

# MIDLAND SCHOOL PROFILE 2024-2025

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## COURSE LIST

### ENGLISH

English 9: Windows & Mirrors  
English 10: World Literature  
\*English 11: American Literature  
\*English 12: Story, Self & Society  
Senior Thesis or Project (.5 cr)

### SCIENCE

Midland 101: Natural History (.5 cr)  
Chemistry  
\*Biology  
Physics  
\*Environmental Science  
*Geology (.5 cr)*  
*Field Ecology (.5 cr)*

### MATHEMATICS

Algebra 1  
Geometry  
\*Algebra 2  
\*Precalculus  
\*Calculus 1  
Calculus 2  
Statistics

### HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

Midland 101: Cultural History (.5 cr)  
World Studies: History  
\*American Studies: History  
\*Cultural Anthropology (.5 cr)  
*Geopolitics (.5 cr)*  
*Religion and Popular Culture (.5 cr)*  
*\*International Relations (.5 cr)*

### VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

Foundations of Visual Art  
Ceramics  
Advanced Ceramics  
Design  
Metals  
Woodworking

### SPANISH

Spanish 1  
Spanish 2  
Spanish 3  
\*Spanish 4  
*Spanish Culture and Conversation*

### INTERSHIPS

Farm (.25 cr)  
Ranch (.25 cr)

**Midland School**, located on a 2,860-acre ranch at the edge of the Los Padres National Forest, is a leader in place-based education. Midland's diverse student body chooses a simple, self-reliant lifestyle that leads them to develop inner resources, to understand the difference between needs and wants, and to serve others. Everything we do—from how we maintain our campus to the way we feed ourselves to the courses we choose to teach—originates from an intentional college preparatory curriculum that focuses not only on academics, but also on leadership, community, and stewardship.

## ESTABLISHED 1932 • COLLEGE PREPARATORY • 9-12 BOARDING

71 students, boarding only  
18 seniors  
11% international students

Average financial aid grant \$41,591  
Farm to table (we grow 50% of our food)  
Natural horsemanship program

4:1  
*student-to-faculty ratio*

27%  
*students of color*

48%  
*of students receive financial aid*

95%  
*plan to enroll in 4-year colleges or universities*



## COURSE LIST KEY

\*: May be taken for honors credit, indicating deeper level of study

Advanced: second year and further study in a subject

*Italics*: elective course

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS: A MINIMUM OF 20 UNITS

4 yrs	English
3 yrs	Mathematics
3 yrs	Spanish
2 yrs	Laboratory Science
3 yrs	History and Social Science
1 yr	Visual Arts
1 yr	Midland 101 (.5 Natural Science, .5 Social Science)
1 sem	Senior Thesis
2-3 yrs	Electives



## READING THE TRANSCRIPT

**A typical course load includes five to six classes per semester.**

High achieving juniors often take two honors classes; some honors options may be limited due to the student's level of math and Spanish when they enrolled. We try to accommodate students who wish to take a variety of electives, but scheduling conflicts due to our small size can prevent some students from taking extra classes.

The **GPA** is calculated using an **unweighted 4.00 scale**. Midland's grading system awards 100-93 for an A, 92-90 for an A-, 89-87 for a B+, 86-83 for a B, 82-80 for a B-, and so on. A "D-" is a passing grade, but we often require a student who earns a C- or lower in core courses to take an approved summer course.

**Midland does not rank** its students because there are so few students per grade level. We have selective admissions criteria and offer only college preparatory classes.

**Farm Interns** learn soil science and year-round planning to coordinate with kitchen needs, and they weed, plant, pick, and wash produce.

**Ranch Interns** learn herd and ranch management as they handle horses, work with farriers and vets, move cattle, repair fences, and maintain pastures.

**The Senior Thesis**, a graduation requirement, culminates each student's Midland education by embodying the values of academic self-reliance, personal responsibility, and information literacy. Seniors explore a topic of their choice, prepare a 10-15 page formal research paper, and give a 20-minute oral presentation to the entire school. Occasionally, we grant students permission, in place of a written thesis paper, to complete a hands-on thesis project, which generally requires a more significant time commitment.

**Midland 101** is an interdisciplinary academic course that introduces first-year students to the ecosystems, geology, topography, botany, history, anthropology (our land is the site for what has been the largest Chumash community in California), and water science of Midland's 2,860 acres.

## THE WORK PROGRAM

For nine decades, Midland has operated without a maintenance or janitorial staff and instead relied on students to maintain the campus under the management of two school prefects and additional seniors who act as heads of specific jobs. **Midland honors the work that students do by including their jobs on the transcript under the WORK code.**

The average job requires 20-30 minutes per day for underclassmen and slightly more for seniors. Some students work in the dining hall, kitchen, bathrooms, athletic facilities, or library; others bring food to our tables from the organic garden, feed the pigs or horses, deliver mail, or ring the bell. Often a particular skill set or interest determines a student's job.

Additionally, many seniors also have a **Prefect** role that gives them tremendous **responsibility for the well-being of younger students**. These class prefects teach their prefectees about Midland's philosophy and traditions, and they act as positive role models, counselors, and guides.

Typically, two **Head Prefects** oversee the **Class Prefects** and the **Work Program** (assigning jobs and making sure they are done well), and they are the primary liaison between the Head of School and the students. Head Prefects also play an important role in disciplinary matters, working together with teachers through the student-faculty council.

Together, the demands of the Work Program and Prefect System make life at Midland uniquely challenging, requiring students to balance academics and athletics with responsibilities that their peers at other schools do not have. Midland students attend classes five days per week and have responsibilities on weekends and thus do not have time for traditional extracurricular activities. Our students have few opportunities to formally earn documented service hours, but they all perform a service to their immediate community every day, and they understand the value of helping others.

## AWARDS

We honor those *exceptionally rare* students—no more than 10% of the student body—whose contributions demonstrate the kind of truly remarkable excellence that would be recognized beyond Midland's campus. Typically, though not by mandate, awards are given mostly to seniors.

## STANDARDIZED AND AP TESTING

**Midland does not offer AP classes.** However, students in American Studies: History Honors, Spanish 4 Honors, or high level math courses occasionally take the AP exam, often at the end of senior year.

Midland students have access to take other College Board exams including the PSAT and SAT. Midland offers one sitting of the spring ACT and SAT. Some students opt for a second test in fall of senior year. Our students typically do not pay for test preparation, and it is not offered through the school.

## DISCIPLINE REPORTING POLICY

Midland encourages students to discuss major disciplinary issues with colleges. However, because our students are subject to significantly more scrutiny than a typical day student whose weekend behaviors generally go unnoticed by school officials, we do not report most discipline incidents. Students with unresolved issues regarding disrespect, thievery, plagiarism, alcohol, or drugs will not graduate from Midland.

Midland recognizes the developmental challenges of adolescence and views discipline issues as opportunities to teach the importance of personal integrity, honesty, and community. Midland values its relationships with colleges and universities, and we will communicate about discipline issues if we feel the incident in question has not been thoroughly resolved on our campus or may have an impact on future communities.

## UNPLUGGED AND CONNECTED

Students do not have cell phones on campus. **Midland’s intentional technology fosters a tight-knit educational community based on face-to-face relationships, so students leave cell phones at home.** They use wifi-accessible chrome books both inside and outside the classroom. They check on the news or watch YouTube in the library with friends. They use technology to dive deep into learning and to spend time together as a community, but they do not feel tied to a cell phone or social media throughout the day.

## THINGS STUDENTS BRING TO MIDLAND

Axes, lighters, dogs, horses, hammocks, bicycles, work gloves, pocket knives, riding boots, camping gear, iPods, Chromebooks, and TI-84 calculators.



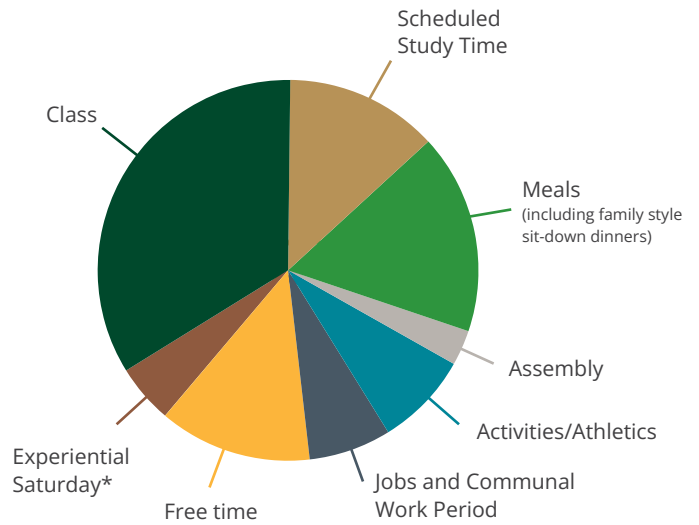
## CHARACTER CREATED IN COMMUNITY

### WHEN MIDLAND STUDENTS...

- Live at a boarding school with a roommate in a cabin heated with a wood stove .....> kindness, forgiveness, loyalty
- Complete a daily job that contributes significantly to the daily operation of the school .....> responsibility, humility, confidence
- Experience life on a 2,860-acre ranch with 40+ miles of wilderness trails .....> independence, resourcefulness, resilience
- Light wood fires to heat cabins and classrooms .....> reliability, conscientiousness, generosity
- Dine with faculty families and all grade levels at family-style, sit-down dinners five nights per week ...> politeness, compassion, respect
- Live and learn alongside teachers in a rigorous college prep community .....> curiosity, perseverance, integrity
- Have no access to cell service and therefore navigate life without a smartphone .....> self-discipline, self-reliance, authenticity

### THEY DEVELOP...

## HOW MIDLAND STUDENTS SPEND THEIR TIME (AVERAGE TIME PER WEEK)



**\*Experiential Saturdays** accommodate truly experiential learning and offer students opportunities to try something new without the pressure of grades. Sample offerings include: Bee Keeping, Beyond The Bubble—Dialogue Across Political Lines, Photography in the Fire Burn Zone, Origami and the Science of Folding 3D Objects, The Science of Composting, Financial Literacy, Introduction to Improvisation, and Knots, Tangles, and Other Adventures in Spatial Mathematics.

## ACCREDITATION AND MEMBERSHIP

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