Periods: Work Period dress includes close-toed shoes; shirts, pants or shorts that are activity appropriate; and weather-appropriate clothing.

Sports: Dress will be appropriate for the activity and approved by the coach. Shirt removal decisions must be gender equal, and Middle Yard dress standards do not necessarily apply.

Off Campus: The default dress is Middle Yard standards, and may be determined by the faculty leader.

Sleepwear: To encourage hygiene and respect, sleepwear is not allowed in Middle Yard from breakfast until after dinner, but may be allowed other times as long as it conforms to Middle Yard dress standards.

Approved by Student Council, Spring 2018

Dress Standard: Special Event and Formal Night Dress

Some occasions, like formal dinners, Chapel, and Graduation require dress that demonstrates an increased respect for the event, speakers, and guests. At these times, students and faculty are encouraged to express themselves while dressing for a professional and/or multi-generational event.

All standards for everyday dress apply.

Students may choose one of the following options:

- suit or sports jacket (unless otherwise announced) coordinated with a collared, tucked-in button-down dress shirt, tie, dress slacks, belt, dress socks, and dress shoes.
- dress (length about mid-thigh) and dress shoes. Dressy sweaters, jackets, and stockings or tights are suggested for cold weather.
- dress slacks or skirt, a dressy blouse or sweater, and dress shoes.
- formal attire from another culture - in which the student has a substantive connection - is welcome with the approval of the student's advisor.

Inappropriate formal attire includes:

- jeans or denim
- leggings
- sneakers or tennis shoes
- patched, or torn items, even if they were purchased as such

Approved by Student Council, Spring 2018

Extracurricular

Athletics & Sports Offerings

Currently, Midland sports offerings include: Volleyball, Cross Country, Soccer, Basketball, Circus, Outdoor Leadership, Natural Horsemanship, Farm, Kitchen and Fitness-Running-Surfing-Hiking (FRSH). For more information on these offerings please visit the Curriculum Guide.

Student Led Affinity & Interest Clubs

Midland students are passionate about a diversity of topics ranging from Environmental Activism to LGBTQ+ community support and a spread of cultural, academic and athletic interests in between. Through clubs, our students lead and organize weekly meetings and on & off campus activities that support and cultivate these interests. Students interested in creating a new club should contact the Student Council to discuss approval and funding.

Community Standards

Daily Standards

Midland is a small intentional community dependent on all individuals assuming responsibility for themselves and their role in the community. We are authentic in our practices of giving students substantive responsibilities, and dependent on a high level of trust and mutual respect. Basic community expectations such as positive participation (“showing up” in Midland parlance), treating others with respect, following the rules, and clear communication are requirements for our individual and collective success. Any questions or concerns about Midland’s daily standards or major rules should be shared with the Dean of Students.

The school’s policies regarding major discipline and general school rules are described in the Student Contract. Students and parents are strongly encouraged to review it carefully together. The Student Contract must be signed by both parent/guardian(s) and the student, and then returned to Midland prior to the start of school each year.

Public Phone Use

Midland provides community telephones for students’ use free of charge and with the ability to call anywhere in the world. Students may not make or receive calls during academic hours, including Status of the Library in the evening (study hall times). Likewise, the student-community phones are off limits after 10:00 pm. Jill Brady (jbrady@midland-school.org) is available to parents who have trouble reaching their child and will post a message for the student to call home or contact the family as

requested. We find that parents and students who arrange a regular time each week for phone calls have the most success in establishing consistent and dependable communication habits.

Upper Yard (boys) 805.345.2154

Middle Yard 805.500.4448 (or) 805.904.1028

Lower Yard (girls) 805.500.8312

Laps

At Midland, we manage community norm violations through the Lap System, a disciplinary system focused on taking responsibility for one's actions, making amends to community and moving on. We strive to give students feedback through conversations and natural consequences when they breach community standards and expectations.

There are three different types of Laps a student can receive:

Study Laps, for infractions related to academics (late for class, missing assignments, etc.)

Work Laps, for violations dealing with the jobs program, sports, activities, tardy or missing assemblies, not checking-out properly with the FoD, fire safety, curfew, disrespect, and in general for not doing what they are supposed to be doing

Run-Walk Laps, for major rule violations such as dorm violations, dishonesty, disregard for the safety of self and others, use of drugs, alcohol, the products, and nicotine (cigarettes, chewing tobacco, vaping or dabbing). Major infractions may result in a combination of run and work laps.

Each work lap is worth 15 minutes and a run-walk lap is the equivalent of a one-mile course.

For example, a student who is late to class may be given 3-5 laps. This means that, on the next available, half-holiday, an afternoon slated as free time, they must complete 45-75 minutes of work for the community. (1 lap = 15 minutes of work) And, some infractions consist of run-walk laps only which can be completed over the course of several half-holidays. (1 run-walk lap = 1 mile on a defined route)

Sexual Harassment and Assault

Midland is committed to maintaining a safe environment free from sexual harassment. Midland prohibits sexual harassment targeted at any student by anyone, and prohibits retaliation against any person who reports, files a complaint, or otherwise supports a complainant in alleging sexual harassment. Midland strongly encourages students who feel that they are being or have been sexually harassed by another student or adult, or who believe that sexual harassment has been committed against another student, to immediately contact their teacher, the Head of Schools, or any other available Midland employee. Complaints of sexual harassment and sexual assault are not investigated, heard, or decided by the Student Council.

Student safety is Midland's top priority. Any separate rule violation involving an alleged victim or any other person reporting a sexual harassment incident will be addressed separately and will not affect the manner in which the sexual harassment complaint will be received, investigated, or resolved. On a case-by-case basis, Midland will consider an amnesty policy for students who report sexual misconduct.

Midland will offer supportive measures to the complainant and respondent as deemed appropriate under the circumstances to ensure a safe environment for a student who is the complainant or victim of sexual harassment and/or other students during the investigation. Those who report sexual harassment or assault will be supported by Midland, which may include receiving information on counseling resources, information on the local rape crisis center, potential protective measures including preventing the complainant from unnecessarily encountering the accused, and/or providing academic or extracurricular accommodations.

Sexual harassment or sexual misconduct may not always be obvious. Please be aware that Midland employees are strictly prohibited from dating, courting, or entering into or attempting to form a romantic or sexual relationship with any student, regardless of the student's age and regardless of whether the employee thinks the relationship is consensual. Prohibited romantic or sexual interactions involving students include but are not limited to: sexual physical conduct; romantic flirtation, propositions, or sexual remarks; sexual slurs, leering, epithets, or sexual or derogatory comments; personal comments about a student's body; sexual jokes, banter, innuendo, notes, stories, drawings, gestures or pictures; spreading sexual or romantic rumors; touching a student's body or clothes in a sexual or intimate way or in any manner that is not age or relationship appropriate; restricting a student's freedom of movement in a sexually intimidating or provocative manner; displaying or transmitting sexual objects, pornography, pictures or depictions to a student; or any type of conduct that would be considered sexual harassment or assault. Any such conduct should be reported immediately.

Sexual harassment and sexual assault are not tolerated at Midland. Any student found to have engaged in sexual harassment or sexual assault or violence will be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension and/or expulsion. Any employee found to have engaged in sexual harassment or sexual assault or violence toward any student shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Electronics and Internet Standards

Connectivity is provided all throughout academic campus spaces. We believe that the internet is a tool that can be used for study, exploration, and communal enjoyment. Being free from screens before bed and in relaxation hours is proven to reduce stress and improve sleep habits, and so we refrain from providing wifi in sleeping quarters (cabins). Students still have the ability to work offline on homework

assignments within their cabins, though we encourage students to complete academic work within academic spaces in order to maintain cabins as a joyful, unplugged space.

All students have and use chromebooks in their academic and daily lives at Midland. Chromebooks are the only technology device that students will have connected to wifi. Limited time passes for other personal devices can be provided by the IT Director on a needs-basis (i.e. music playlist downloads).

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Standards

ICT use at Midland is a privilege open to all students, though a student who inappropriately or illegally uses ICT during their time at Midland may lose their ICT privileges. All school rules apply to ICT use, including appropriate language rules.

During the academic day, ICT may be used for academic purposes (defined as direct use for a school assignment) only.

To uphold the safety of our community, we ask that all Midland students report security threats, safety risks, and ICT violations to a teacher or administrator.

School administrators and employees may monitor ICT use to help ensure that the uses are secure and conform to these policies. Administrators reserve the right to examine, use and disclose data found on any ICT, including student equipment and online accounts, and may use this information in disciplinary actions and to furnish evidence of crime to law enforcement.

Any deliberate attempt to alter, disrupt or bypass the school's network, computer configurations, or security features will be treated as vandalism of school property. Students and their family will be responsible for financial damages resulting from tampering with school ICT.

We ask that students leave the following items at home or turn them in to their advisor upon arrival:

- Any 3G, 4G, and LTE devices (even if the sim card has been removed)
- Walkie-talkies or other active or passive communication devices
- Network equipment and devices (such as routers, switches, and ad-hoc devices)
- Game consoles (examples: Xbox 360, PS3, etc.), televisions, stand alone gaming devices, and gaming computers

For students who enjoy gaming, we provide a club once or twice a week in a communal space for playing online games. If this is of interest to you, or you'd like to bring a game console to share during these club activities, please get in touch with your advisor.

If a student is unsure whether a device or its use violates the rules, we encourage them to open a dialogue with their advisor or the IT director.

Music Playing Devices

Midland provides music stations in many public areas of campus for community use. We expect that students refrain from playing music featuring inappropriate language or messages in public spaces in respect of the families and young children on campus. Students are allowed to bring small portable speakers for use within the cabins and in other areas of campus.

Students are welcome to bring iPods and other non-cellular music personal players to campus.

For safety and community reasons, headphone use (including ear buds) is permitted only in the living yards and outer campus. Middle Yard is a headphone free zone except during “Status of the Library” when a student is studying quietly with low volume. No headphones are allowed when operating or in the vicinity of others operating power tools, hand tools, or chopping wood (etc.).

Open & Closed Campus

Visiting & Student Leave

Midland has scheduled activities and events seven days a week. We believe that full student participation in our program enables them to learn and thrive at Midland. While we welcome visitors and know how important family and friends coming to experience campus can be, we are also mindful of the potential interruption these visits can cause. As such, we ask that family and friends adhere to the guidelines below. Of course, there will always be special circumstances; should you or your extended community desire permission to visit outside of the times below, please contact the Dean of Students.

Families may visit on campus with their student and take their student off campus at the following times:

- Tuesday & Thursday following the end of classes until 5:45pm
- Saturday 12:15-9:45pm (dependent on laps and sports games, please check in with the coach)
- Sunday 12:15-5:45pm (dependent on laps, please confirm with the student that they are free)

Friends and extended family must request advanced approval (3-5 days in advance) for campus visits and to take students off campus. All visitors, including parents, are expected to check in with the Office or Faculty-of-the-day every time they visit. Student cabin areas (Upper and Lower Yards) are private student spaces and are only open to immediate family visitors. We ask that students and visitors spend their time at the office, dining hall, library or in other designated areas in Middle Yard.

Please note: Students may leave campus with other adults if their own parents’ send permission by phone or email to Main House in advance. However, for safety and legal reasons, students are only permitted to leave school with a driver who is over twenty-five years of age. Siblings are the only exception to this rule.

All students **MUST** sign-out with the Faculty-of-the-day and on the sign-out sheet prior to departing (or with Main House staff if the Faculty-of-the-day is unavailable) **AND** sign-in upon returning.

In order to leave campus, a student must have completed all of their laps, must find coverage for their job and, if on Academic Probation status, receive permission from their advisor.

Overnight Absences

Given our 7-day boarding model, we do not expect students to request overnight absences during the school terms. We do, however, recognize that in rare circumstances (such as the weddings, funerals, and graduations of immediate family members) exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis. A special request for permission to be off campus overnight for non-Midland sponsored trips or activities (including college visits) must be granted by the Dean of Students in advance.

Health Leave

In some cases, a student may require medical leave from campus to return home in order to best recover from an illness. Permission to depart campus for health purposes will be granted by the Midland Health Office, in coordination with the student, their advisor, and the FoD. More information on health-related absences can be found in the Health & Wellness section of this document.

College Visits

All students are encouraged to visit colleges on their own time, over the school breaks and the summer. Permission to visit Colleges is granted during the academic year for the students who have been accepted and are offered fly-in opportunities to see whether or not a college is a good fit. Requests for College visit leave, like for all non-Midland sponsored trips or activities, must be submitted to the Dean of Students.

Family Weekends

We love welcoming our families to campus so that they, too, can share in the Midland experience. We offer a variety of events for families to come and join their child at Midland, meet with advisors and faculty, and participate in some of our experiential education offerings. Save the date for these time-honored traditions!

New Parent Luncheon | September 25, 2021

For new parents only, this half-day activity offers the opportunity to return to campus a few weeks after dropping your child off at Midland for the first time. Meet with faculty, learn from our administration, network with other new parents and (most importantly) share a meal with your child(ren) in Stillman Hall!

Thanksgiving at Midland | November 25-27, 2021

Rather than send students home on vacation for Thanksgiving, we welcome and encourage families to attend the Midland Thanksgiving celebration. Join us in a farm-to-table celebration of our fall harvest, meet other parents, alumni, teachers and your child's advisor during the Thursday - Saturday festivities. Students' extended families are welcome to attend on Thanksgiving Day. Please see the News & Events

section of the website for student leave information each year, and remember that students may not stay off campus overnight during the Thanksgiving holiday.

Alumni, Parents & Friends Weekend | April 30- May 1, 2022

Join us for a weekend of activities in April, featuring a State of the School by Christopher Barnes, Head of School, and Saturday Experiential Offerings. Spend time with your child and their teachers, meet other current families and network with Midland alumni. On Sunday, join us in celebrating a distinguished alumna/us for their impressive contributions to their home communities in the Midland spirit.

Graduation | June 4, 2022

We invite all families to join us as the class of 2025 steps into a new setting to continue living their education. Graduation ceremonies (all are welcome) will begin Friday evening and conclude Saturday afternoon, at which point all students may depart campus. All students should be packed and checked out of their cabins, heading over the bridge by 4pm.

Student Leadership

Student Council

Midland's Student Council works closely with the student body, Dean of Students and Head of School to adjust policies and rules pertaining to the Midland Constitution. Students are voted onto the Council by their grade-level peers and strive to appropriately represent the interests of the student body through their work. The Student Council also works closely with the DoS and HoS when a student breaks any of the major school rules; the Council will recommend a disciplinary proposal to the HoS. As explained more fully in Midland's Sexual Harassment and Assault Policy above, allegations of sexual harassment and assault will not be heard by the Student Council. The Student Council has a dedicated budget that it allocates to enhance student life through funding clubs, social committee, and philanthropic gifts.

Jobs Program

The jobs program at Midland intentionally develops self-reliance, leadership, and responsibility in our students. Daily jobs contribute not only to the operations of the school, but to students' sense of belonging and ownership of their community. Every aspect of Midland's daily operation is supported by our students, from washing dishes to picking produce in our garden. New students are generally assigned jobs in the dining hall as waiters or dishwashers, while older students generally work more independently in other areas of campus. Seniors step into leadership roles as job heads, guiding and mentoring underclassmen in their work. Throughout the Midland experience, students internalize the benefits of working as a team, knowing that we're all in this together, as well as the responsibilities of mastering real tasks as an individual.

All students can expect their daily job to take up approximately 30 minutes of their day, and to receive job training from their job head(s) and by the Facilities Manager during orientation and at the beginning of each semester. Any questions or concerns about an ability to complete a job task should be directed at the Job Head, Head Prefects or Facilities Manager.

Sunday Work Period

On Sundays, students and faculty work together to complete a thorough cleaning and organizing of our entire campus. And of student rooms. By noon on Sunday, students will feel ready and relaxed with a clean room and campus as a clean slate for the week ahead.

Junior Leadership Development

During the second semester, the junior class attends a weekly Leadership Development Seminar (LDS), led by the Dean of Students, where they become familiar with the tasks and responsibilities that are expected of seniors. The objective of LDS is to solidify cohesion among the junior class, to align the students in a way that enables them to see themselves as a team with the faculty, to layout the support systems available to them and the student body, to clarify standards and community norms, and to hone their leadership and communication skills.

Midland Community

Assembly

We have regular daily all-community assemblies (Monday through Friday). The assemblies are important for two reasons; one, to deliver relevant and important information that impacts daily activities, and two, to account for all the students and general well-being of our community. On Saturdays, there are three assemblies and on Sundays, there are two. Assemblies are a good time to announce clubs, sports activities, changes to the schedule and bring awareness to the community regarding historical and current events.

Meals

At Midland, we have five family-style (sit-downs) dinners per week that all students and faculty attend. On these nights, five to seven students sit at a faculty member's table and share a meal. Table seating assignments change weekly via a random computerized selection process. Tuesday lunch is reserved for advisors and advisees to have lunch together, providing students an opportunity to check-in and get any support they may need.

During sit-down meals, the community enters the dining hall in silence and remains standing at the assigned table until the FoD delivers a grace (reads a poem or shares a thought). All other meals, breakfast, lunch, Tuesday and Saturday dinners are walk-throughs or buffet style. Thursday dinner is designated as a formal dress-up meal, which means that students and faculty are expected to wear formal attire (formal dress, skirt, and blouse or coat, and tie, with nice shoes).

Public Spaces

Public Spaces are defined as spaces where students can gather socially without seeking permission from adults. These include the athletic field, basketball and volleyball courts, commons room, Stillman Hall (the dining hall) and the library. Also, during Tea Time (9:00 pm-9:45 pm) the Rich Arts Building and Long House become important hubs of student social activity and meeting spaces. The school's extensive property is also an attractive and popular draw for students, and students must check-out with the FoD before venturing off the central campus (i.e. for a hike, run, picnic, horseback ride).

Non-Academic Days

There are long-standing, non-academic traditional randomly scheduled days and events to give students and the community a break from the rigors of our daily schedule. All students and faculty participate in these non-academic days & activities:

- *An All Saints Day* is a day when classes and sports are canceled and students are encouraged to explore the property or simply relax and practice some self-care.
- *Grass Mountain Day* is a day when classes and sports are canceled and the entire community climbs Grass Mountain (the mountain that faces our campus).

Throughout the year, Midland also schedules five to eight guest speakers or performers, designates several days to engage with issues related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice, the juniors organize Dance Weekend, and the seniors run a Field Day.

School Schedule, Breaks & Travel

Midland's Major Events Schedule can be found [here](#).

Midland's Monthly Calendar can be found [here](#).

Reservations: Parents are responsible for making all travel reservations for students. Midland does not book tickets. Midland does arrange shuttles to and from four travel locations in Santa Barbara: Santa Barbara Airport, AMTRAK, Santa Barbara Airbus LAX Shuttle (Goleta office).

Start/End of School: Most parents drop off students in the fall and pick them up at the end of the year. All families will receive a Travel Survey by email two weeks prior to the beginning or end of school. Please fill out and return the survey even if you are delivering and picking up your student from campus. This confirms that every student's travel plan is accounted for.

School Breaks: Midland School has four school breaks during the academic year. Students must leave campus during these breaks. Once again, families will receive an email Travel Survey to fill out and return. School breaks occur every six weeks. All students attend Graduation and depart campus immediately after for the summer break.

DEPARTURE DATE & TIME	RETURN DATE & TIME
Saturday, Oct. 16, 2021 from 8 am to noon	Sunday, Oct. 24, 2021 by 6:00 pm
Friday, Dec. 17, 2021 from 8:30 am to 7:00 pm	Sunday, Jan. 9, 2022 from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022 from 8 am to noon	Sunday, Feb. 27, 2022 from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Saturday, April 9, 2022 from 8 am to noon	Sunday, April 17, 2022 from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Saturday, June 4, 2022 from 2 pm to 4 pm — Graduation Day — Start of Summer break	

TRAVEL CONSIDERATIONS

Because it takes time to travel to and from our nearby airports, we require that our families take a few things into consideration. Please note that Midland is able to bring students to and from Santa Barbara (one trip for all students each departure and return). More information is below; all times are in PT.

- **Departing from Midland**

On student departure days, a shuttle to Santa Barbara will depart from Midland on Saturday at 6 a.m. (An exception is the December Holiday Break which is a Friday departure for all students). This gets our students to the Santa Barbara Airport (SBA) and the Santa Barbara Airbus (Goleta office) by 7 a.m. The [Santa Barbara Airbus](#) then drops students off at LAX at

9:45 a.m. In booking flights, you will need to take into consideration those arrival times and the airport's guidance on check-in time (often 3 hours for an international flight).

- If you are flying out of the Santa Barbara airport (SBA), you will arrive at the airport at 7 a.m. We recommend scheduling a domestic flight no earlier than 8:30 a.m.
- If you are flying out of the Los Angeles airport (LAX), you will arrive at the airport at 9:45 a.m. We recommend scheduling a domestic flight no earlier than 11:45 a.m. and an international flight no earlier than 12:45 p.m.

- **Returning to Midland**

Students must return to campus by 5:45 p.m. In order to make this happen, a shuttle to Midland will leave from Santa Barbara at 4:30 p.m. If students are flying into LAX, they will take the Santa Barbara Airbus from LAX to the Santa Barbara Airbus Goleta office. In booking flights, you will need to take this timing into account.

- If you are flying into the Santa Barbara airport (SBA), you will be picked up at 4:30 p.m. We recommend landing no later than 4 p.m. to allow the time to pick up baggage, etc.
- If you are flying into the Los Angeles airport (LAX), you will need to take the 2 p.m. Airbus in order to arrive at the Santa Barbara Airbus Goleta office in time for the shuttle to Midland. We recommend landing no later than 1 p.m., to allow the time to pick up baggage, etc.

Late returns: Late returns after breaks are disruptive to the academic program, jobs program, and entire community. Regardless of the reason, late students will receive 10 work laps as compensation to the community.

Unexpected travel changes: Students who miss a flight or other travel connection on a trip back to Midland should call the Faculty-of-the-day phone number to inform the school of their change in arrival time (805-500-8279) so the pick-up shuttle driver can be rescheduled as needed.

Travel expectations of parents/guardians: Two weeks prior to each break, parents/guardians will receive an email from Jill Brady with a hot button link to a travel survey. Please fill out this survey in a timely manner so we will know each student's travel plans and shuttle needs. Every parent/guardian must respond, even if you are picking up and returning your child to campus. A week's notice is required to confirm shuttle service.

About school breaks: Because Midland has a week-long break every six or seven weeks, students may not extend vacations. Students are expected to commit to an intensive six-week term each session. Uninterrupted time at school is essential for the continuity and integrity of the Midland academic program and overall experience.

Health and Wellness

Midland's Health Office strives to promote every student's health and wellbeing. Our Health Office is available to students to meet individual health needs and provide a learning atmosphere in which students gain self-care and wellness habits.

Midland's Health Director is in charge of managing student health and wellness and scheduling medical and mental health appointments. In partnership with off-campus practitioners, families, and advisors, Midland's Health Director works with students to create patterns and systems that support their health & wellness habits.

Midland's Health Office treats students from the perspective of whole-health. Our ability to keep a pulse on student's self-care and daily habits empowers Midland's Health Office to care not just for our student's physical health but also social, mental and emotional well-being. Our solutions to health and wellness issues lie not just in medical appointments and pharmaceutical solutions, but also weave in holistic solutions that tackle diet, exercise, community, etc.

The Health Office works closely with students and their families to ensure parents are informed about their child's medical and health needs. We expect parents to be aware of their child's medication supply, refill dates and other prescription needs and to work closely with the Health Office and student to ensure all needs are met in a timely fashion.

Families should ensure that their health insurance covers Midland's local area practitioners. Families are responsible for all medical costs, including but not limited to: lab tests, x-rays, medicines, prescriptions, all hospital charges, and services performed by other health care providers. Should a student need to pick up a prescription with the help of the Health Office, the cost for prescription medications will be charged to the credit card number on file.

Families are responsible for providing their own comprehensive health insurance. Proof of current health insurance coverage is mandatory and must be provided prior to a student's arrival on campus. Midland international tuition fee covers health insurance for International students only.

Students and families must submit the Student Medical Forms: [Packet 1](#) and [Packet 2](#) by July 15, 2020.

Health-Related Absences

After an evaluation by the Health Director, a student may be excused from class or sports period due to a health condition. Students excused from classes may not participate in sports, half holiday activities, evening clubs, status, or tea time. An excused student may return to class or the daily routine when cleared by the Health Director. After missing a class, the student is responsible to see each teacher and set deadlines for completing missing work and assignments. Study laps are assigned as "recovery laps" in order to make-up academic work.

Health-Related Overnight Absences

In some cases, a student may require medical leave from campus to return home in order to best recover from their illness. Occasionally, a student may be medically required to return home for assessment from their health practitioners to determine how & whether Midland can continue to support their health needs.

It is in the best interest of each student to check in with their teachers prior to departure from campus or via email to prepare for their leave from school academically. The student and family should work closely with the advisor to ensure the student is kept informed & up-to-date academically so that the return to campus and classes is as easy as possible.

All extended absences to address significant physical or mental health issues require an external professional evaluation (and subject to review and approval by Midland) attesting to the students readiness and wellbeing to return.

On-site Care

The Midland Health Office supports student's health and wellness on a day-to-day basis in a variety of ways. Should a student feel unwell, they must report to the Health Office for assessment and treatment. The Health Director, in consultation with the school doctor if necessary, will determine the best next steps for treatment.

Students experiencing minor illness will receive treatment and TLC from the Health Office to help minimize symptoms and get a student back into their regular routine. If the student's illness requires more, they can receive rest and/or isolation within the Health Center, or supportive rest within their cabin. All students on health-rest will receive monitoring and assistance from the Health Director or FoD while they recover.

Daily medications will be taken care of by the Health Director or FoD during mealtimes or as needed.

Off-site Care

For students experiencing major health issues, in need of specialist care and/or regular meetings with off-campus health care providers, the Health Office coordinates appointments and transportation to-and-from (in the Santa Ynez Valley, with a few exceptions to the Santa Barbara area). *A transportation fee is billed to families for these appointments.*

We expect that all elective, non-urgent medical treatment will be scheduled for students while they are home on frequent school breaks. Appointments, whenever necessary, should be made on Tuesday and Thursday (half-holiday) afternoons in order to limit absences from school as well as to minimize transportation costs.

Should a student experience a medical emergency, Midlands' Health Director will work with the FoD and AoD to coordinate immediate care. Midland has an emergency room within 15 minutes of campus.

Mental Health & Counselling

We care deeply about our student's mental health and well-being at Midland. With a holistic perspective on health & wellness, we are committed to supporting our students' mental health needs.

Baseline mental health wellness & support structures begin with a student's relationship with their Advisor and Prefects, who provide initial emotional support in challenging moments. Should a student feel that their situation requires more significant support, Midland offers a variety of ways to address these needs.

- We provide on-site counselling 1-2 days per week that all students have access to on a drop-in basis.
- We help coordinate regular counselling / therapy sessions for students who need or desire them (predominantly via telemedicine type appointments).
- There is a network of support from mental health practitioners available to our students within the local region to handle routine mental health needs.
- Students with existing mental health support structures at home can set up regular appointments via telecommunications, coordinated through the Health Office.
- The Health Office will work with parents to find and match students with the best-fit mental health practitioner.

Please note: prescriptions should be assessed on a regular basis and those appointments should be scheduled during the breaks while students are home.

Confidentiality & Mental Health: When a student turns to another student or faculty member for help, he/she/they has a right to expect that privacy will be protected. However, students should understand that confidentiality may be limited by legal or ethical considerations. For example, a student should expect the involvement of a qualified health-care professional when an individual's health or well-being is at risk. Likewise, a responsible helper may feel action is needed when an individual's behavior threatens the well-being of others. Finally, teachers and health care professionals are required by law to report to the appropriate legal authorities all suspected instances of physical or sexual abuse of anyone under eighteen years of age.

Financial

Student Accounts

Per the terms of the school's Enrollment Contract, parents fund a \$700 student account held by the school in each student's name for use throughout the school year. This account is used during the school year to pay for the cost of textbooks, test fees, special classroom supplies and materials, off-campus transportation, wire fees, late charges on tuition payments, non-required trips, elective

extracurricular activities such as concerts and dances, vaccinations, prescription medicines, athletic and sports equipment, Midland gear purchases and other similar expenses.

Although the school strongly encourages ATM or debit cards for students' personal spending, if necessary students may request cash withdrawals from their student accounts. Any withdrawal may not exceed the amount of funds in the account. We assume that students get parental pre-approval prior to requesting advances for discretionary expenses. Parents should discuss their own expectations concerning personal spending directly with their children. We expect students to follow their parents' expectations without the need for intrusion on our part.

At the end of each school year, any funds remaining in the accounts of returning students will be held and added to the student account balance in the coming school year. For graduating or non-returning students, the school will close out the student accounts by June 30th and any funds remaining will be sent to parents via check. Parents are responsible to cover any negative balance in the student account.

Credit Cards for Business Office Billing

Parents must provide the school with an active credit card account number prior to the opening of school in September. The school will charge this credit card account if the student account has a negative balance and parents have not provided a check to replenish the account.

If the student account has a negative balance and the credit card on file becomes inactive, purchasing privileges for extracurricular events will be frozen until an active credit card number is provided or additional funds are added to the student account. Students with past due tuition or inactive credit card numbers may not be permitted to take the December or year-end examinations.

Spending Money

For the occasional trip to town, off-campus meals, movies or purchases of food and personal items, a student may want to spend thirty to fifty dollars per six-week period. Having too much money can lead to more problems than not having enough. A roll of quarters for dryers is useful. Students travelling on commercial carriers over school breaks will need travel cash. Please plan accordingly.

ATM, Debit Cards and Personal Credit Cards

We strongly recommend that students have an ATM or debit card for off-campus personal spending instead of making cash withdrawals from their student accounts or bringing large sums of cash to campus. This reduces the need for cash in student cabins and the possibility of theft. It also provides an easy way for parents to monitor and control spending. Students should never have more than \$25 in their cabins. All cash and other valuables, such as a camera, should be in a lockbox small enough to store under the bed. If students do bring a large sum of cash, we ask that the Business Office hold their money securely and then the students can make withdrawals as needed. International students and students with long travels to and from school will need a personal credit card.

School Budget & Enrollment Contracts

Every spring, after the school has made a financial agreement with each family, the school sets a budget for the year to come. Using this budget, Midland makes the full year's commitment to faculty for salaries, to contractors for major services, supplies, and equipment, and to the 50% of Midland's families who receive financial aid. Midland counts on the commitments that are made in student contracts to honor the commitments that Midland School makes to others. Midland enrollment is a year-long financial commitment.

As the enrollment contract financial agreement states, Midland School considers an enrolled student's commitment binding for the year, even if the student withdraws or is dismissed from school before the end of the year.

Advancement & Fundraising Efforts

Midland focuses its advancement and fundraising efforts on an Annual Fund campaign that runs the entirety of each academic year (August-June), major gifts, and capital campaigns; we do not host a gala or fundraising event. All of the money raised through the Advancement Office goes directly to support our school, program and students through the school budget and endowment.

Each year, the generosity of our alumni, families & friends to the Midland Annual Fund ensures that we can continue to provide the Midland experience for students now and for generations to come. In choosing to support the Annual Fund, our community helps us ensure that Midland is accessible to students who would not otherwise have access to our life-changing program.

Midland is a non-profit corporation. Your tax deductible donation of any size is valued; we appreciate that our families give in any manner and capacity because it demonstrates that they believe in Midland and our mission. 100% current family participation in the Annual Fund demonstrates to our leadership team and the Board of Trustees that Midland matters, and empowers us to continue pursuing excellence in our domain. We hope each family will consider a donation as able. Make a donation [here](#).

“An environmentalist long before we had a word for it, Paul Squibb never stopped taking personal responsibility for his surroundings, immediate or remote.

The assertion that one person cannot change the world seemed so pathetically silly to him that it was liable to provoke only good-natured, frowning laughter, as if the suggestion had been made teasingly, in mock ignorance. He reveled in paradox, but held one truth to be simply and always true: **it matters what we do.**”

— Gary Lewis '45 (1927-2012)
*Dominion Over Palm and Pine:
Paul Squibb and His Students*



MIDLAND SCHOOL

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