



Communications Office
540 West Contra Costa Unified School District
1108 Bissell Ave., Richmond, CA 94801-3135
(510) 231.1150 • www.wccusd.net

NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
April 24, 2014

MEDIA CONTACT: Marcus Walton
510.231.1150
mwalton@wccusd.net

MIDDLE COLLEGE HS RANKED AMONG NATION'S BEST

RICHMOND—West Contra Costa Unified School District's early college high school program was ranked among top 15 percent of high schools in the nation by U.S. News & World Report.

Middle College High School (MCHS), located on the Contra Costa College campus in San Pablo, has been awarded a bronze medal in the news magazine's annual ranking of the nation's best high schools. The school was not ranked higher because it does not offer Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate examinations to students. Instead, MCHS students take college classes and can graduate with an associate's degree or enough units to transfer to a 4-year university.

"We are extremely proud of the Middle College High School students, staff and parents for earning this designation," Dr. Bruce Harter, Superintendent of the West Contra Costa Unified School District, said. "We've always known that students who attend Middle College receive an excellent education that prepares them for college and career. This recognition publicly affirms what we already know to be true."

MCHS students are offered to complete an associate degree or 60 units that can be transferred to a four-year college or university while earning their high school diploma. Because students take college-level courses, the school does not offer Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate classes. One of the main criteria for the rankings is student participation and performance on these exams.

"I am extremely proud of the work our students do on a daily basis," MCHS Principal Anne Shin said. "Our entire community—from our student and parents to our teachers and our partners at the college—should be proud that our school has been recognized among the best in the nation."

MCHS serves 285 students in grades 9-12. In order to attend, students must fill out an application and be accepted by a panel of college instructors and high school teachers. The application period for the 2015-16 school year will open in January.