



Glossary for Parents

(Unique Terminology Specific to the MPHS Culture)

1. **Core** - Every student has a Core teacher, and groups meet for thirty minutes each day. Core teachers function both as a student's academic advisor and as an advocate for the student with the school and with the parents. Whenever parents have a question about their child's performance at Mid-Pen, a good place to start is with the Core teacher.
2. **Community Service Day** - Twice a year Mid-Pen participates in an all-school mandatory Community Service Day. Several charities and non-profit organizations are pre-selected and students can sign up to participate with the organization that interests them. Students, faculty, and volunteer parents go in groups and assist the organization. Some examples of past community service activities and sites are: feeding the homeless at Glide Memorial in San Francisco, Habitat for Humanity, Hidden Villa, and working with students at local elementary schools.
3. **Enrichment Center** - The Enrichment Center is central to the success of Mid-Pen students and is utilized in a variety of ways. Students can work to earn missing credits; work on homework or research projects, or work to enhance their academic subjects or special interests. Students can receive help in a structured format, or they can be more self-directed. Like Core and the Wednesday faculty meetings, EC is a safety net designed to meet the individual needs of the students. With access to internet technology and software programs, students have an opportunity on campus to do in-depth research for papers and projects; they have the ability to manage work in their own computer files, and they have the ability to transfer files so they can continue to work on assignments at home.
4. **Rotating Periods** – Mid-Pen has a rotating schedule. Students are enrolled in six subject-area classes which meet four days per week, and a Core that meets five days per week for a total of seven periods/classes. Please review the Class Schedule in the Student section to see how classes are rotated..
5. **Partial Credit** - Academic credit is based upon work completed and grades are based upon the quality of the work. A student who earns full credit will earn 5 credits for each semester course. Thus, a full-time student enrolled in six classes per semester will earn 60 credits per year. At Mid-Pen, a student who does not complete all of the required work for a semester class will receive partial credit for that class. The amount of the credit assigned will be based upon work completed. However, coursework for high school completion or college admission requirements are not met until the full five credits have been earned for a class.