

# MIDDLE COLLEGE @ Contra Costa College

## Graduation Ceremony FAQs

Below are some of the most frequently asked questions (FAQ) regarding graduation for Middle College. If you have questions not answered here, please contact the main office.

### **How many seats are available at the Graduation Ceremony?**

The West Contra Costa Unified School District only allows 1000 seats for our families. While we understand that the venue itself is rather large, we are held to this number by the venue coordinators, the county fire marshal, and the school district, based on the number of graduates, the size of our school and other technical and financial variables.

### **How many tickets will I get for the ceremony?**

Each family will be guaranteed ten (10) tickets to the ceremony. Additional tickets may be requested. Please note, everyone in attendance **MUST** have a ticket, per the fire code. Infants and small children are still considered people, and must be accounted for with a ticket. No one, regardless of age, will be admitted without a ticket.

### **How do I request extra tickets for the ceremony?**

Graduates will be given an **MCHS Graduation Ticket Request** form. When you complete the form, be sure to indicate the additional number of tickets you would like. This form will be given to the graduates in April. Requests will only be accepted through the first week of May, and will be time and date stamped as they come in. Requests must be hand-delivered, **by the graduate**, directly to Ms. Moore in the main office during normal office hours Monday through Friday, 8 am – 3 pm. Please be sure to fill the form out completely. We ask that you consider carefully who you'd like to invite to graduation so we can accommodate as many requests as possible. Please do not request an unreasonable number of tickets, as we will be unable to accommodate you. Tickets will not be replaced if lost.

### **How will the MCHS staff determine who gets extra tickets?**

We will attempt to honor all requests up to 4 additional tickets, on a first come, first served basis. If additional tickets beyond 4 are requested, we will honor as many as we can if additional tickets remain after the deadline.

### **Can graduates wear leis and decorate their caps?**

Every school approaches their ceremony differently, based on the values of the school and community. Following past traditions, no decorated caps, or leis other than one flower lei will be allowed into the graduation ceremony. This decision has nothing to do with a desire to limit freedom of expression or to limit creativity, but is a step to maintain a formal and dignified tone to the celebration. The students have worked exceptionally hard to have the distinct honor of graduating from Middle College and we would like to honor them with dignity, and as respectfully as possible. Ethnic cloths and/or honor cords will be allowed.

### **I want to give my student balloons, bouquets, money/candy leis, etc. Why can't I bring them in with me?**

If you bring these items, please leave them in your car and give them to your graduate after they exit the building after graduation. The venue does not allow us to bring in balloons, noisemakers, etc. This is not only a distraction that takes the focus away from our graduates, but it also takes away from the dignity of the event. Our students have worked hard to achieve the distinction of graduating from Middle College, and we would like to **respectfully** honor all of their hard work and dedication. Please share this information with all guests. Only one flower lei may be worn by a graduate during the ceremony.

### **I plan to wear an already graduated sibling's gown. Is that okay?**

Middle College caps and gowns are black to coincide with the Contra Costa College ceremonies, as many of our students graduate from CCC the day before. If your student, or sibling who may have already graduated, has purchased a black cap and gown, they may wear them for the MCHS ceremony as well.

### **My diploma case is empty! How do I get my actual diploma?**

Diplomas are not issued during the graduation ceremony. Graduates will need to come to the main office the week following graduation, through June. We are generally available Monday through Thursday, between the hours of 8 am and 12 pm. If you are unable to come during this time, please stop by the main office when staff returns in August.