

Middlesex

Fall 2025



The Green Summit
Working Toward a More
Sustainable Future

Fond Farewells
Honoring Long-Serving
Faculty and Staff

Graduation 2025
Speakers Reflect
on the Seniors' Journey

Alumni Weekend
Graduates Gather to
Celebrate and Reminisce



Sustained Stewardship

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MISSION STATEMENT

Middlesex School helps students find their promise through rigorous intellectual, physical, creative, and ethical education. We value integrity, kindness, inclusivity, excellence, and engagement in service of our community and the wider world.

MIDDLESEX BULLETIN

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Letters to the editor are welcome and may be edited for clarity and space. Please send your letters to Editor, Middlesex Bulletin, 1400 Lowell Road, Concord, MA 01742, or e-mail mlindberg@mxschool.edu.

Alumni News

We welcome news from alumni, parents, and friends of Middlesex School. Please send your news and labeled photographs to Alumni News, Middlesex School, 1400 Lowell Road, Concord, MA 01742, or e-mail alumni@mxschool.edu.

Address Corrections

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If this magazine is addressed to a son or daughter who no longer maintains a permanent address at your home, please advise us of his or her new address. Thank you!

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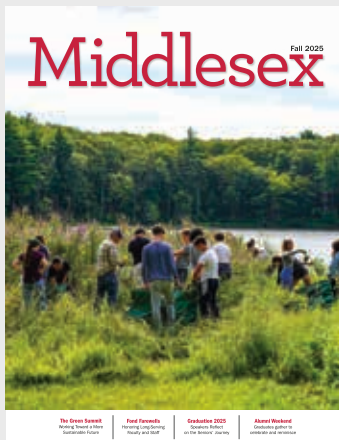


Dear Middlesex Community,

WE HAVE SETTLED INTO BELOVED MIDDLESEX rhythms after welcoming 114 new students from an applicant pool of 1300. Our new students bring exceptional talent and hail from 15 countries around the world, including Malawi, Thailand, Spain, China, and the United Kingdom. At a recent assembly, students who had participated in Middlesex exchange programs reported on their time spent in Panamá and Australia. In myriad ways, our students bring their global experiences to our campus and share their expanded worldview with us all.

Our commitment to MX Global stems from Middlesex's new Strategic Plan, which you received in the mail last summer. At its heart, *Expanding the Circle: Pathways to Promise* invites us to look for potential at the intersection of tradition and innovation, grounding students in the values and character that have long defined our school, while preparing them to engage ethically, thoughtfully, and boldly with the wider world.

In this issue of the *Bulletin*, you will see that vision already coming to life. Middlesex is a place where students discover their promise and learn how to share it with others, whether through stewardship of the environment, global exploration, or engagement with their local community. Here, students discover who they are, connect deeply to the world around them, and carry forward the values that will guide them for a lifetime.



On the Cover

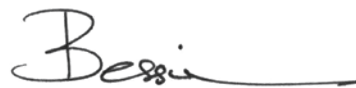
Removing invasive species from the perimeter of Bateman's Pond. Image by Adam Nestle.

You will read about the School's first-ever Green Summit, held last April, at which students, faculty, and local experts came together with optimism and curiosity to explore sustainability, stewardship, and the role young people can play in shaping a more just and resilient future. The event reflected not only the passion of our students but also the School's dedication to weaving environmental education into every dimension of learning. This core tenet is among the priorities within our Strategic Plan, and while progress remains, it is truly inspiring to see the many ways our community is embracing environmental sustainability.

Pathways to Promise also calls on us to broaden the ways our students experience the world, recognizing that the best form of academic excellence requires deep and immersive learning. Right here in Concord, students have participated in service learning projects, environmental work, and historical explorations that have immersed them in the richness of our immediate community, celebrating the unique sense of place we enjoy as a school. As part of our "Sense of Place" creative nonfiction unit in ninth grade English, teachers used our MX Saturday program to lead

students on explorations of Thoreau's Walden Pond and the Estabrook Woods. Our eleventh graders supplemented their U.S. history studies with trips to the Old North Bridge, Robbins House, and other Concord landmarks. And our entire student body participated in service learning throughout the year, serving 24 organizations across 17 nearby towns.

As you read, I hope you will take pride in the remarkable ways Middlesex students and alumni are already shaping the world. It continues to be a privilege to work with outstanding faculty who choose to call Middlesex home and to be inspired by their talent, scholarship, and dedication every day. Our staff is the glue that holds so much together within our community, and, of course, the leadership of our trustees, the generosity of our alumni and parents, and, most importantly, the energy of our students are the reason Middlesex's mission remains steadfast as we embrace an extraordinary future. Go Middlesex!



Welcoming New Colleagues

The start of this academic year brought not only the talent and enthusiasm of 114 new students but also the wide-ranging experience and fresh approaches of new faculty and staff members.

Five colleagues have joined Middlesex's STEM Division, including **Jerome Amedu**, who served as a math instructor at the University of New Hampshire for the past two years and previously taught math while earning his Ph.D. at North Carolina State University. With a BSc.Ed. in mathematics education from the University of Maiduguri in Nigeria and an M.S. in applied mathematics from Lappeenranta University of Technology in Finland, Jerome first taught middle and high school math at St. Thomas Secondary School in Kano, Nigeria.

David Luo taught math and mentored the robotics team at Peddie School for the last four years. He

earned a B.S.E. in computer science at Princeton University and is working towards an A.L.M. in psychology at Harvard's Extension School. David is a dorm assistant in Peabody House.

Science teacher **Andrew McDowell** already knows Middlesex well, having lived on campus since his wife, Dean of Faculty Ruth Baldwin, joined the School's English Department in 2013. A graduate of Amherst College with a bachelor's degree in chemistry, he brings more than 12 years of experience as a tutor of high school math and science subjects with Advantage Testing in Boston.

Using the telescopes and technology located in the upper level of the Clay Centennial Center, **Ceiligh Cacho-Negrete** is the new observatory technician. Ceiligh majored in astrophysics and Spanish at Wellesley College, where she was a researcher for three years in the Whitin

Observatory, confirming potential exoplanets for the NASA Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) mission. Covering two academic disciplines, **Maggie Kelly '13** has returned to Middlesex to teach biology and history and serve as a dorm assistant in LeBaron Briggs House. After graduating from Georgetown University, she began her career with Teach for America and completed an Ed.M. with a specialization in science at Boston University. Maggie taught science and history for the last five years at St. Mark's School.

A dedicated educator since 2006, **Sue-Ann Newell** comes to Middlesex's

This year's new faculty and staff members include (front row, left to right) Anne Gregory, Ellie Armistead, Sarah Jane O'Connor, and Maggie Kelly '13; (middle row) Jerome Amedu and Sue-Ann Newell; (back row) David Luo, Jamie MacIsaac, Sam Denious, Andrew McDowell, Kevin Anderson, Khary Bailey-Smith, and Michael Hoyle.



History Department from Beaver Country Day School, where she taught history and developed project-based, student-centered curricula. Originally from Jamaica and raised in New York City, Sue-Ann received her B.A. in history and M.S. in teaching adolescent social studies from Fordham University.

Sarah Jane O'Connor has completed two years as an English Teaching Fellow at the Lawrenceville School while earning her master's in education through the Independent School Teaching Residency Program at the University of Pennsylvania. A graduate of Deerfield Academy, she majored in American studies and public health at Williams College.

A Haverford School alumnus, Spanish teacher **Sam Denious** holds a B.A. in Hispanic studies and environmental studies from Bowdoin College. He began his career as the program director for Harlem Lacrosse & Leadership for three years. Sam then taught Upper School Spanish and coached at Gilman School while also earning a master's in education at the University of Pennsylvania as a Penn Fellow in Modern Languages.

In the administrative realm, Chief Finance and Operations Officer **Michael Hoyle** brings nearly two decades of CFO leadership in independent and higher education settings to Middlesex. His extensive background includes serving as the vice president and CFO at Lesley University and, previously, at Boston College High School. Michael holds a Ph.D. in higher education administration from NYU, a master's in public administration from UMass Amherst, and a B.S. in accounting from Bentley University.

Jamie Maclsaac is the School's first director of security and safety, having worked with the Belmont Police Department since 1999 and served as its chief since 2019. He holds a

bachelor's degree in criminology from UMass Boston and a master's degree in criminal justice from Western New England College; he also studied at the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy.

One of two new admission officers, **Khary Bailey-Smith** also serves as a dorm assistant in Peabody House. He studied sociology and captained the football team at UMass Amherst, earning an invitation to rookie minicamp with the San Francisco 49ers. Khary then entered the corporate world before moving to the field of education. He taught for two years at a Boston charter school while also founding TooMorrow LLC, which provides education and mentorship to young athletes. Khary is working toward an M.S. in sport leadership at Endicott College.

Associate Director of Admissions **Anne Gregory** has returned to the East Coast after serving as an associate director of admissions, dorm head, and coach at The Thacher School for three years. A graduate of Bowdoin College with a B.A. in education and Africana studies, Anne completed the Bowdoin Teacher Scholars Certification Program and taught at Maine's Lake Region High School and Yarmouth High School.

After having taught Spanish at Middlesex last spring, **Danielle McKenna** is stepping in as interim associate director of college counseling during Natalie Martinez's fall semester sabbatical. During her 23 years in education, Danielle has been a teacher, advisor, and college counselor; over the past three years, she has also worked privately as a college counselor and is a member of two national admissions and college counseling associations. A graduate of Worcester Academy and Georgetown University, Danielle earned an M.Ed. in Spanish from Framingham State

College and a College Counseling Certificate from UCLA.

Middlesex's Athletic Department welcomed three colleagues. Previously the director of athletics for the Ashland Public Schools, Assistant Athletic Director **Kevin Anderson** has more than 20 years of administrative experience in schools and colleges. A Framingham State graduate, he earned an M.A. in professional communications at Clark University. Assistant Athletic Director **Ellie Armistead** majored in sports management at the University of Georgia, where she played softball all four years. A faculty member at Christchurch School in Virginia last year, she worked in admissions and marketing while also coaching and leading a dorm. Assistant Athletic Trainer **Molly Goulart** has worked with athletes in secondary schools, colleges, and orthopedic clinics; she earned a B.S. in exercise science and an M.S. in athletic training at Merrimack College.

Also supporting students' health and wellbeing is Staff Counselor and Wellness Educator **Matthew Smith**. Matthew holds an M.A. in mental health counseling from Boston University and especially enjoys helping individuals and teams maximize their performance and personal growth.

Technology Network & Systems Administrator **Steve Nace** and IT Support Specialist **Jim Connelly** have added their extensive expertise to Middlesex's Technology Department. Steve has managed the equipment and infrastructure needs of public schools for more than 10 years and served most recently as the technology director for ACCEPT Education Collaborative. During his 20 years in the corporate world, Jim has managed and supported all levels of infrastructure, working previously with TIAX LLC, a technology development company. **M**

Introducing New Trustees

Elected to the Middlesex Board last spring, Gavin Johnson '09 and Kate Leness P'24'28 begin their trustee terms this fall. Though new to this specific role at the School, each brings great professional and personal experience to the Board, especially a deep understanding of Middlesex and its mission.

Gavin C. Johnson '09



Gavin serves on the Board in a pro-tem capacity as the president of the Middlesex Alumni Association. A vice president and client advisor within J.P. Morgan's Private Bank, he focuses on executives of Fortune 500 companies as well as entrepreneurs in the New York City area.

Gavin provides customized and holistic advice on all issues pertaining to his clients' wealth revolving around global investments and risk management through trust & estate and retirement planning. He also advises his clients on liability management by leveraging J.P. Morgan's credit platform. Over his 12-year career covering executives, Gavin has melded goals-based advice with executive compensation knowledge to help clients achieve their long-term goals. He was also a part of and eventually managed the Private Bank's specialty executive program targeting Deloitte's pre-retirement partners.

In 2019, Gavin joined the Middlesex Alumni Association Board of Directors and has led the MxAA Career Committee, moderated career panels, and helped establish the FAM alumni group. As the MxAA Board's vice president since 2022, he has helped to set the agenda for meetings and assisted with overseeing all activities of the group.

Gavin is a native New Yorker and earned a B.A. in sociology at Boston College. In his free time, he can be found engaging in his two passions: soccer and traveling. Having lived in four countries, Gavin enjoys learning about different cultures and refining his Spanish that he learned while traveling.

Katharine B. Leness P'24'28



Kate is a partner at Fund Liquidation Solutions (FLS), a niche investment firm. Prior to FLS, she was an analyst at Strategic Advisers, a unit of Fidelity Investments, where she focused on managerial research and investment. Previously at Fidelity, she was a director of invest-

ment training for Fidelity Research & Management Company and an equity research analyst. Before heading to business school, Kate worked at Goldman Sachs, the American Express Company, and The Kalchas Group in London and New York.

In addition to serving as a trustee on the Fessenden School Board, where she chairs the Strategic Planning Committee, Kate also serves on the Eaton Vance U.S. Charitable Gift Trust Board. She is also a member of the Brookline Education Foundation Board of Overseers and is on the Steps to Success Development Committee. Kate and her husband have been members of the Middlesex Parents' Committee since 2020.

A graduate of Milton Academy, Kate earned a B.A. in economics at Stanford University and an M.B.A. at Harvard Business School. She recently completed an Ed.M. in mathematics education at Boston University Wheelock in May 2025. Kate and her husband, Tony Leness '90, have three children, including George '24 and Oggie '28. **M**

Appreciating the Work of Departing Trustees

Middlesex trustees completing terms this spring were individually honored and thanked at the Board's April meeting.

During her 25-year tenure as a trustee (1999–2003; 2004–2025), **Sarah Leary '88** served on nearly all of the Middlesex Board's committees—from finance and budget to alumni and development to technology, just to name a few—while also chairing the marketing and communications committee. “As an athlete, as an entrepreneur, and as a deeply involved board member, she has always been a vital presence,” longtime Trustee Allen Model '63 said of Sarah. “She consistently brings thoroughness of analysis, intensity, and convincing logic to board discussions. While I never saw her play lacrosse, I am convinced by my experiences when on the rare occasions we have disagreed that I am lucky that I never was her athletic opponent.”

Having long appreciated her classmate, **Joy Connolly '87**, as “an incredibly smart and thoughtful person,” Trustee Abby Doft '87 also came to value the perspective Joy brought to the Board for the last 18 years (2007–2025). “Joy has spent the entirety of her career in higher education, and so she thinks about the trajectory of our students and what it is important that they graduate from Middlesex with, both academically and emotionally,” Abby said. That background made Joy an especially effective chair of the learning, teaching, and community committee, Abby added, and benefited many other committees on which she served, such as long-range planning, technology, pension investments, and alumni and development.

As the parent of two alumni—Andrew '16 and Matthew Zhang '23—**Samantha Du** has been a strong supporter of the faculty and championed the need to invest in them and the School's facilities, noted Chief Advancement Officer George Noble. “She was very astute and knowledgeable about fundraising and the need for capital improvements,” George said. “Her business acumen was especially helpful to the committees she served on as a trustee (2021–2025), including finance and budget and learning, teaching, and community.” Along with her husband Nick, Samantha also hosted Middlesex events in Shanghai multiple times, making her “a great ambassador for the School's international families,” George affirmed.

Serving as the president of the Middlesex Alumni Association and a trustee pro tem (2022–2025) were just the most recent roles taken on by **Alex Hanken Russell '08**, as her classmate and fellow Trustee Madeline Demoulas '08 attested. A former faculty member (2012–2014), active MxAA Board member, and then trustee on the finance and budget, marketing and communications, and alumni and development committees, Alex always brought “deep institutional knowledge, a clear sense of purpose, and a strong, consistent voice” to the boardroom, Madeline said. “Thank you, Alex, for your service, your leadership, and for the deep commitment you've shown to the School we all love,” she concluded. **M**



Sarah Leary '88



Joy Connolly '87



Samantha Du P'16 '23



Alex Hanken Russell '08

SCHOOL News

Spring Circle Walks with Mrs. Speers

As New England spring weather approached in April, Head of School Bessie Speers invited students, faculty, and staff to sign up for a walk around the Circle with her, giving everyone the opportunity to share their ideas and aspirations with her. Among those to take her up on her offer were Taylor Tursi '28 and Rebecca Fusco '28.



A Field House Milestone

When the Field House's final steel beam was set in place on the morning of June 16, 2025, a traditional "topping off" ceremony was arranged by Erland Construction in conjunction with Middlesex administrators. With a spruce sapling and an American flag secured to it, the beam—which had been signed by many trustees, faculty, and students in late April—was slowly hoisted into place, marking the completion of the building's structural phase and the beginning of exterior construction.

Exploring Identity, Leadership, and Belonging

Faculty members Starry Zhu and Ryan Tolfree accompanied 14 students to the AISNE High School Students of Color Conference, held on April 5, 2025, at Regis College, where they attended keynote speeches, workshops, and affinity group sessions. Inspired by this year's theme, "Adventures in Authenticity," Haewon Kim '28 and Stella Pham '28 led an interactive workshop on "Growing up as a Third Culture Kid."





Celebrating Shared Heritage

On April 13, 2025, 15 students traveled to Tabor Academy to attend the Asian American Footsteps Conference, the biggest affinity conference for pan-Asian students in independent schools in New England. Among Middlesex's attendees, nine students took on leadership roles by hosting their own workshops at the conference, including Ashwini Menon '25, Victor Wang '26, Alvin Zhang '26, Celine Ding '27, Benjamin Jiang '27, Haewon Kim '28, Steve Ma '28, Stella Pham '28, and Tiger Wu '28.



Leadership Development

Five Middlesex students—Avery Swenson '27, Janie Martin '26, Addie Dennes '26, Avery Green '26, and Maeve Kearney '27—attended the annual Girls in Sports Leadership Summit at Cushing Academy on April 14, 2025. With a theme of "Looking Ahead, Giving Back: Leading Through Adversity," the summit offered workshops on building skills, confidence, and community, while also giving participants the chance to connect with athletes and coaches from 14 other independent schools.

Alumni Advice for Seniors

With their graduation not far away, Middlesex seniors heard from local young alumni during an evening gathering on April 16, 2025. The returning graduates included Claire Ngugi '21 (Tufts University), Emily Wolford '21 (Boston College), Joey Belsanti '21 (Bryant University), M'Kenzi Thompson '23 (Boston College), Cole Cleary '20 (Harvard University), Nicollette Roark '20 (Connecticut College), and Daisy Boynton '20 (Harvard University)—all of whom were generous in sharing their insights about the transition to college with the class of 2025.



A Beautiful Piece for Memorial Chapel's 100th

As part of the Wednesday morning program on April 20, 2025, that celebrated the 100th anniversary of Memorial Chapel, accomplished pianist Hyuntae Choi '20 returned to campus and treated the community to a spectacular performance of Chopin's Polonaise in A-flat major, Op. 53 (known as the "Heroic Polonaise"), which deservedly earned him a standing ovation.



Sage Advice

Guest Speakers on Campus

Through sharing their different stories of discovery, difficulty, and determination, visitors last spring were informative and inspiring, giving students the benefit of their experience and their recommendations on how to approach the challenges and opportunities that may lie ahead.



A Rewarding Interdisciplinary Path

The title of Dr. Jenn Stroud Rossmann's talk, "Blood Cells, Whiffle Balls, and Stories," seemed to describe three completely unrelated topics; yet, as students learned on April 8, 2025, all three subjects are interconnected in her professional and personal life. As the Baird Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Lafayette College, Dr. Rossmann explained how her childhood affection for the Yankees, her fascination with the movie *Star Wars*, and her love of stories have led to a scientific career encompassing all her passions.

In giving this year's Bendheim Lecture—a series established by a Middlesex parent to bring inspiring experts in STEM fields to campus—Dr. Rossmann counseled students to keep exploring their different interests. Doing so has allowed her to pursue a variety of stimulating projects, from researching the dynamics of biological fluids in diseased blood vessels to studying the aerodynamics of sports projectiles to writing textbooks and a novel. "I chose the challenging path because it was promising its own rewards," Dr. Rossmann said. Continuing with her interests in engineering, writing, and science "balanced me out," she noted. "I feel lopsided if I only study one or the other."



The Risky Business of Betting

Relating his own cautionary tale about the danger of sports betting on April 22, 2025, guest speaker Saul Malek explained how this easily accessible, widespread form of gambling can lead to bigger, more serious problems than many would imagine. In his case, his early involvement with a fantasy baseball league gradually broadened in high school to betting on all kinds of sports. This led in college to habitually placing bets with bookies—and amassing debts that he could not pay. "Once you're addicted, divorcing yourself from it is difficult," he said. "My whole lifestyle had to be replaced."

Currently in recovery with the support of Gamblers Anonymous, Mr. Malek encouraged students to pay attention to "the three Ps" of a problem with betting: paying too much, persisting despite negative consequences, and preventing normal activities. If these signs are evident in a friend, he advised "planting a seed of help" by steering them to professional resources. Recovery is possible, he emphasized, with the support of friends.



A World of Her Own

As part of celebrating Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Middlesex welcomed *New York Times* bestselling author Rebecca Kuang to campus on May 13, 2025. Calling herself an "accidental writer," Ms. Kuang said that her voracious reading and compulsive writing habits were her way of teaching herself "how to become an American kid" after her family emigrated from China to Texas when she was five. With few Asian schoolmates and "no Chinese girls in the novels I read," she said, "In my imagination, the best version of me had blonde hair and blue eyes."

It was not until she spent a gap year in China after two years of college that her writing shifted from a "private hobby" to a serious pursuit. "That year changed everything," Ms. Kuang emphasized, for it reconnected her to a history, culture, and language she thought she had lost. In her free time, she honed her skills through an online writing program and created her first novel, *The Poppy War*, which was published just before her college graduation. Now a Ph.D. candidate at Yale with six novels to her credit, Ms. Kuang assured students that many successful writers have also taken "a meandering path" and recommended reading great writers to learn their craft. "You don't need anyone's permission to create something," she said in closing. "All it takes is the realization that there are no fictional worlds that you fit in, so you just have to create one."

MX Global Cultural Engagement

Thanks to Middlesex's Global Programs, new trips during March break and exchanges with schools abroad have deepened students' appreciation of historical places and events, as well as political and artistic movements, furthering their understanding of and connection to people around the world.

MX Global Initiates Australian Exchange

Following the February two-week visit of six students from Academia Interamericana de Panamá (AIP), Middlesex's second new exchange program launched in April—this time bringing five students from St. Catherine's School, an all-girls' boarding and day school located just outside Melbourne in Toorak, Australia. Accompanied by Kelly Brady, a teacher and dean at St. Catherine's, the group arrived on April 7 and, after a short orientation program, jumped right into classes, athletics, and campus life at Middlesex. Amid a typical New England spring, they heard a dynamic Bendheim Lecture (see page 12), enjoyed the Spring Choral Concert, and engaged in the School's inaugural Green Summit (see page 18).



(Above) In turn, in mid-August, English Department Head Jecca Hutcheson brought four Middlesex participants—Nadia Abdinoor '27, Addie Dennes '26, Lauren Hilton '26, and Natalie Jean '27—to Australia to experience life as St. Catherine's students for nearly two weeks. While living with host families in the Melbourne area, they attended classes and joined in school activities, quickly becoming part of the welcoming, close-knit community there.

¡Adelante a Panamá!

The reciprocal part of Middlesex's exchange program with Academia Interamericana de Panamá (AIP) began only days after final exams had concluded. Ready for a two-week immersion experience, four Middlesex students—Freddy Murphy '26, Stella Pham '28, Janelly Ramirez '28, and Andrew Visco '26—arrived in Panamá City with Spanish teacher Annie Kelly on June 1, 2025. During their days there, the students attended classes and participated in sports, arts, and extracurricular activities at AIP, a bilingual, coed day school. In the evenings, they spent time with their host families, taking full advantage of this opportunity to learn about the culture and traditions Panamá while perfecting their fluency in Spanish.



EXPANDING **The Circle**

MX Global Travel Opportunities

Scouting a Trip to South Africa

In July, math teacher Patty Shepard and School Store Manager Amy Gleason spent two weeks in South Africa exploring different potential components for a Middlesex student trip next year. Traveling with a small group that included former faculty member Anna Marchand '07, they visited the Cape of Good Hope, Table Mountain, and Robben Island in Cape Town. They also prepared food for a community soup kitchen and engaged with six nonprofit organizations that support their local communities in various ways. Additionally, Patty and Amy met with principals and administrators in four different schools to discuss possible partnership opportunities. After such a productive expedition, Amy and Patty hope to have a Middlesex trip organized for March 2026 that includes cultural engagement, service, and adventure. Stay tuned!



Paris

Guided by Visual Arts Department Head Stacey McCarthy and Music Department Head Pierson Wetzel, 10 students toured the City of Light, taking in as many museums and musical performances as possible. The Musée d'Orsay and the Louvre, the Musée Picasso and the Centre Pompidou—among others!—were all on the itinerary, along with evenings spent enjoying a choral concert at Notre-Dame, opera at the Palais Garnier, and jazz at Le Duc des Lombards. As promised, it was “an unforgettable adventure in the arts.”





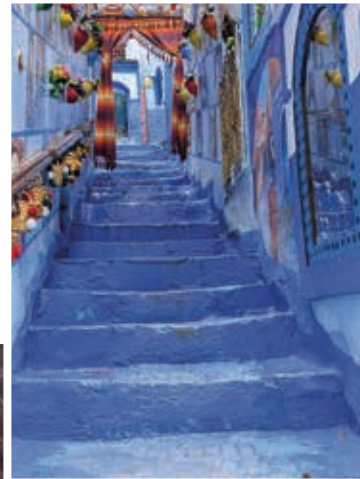
Greece

Working in collaboration with the Paideia Institute, World Languages Department Head Dan Barber and classics teacher Aura Rizzo '07 chaperoned 15 students as they explored the archaeological wonders of ancient Greece while discovering the culinary and artistic traditions of modern Greece. In addition to the impressive temples and structures preserved at the Acropolis, Mycenae, Delphi, and Olympia, they were amazed by the country's striking topography, with its stunning views from Cape Sounion and the heights of Nafplio—leaving more than one traveler eager to return one day.



Morocco

A country steeped in a vibrant cultural heritage dating back to antiquity, Morocco offered 11 students the opportunity to explore mosques, médinas, fortresses, tanneries, and ruins. From Rabat to Chefchaouen, and Fès to Casablanca, they sipped mint tea, haggled for deals on leather bags, and experimented with local fashion, all while practicing their French. Accompanied by French teachers Konrad Herath and Roodly Jean, students became experts on Moroccan history and identity by chronicling their experience in a daily blog. To read more about their adventure, visit: www.medium.com/@mxmorocco25.



Middlesex Squared to Launch in Summer 2026

By **Erika Ferlins Mills '99**, Director of Strategic Initiatives
and **Nick Favaloro**, CEO of the Squared Network

MIDDLESEX'S WORD OF THE YEAR FOR 2025–26 IS **IMAGINE**, and we are thrilled to be launching a program in the summer of 2026 that imagines new possibilities for a future generation of leaders in the United States. Imagine if the Middlesex experience could be condensed into five impactful weeks over three consecutive summers for high-potential students. Now imagine those three summers leaving such a profound mark that students routinely credit the experience with preparing them for college and call the experience “life changing.” This is the model of Squared: a national nonprofit where talent meets opportunity, serving ambitious, first-generation, low-income scholars from across the country. This summer, Middlesex and Squared will partner to launch the inaugural **MX Squared** program.

MX Squared—written in shorthand as **[MX]²**—will bring students to campus for five weeks in the summer for three consecutive years, free of charge, during the heart of their high school years. Next summer's inaugural cohort will be a group of 25 talented, first-generation, low-income students who just completed ninth grade at public schools across the country, including from the Boston area. These students will take rigorous STEM and writing classes, engage in college counseling work, participate in afternoon athletics and arts, and live in community with one another, just like Middlesex students do during the school year. Squared staff—teachers, residential advisors, and activity leaders—will include members of the Middlesex faculty, as well as alumni of Squared's affiliated programs.

“Welcoming Squared students to Middlesex is an extraordinary opportunity for the School to fulfill its mission more deeply and meaningfully. It reflects who we are and what we value: believing in young people, investing in their potential, and expanding Middlesex's circle of opportunity.” — Head of School Bessie Speers

Middlesex was chosen as a Squared partner after a competitive search process. Squared Network CEO Nick Favaloro says the two most important criteria that Squared weighed

during the search process were mission alignment and strong leadership. Middlesex will become the first ISL school to establish a Squared chapter.

“This community stood out because the School approached the opportunity as a way to demonstrate “who we are.” Plus, we were interested in bringing Squared to the Boston area, and we knew that there was no better place to do that than here at Middlesex.”

— Squared Network CEO Nick Favaloro

Squared has a long history of success. The first program of its kind was established in 1977 at Phillips Academy in Andover, and 30 years later, the flagship Squared affiliate program, **[HS]²**, launched at the Colorado Rocky Mountain School in Carbondale, Colorado. A new Squared program launched at Connecticut's Kent School in 2024.

Squared is thrilled to welcome Brooke Hilliard as the founding executive director of **[MX]²**. A Boston native and first-generation college graduate, Brooke has over a decade of experience in education and nonprofit leadership. She began her career as a Teach For America corps member and has since led innovative college and career readiness initiatives across K–12, higher education, and nonprofit sectors. Brooke holds a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College and a master's in education from Boston University. She is deeply committed to educational equity and is excited to build a transformational experience for the inaugural **[MX]²** cohort at Middlesex.

The mission of the Squared Network is “to expand opportunities for talented, first-generation students from low-income backgrounds by preparing cohorts of driven peers to graduate from top colleges and contribute as leaders in their communities.” Squared exists to address the problem that talent is universal, but opportunity is not. The model's structured programming builds confidence and belonging, ensuring students develop persistence and feel empowered in academic and social settings back at their home high school and at their future college. To learn more about the model, please visit Squared's website (www.squarednetwork.org).

The results of the [HS]² program (Squared's flagship affiliate program) over its nearly 20-year history are astounding: a high school graduation rate of 99% and college matriculation rate of 94%, with 88% of their alumni graduating from college, exponentially better than the national average for low-income, first-generation students. Notably, [HS]² alumni attend top colleges and universities. In the last five years, the top schools to which Squared alumni have matriculated are the University of Pennsylvania, Tulane University, Dartmouth College, Boston University, Texas Christian University, and Yale University. [HS]² alumni receive strong financial support from these institutions, helping to remove one of the largest barriers to success for first-generation, low-income students.

[HS]² alumni subsequently enter high-growth careers, particularly in STEM fields, allowing them to build long-term financial stability and generational wealth. Perhaps the greatest testament to the program's impact is how many alumni return to inspire and mentor the next generation of students; nearly one-third of Squared faculty are program alumni. These graduates are changemakers—engineers, scientists, educators, and entrepreneurs—who uplift communities across the country.

There are many ways to get involved and help contribute to the launch of this exciting new chapter for Middlesex. If you are interested in learning more about [MX]² or supporting the program, please contact Director of Strategic Initiatives Erika Mills at emills@mxschool.edu. And please come visit the program in action next summer! **M**



Middlesex's Director of Strategic Initiatives Erika Ferlins Mills '99 met with Squared Network CEO Nick Favalaro and MX Squared Executive Director Brooke Hilliard for a logistical planning session this past July.



Assisting with the development of the MX Squared program is a task force of Middlesex faculty members, including (clockwise from top left) Steven Whitt, Molly Gerrity, Jay Yohnka, Peggy Yoon, Ravn Jenkins, and Sue-Ann Newell.

Hope, Resilience, and Local Action Middlesex's Inaugural Green Summit

The leadership efforts of Coordinator of Environmental Sustainability Mandy Irwin and Director of Strategic Initiatives Erika Ferlins Mills '99 resulted in the School's very first Green Summit, a morning filled with thought-provoking presentations, workshops, and discussions that introduced the school community to a wide variety of environmental topics. More than a single, special occasion on April 12, the event set the stage for realizing one of the objectives articulated in Middlesex's Strategic Vision: to prioritize sustainability and foster environmental stewardship and leadership.

IN KEEPING WITH THE SPIRIT of the summit's intent—to open a conversation about the environment and sustainability—the day began with an inspiring, heartfelt discussion about the importance of connecting with and caring about the natural world. The School was fortunate to host award-winning author, naturalist, and *New York Times* contributor Margaret Renkl, who was interviewed in the Kaye Theatre by science teacher John MacMullen and Director of Spiritual and Ethical Education Rebecca Smedley.

Cultivating a Kinship with Nature

Clarifying from the start that she is “not a scientist,” Ms. Renkl described growing up in her childhood home with the windows wide open, so that she “always thought of the natural world as part of me” and now views herself as “a writer who loves the world.” With the belief that people in the digital era feel separated from nature, she said, “That’s why I started writing about my backyard, so that possibly others would feel the same way about their environs.”

While acknowledging the alluring advantages of cellphones, Ms. Renkl allowed that the “sweet spot” of their

usage is hard to find, which is why she spends lunchtime outside, just listening and observing. Along with noticing changes in climate, she has become concerned about seeing many fewer migrating rose-breasted grosbeaks, for example, flying near her Tennessee home.

“We all want to do something—what can we do?” Rebecca asked, prompting Ms. Renkl to reply, “I think the best thing you can do is learn. What is the relation between water and beavers? Or caterpillars and leaves and birds? Learn, so that when you have power, you can use it. You’ll have the moral authority.”

Fielding questions from her attentive audience, Ms. Renkl reassured students that people’s actions—even small ones, like putting out a pot of zinnias—can make a difference. “The thing that gives me the greatest hope is you can see things changing on a dime,” she said. “When you make changes for the better, you can see change quickly. I find that heartening.”

Green Talks and Workshops

For the next segment of the program, students and faculty were assigned to one of four campus locations, in each of which three different, short “Green



Talks” were given by students from Middlesex, Concord Academy, and Concord-Carlisle High School, as well as by representatives from Codman Farm in Lincoln, Concord’s Fowler Library Branch, and Gaining Ground in Concord. The impressive range of subjects (see page 21)—from regenerative agriculture to the value of urban trees, and from environmental justice to sustainable daily choices—showed the breadth of issues related to sustainability and stewardship and the many ways to become involved with environmental matters, both locally and globally.

Dividing into smaller groups at the end of the Green Talks, students and faculty then headed to one of 14 workshops that involved anything from writing about nature with Ms. Renkl to hearing about energy use in AI with science teacher John Bishop to learning about forest carbon crediting while walking in the woods with Will Gardner '12, a graduate student at Yale's School of the Environment and School of Management. Energized by the earnestness and enthusiasm of the day's presenters and their encouragement to contribute to a more environmentally sustainable future, the community appropriately ended the summit with a vegetarian lunch in Ware Hall.

Scaling the Summit

That the Green Summit was such an engaging, collaborative, successful event can be largely attributed to the "Green Team" of faculty members appointed by Head of School Bessie Speers: Coordinator of Environmental Sustainability Mandy Irwin, Director of Strategic Initiatives Erika Ferlins Mills '99, and Estabrook Stewardship Coordinator Willy Hutcheson (who was able to connect Middlesex with Margaret Renkl). Part of their year-long planning process involved attending established programs, such as the Global Summit on Climate Education held by the Institute for Global Learning and the James Tufts Piner Environmental Stewardship Conference at Thayer Academy. At the same time, Mandy and Erika connected with administrators at Concord Academy and Concord-Carlisle High School, with Town of Concord officials, and with local organizations like the Concord Land Conservation Trust, Mothers Out Front, and Codman Farm.

"This was an opportunity to kick off a conversation about what sustainability means for Middlesex and



During the morning conversation with writer Margaret Renkl (on far left), spectacular nature photographs taken by Estabrook Stewardship Coordinator Willy Hutcheson were projected on the Kaye Theatre's screen. To see more of Willy's artistry, visit www.instagram.com/estabrooknature.

for students,” says Erika, “and it was an opportunity to connect with the town and local groups, bringing like-minded people together.”

Since this was a new venture, it was decided that for this first event, all Middlesex students would be in attendance, with the program including speakers from the town as well as other area schools and concerns. In November 2024, an email went out asking all those interested—students and faculty alike—to submit proposals for 10-minute presentations and/or 30-minute workshops that would tie into the summit’s theme of “Hope, Resilience, and Local Action.” The morning’s schedule was quickly filled—and because of its environmental focus and the inclusion of town offices, schools, and community organizations, Middlesex was honored to have the Green Summit recognized as being part of the broader Concord250 celebration, which commemorated the 250th anniversary of the historic battles of Concord and Lexington and the ideals that shaped a nation.

First Responses

Thoughtful planning and preparation clearly paid off, as all went smoothly on April 12, 2025. “We had a lot of positive feedback,” Erika says. “Among the highlights were the students’ presentations. They were so prepared and passionate, and it’s powerful for students to hear from their peers. It was an inspiring day. Everyone learned something.”

In fact, the information shared in one Green Talk immediately led to the planting of a pollinator garden on campus soon after the summit. “I think it was a really good community day; people were energized,” says Mandy. “Carrying that into an action piece is important in order to give students practice and skills that they can then take out into the world.”

One such activity is the annual Green Sale, which was started by Erika in 2021 and has grown every year since under Mandy’s leadership. Lamps, fans, couches, mini-refrigerators, and other items in good condition that have been donated the previous May are sold in September to current students instead of being thrown out, with the proceeds going to local environmental organizations. This fall, when seniors returned early for leadership training, they participated in a morning of service activities, one of which involved helping Mandy set up for this year’s Green Sale. Other projects included removing invasive plants from around Bateman’s Pond and a few nearby locations, weeding the School’s garden, and harvesting produce at Gaining Ground.

Pathways to Promise

Far from a new consideration, sustainability and environmental stewardship have been central to decisions and changes made at Middlesex for more than a decade. The

A graduate student at Yale’s School of the Environment and School of Management, Will Gardner ’12 offered a Green Workshop that taught students about forest carbon crediting while taking a walk in the woods.





The Green Workshop offered by the Concord Land Conservation Trust detailed the benefits of conserving natural spaces, which include mitigating risks such as flooding, heatwaves, and biodiversity loss. Acting as land protection planners, students then collaborated in small groups to analyze Concord maps, identify a priority area for conservation, and present their decisions to the other participants.



APRIL 12, 2025

Green Talks Topics

- The Value of Oysters
- Regenerative Agriculture
- Fighting Fire with Fire
- The Value of Urban Trees
- Biotech
- Tech/Business & Climate Change
- Environmental Justice
- Mountain Lions
- Pollinator Garden
- Cultivating Mushrooms
- Biodiversity
- Sustainable Daily Choices

Green Workshops

- Fast Fashion & Clothing Repair
- Change at the Local Level
- Nature Writing Workshop
- Appreciating the Beauty of Nature via Art & Writing
- Nature Haiku
- An Outdoor Participatory Art Project
- Climate Anxiety & Mindfulness
- Mass Clean Energy
- Ecohope
- Proposal Writing for School-Based Sustainability Projects
- Woods Walk or Forest Carbon Crediting
- Climate Change 101
- Biodiversity Protection
- Climate Change as Shown in Movies
- Energy Use in AI

Student Leadership

Of the 12 “Green Talks” given at the Summit, seven were the work of Middlesex students—three of whose presentations are summarized here.



Robbie Fawcett '26 The Value of Oysters

A summer job harvesting oysters near his Duxbury home several years ago first introduced Robbie to the wonders of the bivalve mollusk. So remarkable are their benefits that he was soon inspired to share his knowledge of them by founding “Oysters for Life” and giving talks at the New England Aquarium well before the Green Summit. “Each oyster filters about 50 gallons of water per day, which is amazing for a creature of its size,” Robbie told his Middlesex audience, noting that by filtering bacteria, they help prevent algae blooms. Unlike cattle, which require significant amounts of land, water, and food, oysters are self-sufficient and even extract carbon from the environment during shell formation. After oysters have been eaten, those shells form reef structures that protect shorelines from erosion. “Part of my goal in all this is related to climate anxiety,” Robbie explains. In spreading positive information like this, he hopes to help people find their place in the climate issue. “Everyone has a role,” he says.



Amrita Tromge '26 Fighting Fire with Fire

In the hills and forests of Northern California that Amrita calls home, wildfires are an ongoing threat both to humans and the environment itself—not only consuming everything in their path and reducing air quality but also sterilizing the soil, leading to a decades-long recovery process for the ecosystem. While constantly clearing out undergrowth and brush is one way to prevent wildfires, Amrita advocated in her Green Talk for an effective, less labor-intensive method long used by indigenous cultures: controlled burning, or prescribed fires. Bringing together the knowledge and efforts of local tribes, fire departments, neighbors, and volunteers, controlled burns have lower flames that “eliminate the dry fuel, clear the land, and enrich the soil, allowing bigger trees to breathe,” Amrita said. Initially terrified when training on the ignition lines of prescribed fires, she has come to view these controlled burns differently after seeing how land recovers and the environment thrives as a result. “It’s affordable and accessible,” Amrita adds today, “and through working together, you can accomplish so much.”



Sixing Wang '26 Cultivating Meat with Biotechnology

Like other classmates, Sixing was motivated to give an optimistic Green Talk on a topic that would engage his fellow students. Settling on a subject related to health and nutrition that highlighted humans’ creativity and advances in biotechnology, he made a case for building an industry around cultivated meat, which can be grown from a small sample of cells taken from a live, healthy animal. “There have been attempts at plant-based meats,” Sixing allowed, “but it doesn’t taste as good, and investors have not been convinced it will be profitable.” In addition to being sustainable and healthier—sparing animals and antibiotic use while lowering the risk of foodborne pathogens in a sterile lab—cultivated meat, Sixing suggested, could greatly reduce the world’s population of 1.5 billion cattle currently raised for meat production and thereby reduce the greenhouse gases they emit by 70 percent. “People want to keep their eating habits,” Sixing said. “This is a way to preserve that but make it sustainable. We can tweak the ways that we’re living.”

School reduced its carbon footprint by more than 20 percent in 2013 by installing individual, high-efficiency, natural gas-fed boilers in each building and decommissioning its aging, oil-fed central heating plant. That structure then became the Rachel Carson Music and Campus Center, heated and cooled with a geothermal system—the same technology that is being installed in the new Athletic Field House, currently under construction.

Now, with the recently completed Strategic Vision—*Expanding the Circle: Pathways to Promise*—Middlesex is continuing its commitment to the responsible stewardship of the campus and to equipping students with the skills needed to find solutions to environmental challenges.

To that end, new ideas and methods are already being explored. This past summer, Mandy and Erika attended a leadership workshop at

Maine’s Hurricane Island Center for Science & Leadership, where sustainable systems for food preparation and for water and energy consumption are modeled. In late August, Mandy returned there, bringing along science teacher John Bishop and three seniors who serve as sustainability officers, giving the students a chance to learn about sustainable practices and begin to think about how those approaches might be incorporated at Middlesex.

Fostering a culture of stewardship more intentionally is also being accomplished through efforts to integrate the School’s natural surroundings into the curriculum and programming. Last spring, the English department piloted a unit called “A Sense of Place” in all ninth grade classes (see page 32) that connected literary selections and writing exercises with the local area. Service learning activities—like the ones carried out by the seniors on their arrival—are another

way to cultivate a sense of responsibility, as is simply spending time immersed in the natural world, as Margaret Renkl advocated. In his new role, Estabrook Stewardship Coordinator Willy Hutcheson is working to create opportunities for the community to engage with and appreciate the environment that surrounds the campus.

Even as all these endeavors are being carried out and thoughtfully woven into life at Middlesex, Mandy is already beginning preliminary plans for the 2027 Green Summit. In becoming a regular occurrence every other year, the event is certain to keep the School moving forward with its sustainability and stewardship goals while continuing with the intentions of the inaugural summit: **hope** for an environmentally sustainable future; **resilience** to global challenges through innovation; and **local action** to effect positive change, here and now. **M**



Coordinator of Environmental Sustainability Mandy Irwin and science teacher John Bishop accompanied Howard Liu '26, Robbie Fawcett '26, and Phoebe Seidman '26 to the Hurricane Island Center for Science & Leadership in August to learn about sustainability practices.

Fond Farewells

Whether in their classroom or office, on the field or ice, this year's three retirees generously gave Middlesex their all, making the School a welcoming and engaging place to be for visiting families, current students, and alumni alike.

Ken Whitlock

By Bret Stephens '91 P'22'27

FIRST MET KEN WHITLOCK on my first day at Middlesex in September 1987. He was in the second year of his extraordinary 39-year tenure at the School. I was a socially awkward 13-year-old boy from Mexico City. It was my lucky day when I was assigned to him as his advisee.

Ken saw that I had a lot of growing up to do. He also recognized that we

had a shared passion for history. It's a passion he knew how to inspire and steer. As my Western Civ teacher in the ninth grade, he urged me to go beyond the Middlesex gates to do archival research at the Boston Public Library for my final paper. What was supposed to be a 10-page essay somehow morphed into a 47-page comparative analysis of the geopolitical effects of the naval battles of Trafalgar and Jutland. I couldn't have written it for any other teacher (and I wonder if any other teacher would have had the patience to read and comment on it all).

Ken also showed me how important it was to pay close attention to the nuts-and-bolts of history: dates, names, chronology, geography. Teaching facts isn't always fashionable. But facts matter—something more of us are beginning to appreciate in our post-fact era. Ken helped me make connections I might otherwise have missed: for instance, between the invention of new technologies in one century and the advent of religious movements in the next, or between regional economic incentives and diverging political ideologies, or between the spread of germs and the rise and fall of empires.

The ability to make those sorts of connections—to think about the present with a feeling for all the predictable, surprising, happenstantial, or providential ways in which the past unfolded—is central to what I do as a columnist at *The New York Times*. That's another passion that Ken helped spark, with his encouragement of my first journalistic pursuit as one of the founders of the alternative campus publication, *The Circle*.

The Circle was brash, subversive, episodically thoughtful, often rude and

crude. We were guilty of outrageous stunts, like “borrowing” Headmaster David Sheldon's bike early one morning, raising it up the flagpole, and running a photo of it on our cover.

But it was also a formative experience for some of us who went on to fruitful careers in media, including Alec Sulkin '91 and John Viener '90, our comedy writers, and Jason Nevader '90, our publishing wizard. Not every Middlesex faculty member appreciated the publication—in fact, some detested it. But Ken encouraged me and understood that we were engaged in a constructive form of rebellion, or what John Lewis might have called “good trouble.” Knowing that Ken, with his good judgment and even temper, was a fan of our work was a huge source of encouragement as we produced two issues per month over nearly three years.

More important to me, Ken was a fatherly presence in my life. My adjustment to living 3,000 miles from home, not only in a new school but in a different country with an unfamiliar culture, wasn't always easy. Maybe Ken had a fellow feeling for it, as the first Black member of the faculty. We never discussed it, but I must have intuited the combination of tenacity and tenderness that defines Ken's character and provided a role model for me. Steadiness is an underappreciated quality, but Ken had it in spades. It did a lot to steady me.

I left Middlesex in 1991 and for many years saw very little of Ken. Then, nearly 30 years later, I became a Middlesex parent and a trustee, and I got to know Ken once again in a particularly special way: as my younger daughter's history teacher. Knowing



that she would be in the same kind and intelligent hands—not just institutionally, but personally—is one of the reasons why I feel such a powerful bond with the School.

If there's a single word that defines Ken Whitlock, it's "care." He cared for me when I needed it most, as a vulnerable outsider. He cared for my intellectual and emotional development as I grew up at Middlesex. He cared for the hundreds of students who went through his classroom. He cared for a school that he improved in every conceivable way: intellectually, artistically, and morally. And he cared for his beautiful family, not least through personal heartbreak.

Ken, as you embark on your well-earned retirement, please know that I feel nothing but lucky and grateful that you have played such an important part in my life. I wish you and Barbara fair winds and following seas.

Bret Stephens is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and an Opinion columnist for The New York Times who writes about foreign policy, domestic politics, and cultural issues.

Joe Mallen

By Brian Cloherty '19

CONGRATULATIONS to Coach Mallen as he hangs up the skates on an incredible career at Middlesex. Over the past two decades, countless students have had the honor of calling him their coach, advisor, mentor, and friend.

Joe understood the essence of community and dedicated more than 20 years to making Middlesex the best school it could be. In his role as an assistant director of admissions, Joe worked to ensure that students from

diverse backgrounds found their way to the Circle. He loved everything about Middlesex and took pride in being able to play a part in the makeup of the campus.

Coaching high school athletes is no small feat, yet Joe approached his career with a commitment to treating each student and player with equality and dignity. Coach Mallen was renowned for treating his players as adults, even during our teenage years. He showed us a level of respect that was uncommon for high school students. During hockey game intermissions, his players were met with his signature call to action: "Listen up, men, this is what we have to do." Though it may seem an ordinary way of referring to us, it had a significant impact in our locker room. Joe held his players to a high standard, yet never gave off a sense of superiority.

It would be difficult to find someone with more of a genuine love for the game of hockey than Joe. His legendary career is a testament to his dedication to the game. Joe will forever be known as the coach who created a Division I hockey team from scratch. His work as head coach of the UMass Amherst Minutemen saw the program emerge from non-existent to competing in Hockey East, the highest level of college hockey in the country. This was an unprecedented feat at the time. Thanks to the foundation set by Coach Mallen, today UMass is one of the best college hockey teams in the country and was recently crowned the 2021 NCAA Division I National Champions. In the off season, Joe never strayed far from the game and spent his summers on Nantucket, running a hockey camp.

Joe's dedication to the teams he led was unmatched. In the few hours of his day that he did not have skates on, he spent countless hours digging through game film and committing his time to improving his team the best

he could. He genuinely did everything he could for his men wearing the anvil.

Coach Mallen's pride in his players extended beyond the season and high school hockey careers, as he continued to care about us long after graduation. In the years since leaving Middlesex, my conversations with Coach Mallen often include updates on the lives of his former players. He loves to talk about where his players live, where their careers have taken them, and any other life updates he has to share.

Personally, Coach Mallen has had an incredible impact on my life. I can credit many of the opportunities I have had post-graduation to the Middlesex network, which I never would have had access to without his support. I first met Joe when I was in eighth



grade and had no clue that places like Middlesex existed. Growing up in South Boston, I never imagined I would be lucky enough to spend four years living on a beautiful campus and being a part of such a great community. He took the time to meet with my family and explain everything that I would have access to if I came to Middlesex. Outside of being my coach, Joe put up with me as an advisee for four years and helped shape both my college and

career decisions. I can't thank him enough for everything over the years.

Joe's unique ability to connect with people and his loyalty to his players can be attributed to his upbringing in Dorchester. In talks with Joe, he often credited much of his success in life to the town he was raised in. Though he always wanted to win, his legacy amongst his players will be his dedication and loyalty to every player he coached. It is no surprise that he has

left quite a legacy in the hockey world, and there is not a person in the Massachusetts hockey community who does not know the name "Joe Mallen." Middlesex was lucky to have him for so many years.

Best of luck in your next chapter, Coach Mallen.

***Brian Cloherty '19** is a client associate at J.P. Morgan Wealth Management.*



Judy Omobono

THE SCHOOL and all its constituencies were fortunate to benefit from the expertise and efforts of Alumni Relations Coordinator Judy Omobono, who played a key role in Middlesex's Alumni and Development Office during the past 23 years.

Throughout her tenure, Judy organized and planned over 250 events on behalf of the School. In particular, she took great pride in offering Middlesex alumni and parents an enjoyable experience each time they visited campus for Family Weekend or Alumni Weekend. Her meticulous preparation and attention to detail made these large-scale, complex events operate smoothly every time. Regardless of the occasion or venue, her efforts were entirely focused on helping everyone have a wonderful time, and year after year, event after event, she would invariably deliver. Whenever a graduate or parent would report how much they enjoyed themselves at a particular event, her colleagues knew that they had Judy to thank for that individual's satisfaction.

"Like a point guard distributing the ball to her teammates (and by the way, she was quite an athlete in her day!), Judy has always put Middlesex in a position to succeed," said Alumni Relations Director John Morrissey in an end-of-year tribute to Judy. "As someone with a long history with team sports, I firmly believe that there is no higher compliment that you can pay anyone than calling him or her a great teammate. Judy is a great teammate. I'm incredibly grateful for Judy's contributions to our office and the School, and I am particularly thankful for her friendship and support on a personal level."

After being such an indispensable member of Middlesex's Alumni and Development team for over two decades, Judy is stepping away to focus on an even more important team: her family. We wish her many more joyous days with her mother, husband, children, and grandchildren and thank her sincerely for the incredibly positive impact she has had on so many people at Middlesex. **M**

On to New Ventures

With gratitude for their years of commitment, care, and accomplishments, Middlesex wishes two longtime colleagues well as they set off for new homes and endeavors.



Terry Cunningham

SOON AFTER SHE JOINED THE Middlesex Business Office in 1995 as controller, Terry became a pillar of leadership and financial stewardship at Middlesex. As director of finance and CFO, she successfully guided the School through decades of growth and transformation. During economic recessions, the pandemic, and other external stressors, Terry's leadership was instrumental in preserving the quality of Middlesex students' experience and ensuring the School's success.

Moreover, Terry's commitment extended far beyond Middlesex's Business Office. As an advisor, dorm parent, and coach over the years, she supported and indelibly shaped decades of students with her unwavering dedication and care. As the faculty advisor to the Invest In Girls club, she served

as both a role model and an advocate, helping young women at Middlesex develop skills in and passion for finance. Additionally, Terry and her husband John were involved for over 20 years with Middlesex's "Gazebo" initiative—a skating program for local children with disabilities—and they assumed the leadership of this winter activity for the last few years. John also served the School for many seasons as a coach of both boys' and girls' teams in soccer, hockey, and lacrosse, working with athletes at all levels.

Terry clearly embodied the "opt-in" ethos that has long been a hallmark of Middlesex faculty, engaging with students across all areas of school life. As she and John embark on their next chapter in the DC area, they will always be part of the Middlesex community, both as former colleagues and as the parents of two alumni, Aidan '17 and Lizzie '18.

Dan Sheff

AFTER 18 YEARS ON THE Middlesex faculty, Dan is moving back to the familiar campus where he grew up—Kimball Union Academy—to chair the world language department there. First joining Middlesex as a Spanish teacher in 2007, Dan began serving as the assistant dean of students in 2013 and became the dean of students three years later. As the director of Middlesex's Global Programs over the past four years, he steadily expanded the number and variety of travel opportunities for students (see page 14), with groups venturing to countries including Taiwan, Panamá, the Dominican

Republic, Sénégal, Italy, and Morocco in recent years. He also began developing exchange programs with other schools, launching two this year: first with Academia Interamericana de Panamá, a bilingual day school in Panamá City, and then with St. Catherine's School, an all-girls' day and boarding school near Melbourne, Australia.

Dan spent much of his tenure living in Bryant-Paine House, leading it for four years when it was a boys' dorm; when it became a girls' dorm in 2016, his wife Desiree—who taught math and science at Middlesex from 2002 to 2021—stepped in as a dorm assistant. Dan coached many sports over the years but is perhaps best known as an integral member of the boys' varsity soccer coaching staff. Throughout his time at Middlesex, Dan's leadership, dedication, and optimism made a significant and lasting impact on the community. His passion for the School and its students was evident in every role he took on, and he leaves behind a legacy of excellence and care. **M**



Sustained Stewardship

Graduation 2025

"While commencement is surely an event in and of itself, it is, in fact, the journey to this day that we are celebrating this morning," Head of School Bessie Speers rightly noted at the outset of Middlesex's 122nd graduation on May 25, 2025. For the 102 members of the class of 2025, that journey had begun with mask-wearing and COVID protocols and culminated with a senior spring that marked significant milestones: 50 years of coeducation and 100 years of Memorial Chapel at Middlesex, as well as the 250th anniversary of the first battles of the American Revolution in Lexington and Concord. There were "firsts" to celebrate, too, from the groundbreaking for a new Athletic Field House to the School's inaugural Green Summit on sustainability to the newly launched exchanges with schools in Panamá and Australia.

"Remember that you have been part of a school whose bedrock was based on the strongest of convictions about democratic ideals, integrity, intellectual power, freedom of speech, and making the world a better place," Bessie said. "Pay attention to the ways you can combine your intellectual might with compassion and humility, for it is in this very combination that you will help transform and inspire the world."



Leading the procession from the Chapel to Eliot Hall were School Co-presidents Gaby Alonso '25 and Kwame Addison '25, along with Senior Class President Addie Creelman '25.

Handshakes and hugs were the order of the day as the graduates moved along the line of faculty members waiting to wish them well.





Guest speaker Ryan Melia '07 followed his remarks with a great rendition of “The Times They Are a-Changin’” by Bob Dylan, whose 84th birthday happened to be the day before graduation. Having been the valedictorian for his own Middlesex class, Ryan remembered well how clear the path ahead had seemed to him back then as he headed off to a highly selective acting program at Carnegie Mellon University. With the benefit of hindsight, he said, “It’s been a winding, surprising, fulfilling, messy journey”—one that led to his becoming a co-founder of PigPen Theatre Co., which wrote the music for the Emmy-nominated Broadway production of *Water for Elephants*. “You don’t have to know what’s next; you shouldn’t know. That’s the best part,” Ryan said. “I invite you to create more and buy less, to explore more and follow less, to discover for yourself what this all is. That’s what this next stage of life is about. You get to find out where your attention really wants to go, what really brings you joy, and what stirs your spirit.”



Andrea Flores '25 and her family.



Director of Counseling Sarah Moss Cohane '95 congratulates Kimberly Guzman Flores '25.



Xavier Smith '25 and Fiona Fittante '25 made their way across the Circle.



Sophie Crawford '25 and Isla Ferrari '25.

Graduation 2025

Marcus Dougé stepped up to shake the hand of Board Chair Jason Robart '83, who had earlier counseled the seniors about the path ahead. "As you leave Middlesex and venture into a wider world, remember that the journey ahead will be full of unexpected turns, challenges, and opportunities," Jason said. "I encourage you to take with you the lessons, the laughter, the values, and the vision that are inside you today. Let them guide you, inspire you, and keep you grounded. While you are moving on to the next chapter, Middlesex will always be part of who you are."



Following Middlesex tradition, the graduation ceremony concluded with the singing of "Jerusalem."

Like the class of 2025, Senior Member of the Faculty Ken Whitlock was about to transition to a new venture after graduation, retiring from Middlesex after 39 years of teaching history.



Each senior—like Sofia Senunas '25, pictured here—stopped for a quick photo with Board Chair Jason Robart '83 and Head of School Bessie Speers after receiving a diploma.



Ryan Wolff '25 (center) became the second Middlesex alumnus in his family, joining older brother Kyle '22 (second from left).



With his diploma in hand, Valedictorian Ian Lam '25 paused for a photo with his family. In addressing his classmates at the podium, Ian wryly likened their Middlesex experience to playing Minecraft. "We've survived the Nether and slayed the Ender Dragon," he said, "and now, we're finally free—free to cruise around in our Elytra and Netherite armor, free to build epic bases and terraform the world." Now standing "at the dawn of our next voyage," and regarding the challenges ahead "as an incredible opportunity for us to shape the course of human history," Ian affirmed, "We're more than explorers. We're trailblazers. Class of 2025, we've already crossed the vast oceans. It's time we look to the stars."



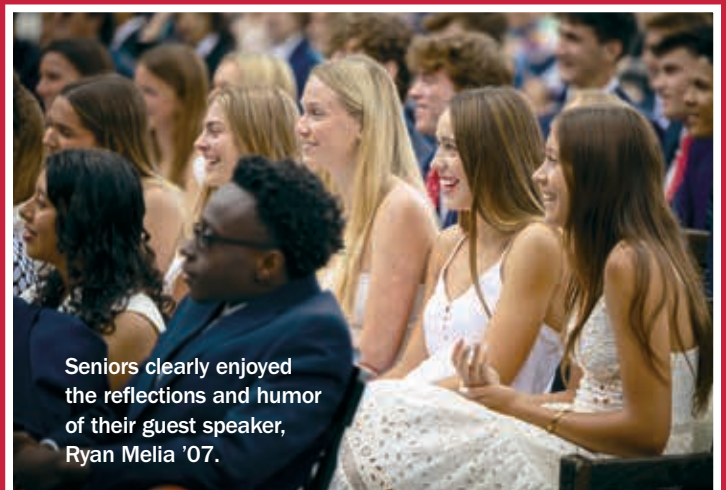
Ada Sprong '25—the eldest daughter of Emily Herter Sprong '96—got a big hug from her cousin, math teacher Katie Herter Bruch.



Science Department Head Steven Mylon had the pleasure of handing a Middlesex diploma to his son Olly '25.



Music Department Head Pierson Wetzel (at left) conducted the choral officers in singing the first hymn, "Rank by Rank." From left to right are Julia Blum '25, Maggie Huse '25, Felix Wetzel '26, Tyler Martinez '26, Alvie Zobel de Ayala '25, Ally Deng '26, Izzy Johnston '26, and Marcus Dougé '25.



Seniors clearly enjoyed the reflections and humor of their guest speaker, Ryan Melia '07.



The entire 2025 Middlesex Graduation ceremony can be viewed on YouTube.

Exploring a Sense of Place

Last spring, English teacher Emily Teevens led one of her ninth grade sections in a discussion of “The Bees,” a poem by Audre Lorde.

O N A SATURDAY IN MAY, ninth-grade English students traded the classroom for Concord’s natural surroundings and historic sites. Notebooks in hand, they wandered the trails of Estabrook Woods, explored the DeCordova Sculpture Park and the Gropius House in Lincoln, and walked the narrow trail encircling Walden Pond. These visits to destinations in the Concord area marked the culmination of the Middlesex English Department’s “place-based” writing unit, an initiative piloted this spring to coincide with the Green Summit and *New York Times* columnist Margaret Renkl’s visit to campus (see page 18).

“Place-based” education seeks to connect academic learning with the physical environment in which it occurs. For the English department, this meant encouraging students to

consider and give voice to their own sense of place—their relationships to both the natural world and their built environments. Throughout the unit, students read and drew inspiration from a wide variety of literary works, including essays by Annie Dillard, E.B. White, Rachel Carson, Camille Dungy, and Robin Wall Kimmerer, and poetry by Joy Harjo, Natasha Trethewey, Ross Gay, and Mary Oliver.

Students wrote extensively, often using the published essays they read as models for their own work. Their writing reflected the wide range of life experiences, across many different geographic places, that our Middlesex students bring to campus. Students wrote about wandering through city parks, fishing for bass in quiet streams, and kicking soccer balls across green fields. They wrote about Maine ocean air, blueberry pie, a grandmother’s

reading voice, surprising snake encounters, natural disasters, and cross-country runs. Students explored the many ways that the places they call home have shaped their sense of who they are and what they value.

Throughout the unit, students considered questions of place and identity: How do the places we call home shape how we each uniquely see the world? What constitutes a community? What are our responsibilities, as a community, to the natural spaces we inhabit?

“In the time that we’re living in, given the climate crisis, I think that students feel more pressure to make drastic changes,” shared Mia Koopersmith ’28. “But I think that the first step is just loving and respecting the natural world.” The curriculum was designed with this aim in mind, to help students look up from their devices and appreciate their surroundings,



particularly all that the Middlesex campus and the surrounding Concord area have to offer.

Students read excerpts of Henry David Thoreau's *Walden* and learned about the literary movement that occurred in Concord in the mid-19th century and included writers Ralph Waldo Emerson, Louisa May Alcott, and Nathaniel Hawthorne. "I love that the School exists in the midst of preserved history," shared Lindsay Baik '28, adding, "The town itself seems like I'm walking into a museum exhibit. It's always different to visit a place, rather than just reading about it."

At Middlesex, opportunities to explore Concord's literary history aren't limited to the ninth grade. Seniors in the English department's "Concord Authors" course read essays by Emerson, Thoreau's *Walden*, and Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*. On one visit to Walden Pond, students noticed the train as it clattered by, becoming in that moment young

Thoreaus, disgruntled that the Fitchburg line had disrupted the morning's peace. Reading *Little Women*, students entertained themselves by imagining Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy as Middlesex students, living in 21st century Concord. When students encountered Thoreau's description of Concord's stonewall network, they connected this passage to a recent discussion in Mandy Irwin's "Environmental Science" class.

As English teachers, we want our students to understand the literature they read as products of a time and place, rather than as texts existing in a vacuum. In our classrooms, our students learn to notice—a beautiful sentence, a key moment of development in a character's trajectory—and we hope that this noticing will extend beyond the Harkness tables where it begins. Our students, we hope, will come to see themselves not only as observers, but also as participants in the texts they read, the conversations they share, and the places they inhabit. **M**

Below: On a rainy Saturday in early May, the ninth grade English students of Assistant Head of School Eric Kester '04 visited the replica of Thoreau's cabin at Walden Pond as part of their "place-based" writing unit.



Portrait of a Middlesex Graduate

What kind of person emerges from a Middlesex education, and how does that growth take shape from the moment a student arrives on campus to the day they graduate (and beyond)? Last year, Middlesex's Community Life Committee, led by Dean of Students Kathy Smithwick Swain '08, worked with a small group of current students to define the qualities the School aims to cultivate throughout a student's time at Middlesex. During a reflective, two-day retreat, the group considered every dimension of school life in a collective effort to articulate a shared vision of growth. The result is our *Portrait of a Middlesex Graduate*, a living expression of our mission to find the promise in every student and a compass for how that promise is discovered, developed, and lived each day.



Engaged in Self-Discovery

- Demonstrates a willingness to learn from mistakes
- Engages in introspection and self-awareness
- Possesses confidence in self and purpose



Engaged in the Community

- Shows respect for all members of the community
- Takes responsibility for contributions to school life
- Acts as a present and engaged member of the School



Engaged in the World Beyond Middlesex

- Develops cultural competency through academic and experiential learning
- Demonstrates curiosity towards outside opportunities
- Participates personally in activities beyond Middlesex
- Reflects on how to relate to or differ from other communities and cultures



Engaged in a Sense of Place

- Builds knowledge of the historical, cultural, and environmental significance of Concord and the local area
- Understands personal responsibility with local area
- Serves and participates in the local community



Nurturer of Wellness

- Engages in care of the body and mind, balancing work and play
- Intentionally cultivates healthy relationships
- Incorporates awareness of emotion into love of self and others



Lifelong Learner

- Curious and collaborative in building a growth mindset
- Committed to ongoing intellectual development
- Engages multiple perspectives with critical thinking



Ethical Leader

- Upholds a strong sense of personal values and a defined moral code
- Prioritizes lifting up others before oneself
- Demonstrates social courage with integrity
- Possesses emotional intelligence defined by empathy and responsibility



Cultivator of Positivity and Kindness

- Remains intentionally present in interactions
- Expresses interest and listens actively
- Embraces optimism in daily life
- Practices kindness as a consistent habit

Top-Tier Performances

As the boys' varsity squash team topped the competition to win the Division V National Championship for the first time, individual athletes reached new heights in their respective sports.

National Champions

Heading into the final weeks of the winter schedule, the boys' varsity squash team had already enjoyed a successful season, achieving a 9-4 record that included hard-fought victories over Dexter Southfield and St. George's. Qualifying for the first time for a spot at the U.S. High School Team Championships, the squad headed to Philadelphia for the tournament, held during the last weekend in February. There, Middlesex beat Horace Mann 5-2 on February 21 and then went on to defeat Westminster (GA) 5-2 and Millbrook 5-2 the following day. Ultimately, the title would come

down to the very last match against Maryland's Walt Whitman High School on February 23. Playing at #1 and #2, Co-captains Hudson Hinckley '25 and Armaan Shah '25 had won every single one of their matches that weekend, while Evan Hur '26 and Neo Wang '28 had each won three out of four. It was up to Tiger Wu '27, playing at #7, to secure the win for his team, and he delivered. After dropping the first and second games, Tiger rallied and came back to win the next three, making Middlesex the 2025 Division V National Champions.

Fellow Co-captains Armaan Shah '25 (left) and Hudson Hinckley '25 (right) warmed up before their BB&N match, which Middlesex won 8-1. Both captains earned All-League and All-NEPSAC Honorable Mentions at the end of their senior season.



Trophies in hand, Middlesex's seven players (plus one alternate) paused for a team photo. In front, left to right: Evan Hur '26, Co-captain Armaan Shah '25, and Co-captain Hudson Hinckley '25. Standing, left to right: Neo Wang '28, Warner Vanderweil '27, Tiger Wu '27, Daghan Konur '26, and Davis Hale '25.

Personal Bests

In addition to team triumphs, the winter season featured outstanding performances by individual athletes whose achievements brought them league or regional recognition—or simply the satisfaction of reaching a new milestone in their sport.



Achieving 1000

Co-captain Nick Teller '25 drove to the basket in a game against Rivers last January. Just two weeks later, Nick scored his 1,000th career point during the team's 70-53 win over Beaver Country Day and ended his senior season on another high note when Middlesex defeated perennial rival St. George's 55-52.



All-New England Standout

Competing at the NEPSWA Championships at Phillips Exeter on February 15, three-year varsity wrestler Kassie Schaeberle '26 placed fourth at 114 lbs., earning All-New England recognition for the second consecutive year and helping her team finish 12th overall in the girls' division.



ISL Champion

A week after taking first at the Northern New England's on February 1, Varsity Wrestling Co-captain Harper Edwards '26 became the 2025 ISL Champion at 165 lbs. by pinning his Thayer Academy opponent at the Graves-Kelsey Tournament.

Winter Captains

(Below) In their official Middlesex sweaters, the captains of all 11 winter athletic teams gathered for a photo after the Winter Sports Award Assembly in March.



Winter Highlights

For more sports news, visit athletics.mxschool.edu



Nordic Skiing

Co-captain Alex Hood '26 (right) and Martin Erath '25 (left) competed in the first of four "Friday Night Lights" races in which the Middlesex girls finished first (ahead of Rivers and Andover), while the boys took third among Andover, Belmont Hill, and Rivers.



Girls' Basketball

With Rebecca Fusco '28 ready for the rebound, All-League Co-captain Julia Blum '25 sliced through two defenders to score at the rim, helping secure a 43–39 win over Milton and capping the season with a 14–9 record—one of the program's strongest finishes in recent years. Julia and Rebecca were both named NEPSAC All-Stars, joined by fellow Co-captain Kylee Shah '25.



Boys' Hockey

Another save by Co-captain Caio Bernardini '25 led to a 5-2 win against Worcester Academy early in the season. Along with earning a NEPSAC Honorable Mention, he was named All-League, as was fellow Co-captain Matt Egan '25. Caio will play for Tufts next year, while Matt will play lacrosse at Brown.

Girls' Squash

Captain Ashwini Menon '25 extended for a forehand drive before a match with BB&N, which ended with a 7-0 victory for Middlesex. During the regular season, her team won every close match they played, including those against St. Mark's, St. George's, and Milton.





Girls' Hockey

Headed to Harvard, Co-captain Isla Ferrari '25 was a steadfast presence and positive team leader in a season that featured Middlesex's first victory against Rivers since 2012, a thrilling, close game with BB&N, and a satisfying 4-1 win against Worcester Academy.



Alpine Skiing

Above: Sofia Senunas '25 (#22) and Captain Sophie Shaw '25 (#12) celebrated yet another top-ten finish from Captain-elect Addie Dennes '26 (left) as the season ended.

Below: James Counselman '25 (on left), Jack Elworth '25 (center), and Captain Ryan Wolff '25 (#82) congratulated Captain-elect Andrew Visco '26 as all six varsity boys (not pictured: Captain-elect James Millett '26 and Isaiah Atherton '26) captured top-ten finishes in the season's final race.

Dance

The athleticism and artistry of Middlesex dancers was on full display on February 20 at the Winter Dance Concert, the culmination of many weeks of choreographing and rehearsing.



Setting New Records

Track & Field Excels

The talented and dedicated athletes comprising the 2025 track & field team were inspired to perform at the highest level. Veteran athletes served as great examples to their younger teammates, consistently demonstrating how to train hard and compete with passion—producing great results. At the ISL Championships held at Milton Academy on May 11, Middlesex celebrated two individual ISL Champions: Grace-Ann Bailey '27 in the high jump and Stella Curwin-Amfitheatrof '26 in the 3000-meter race. The season concluded on May 17 with the New England Division II Meet at Williston Northampton, where Grace-Ann repeated her ISL success in the high jump, and Josh Richards '26 emerged as the shot-put champion. Overall that day, the girls' varsity placed fourth, and the boys' varsity finished third. This was the best combined result of any school—a noteworthy accomplishment for Middlesex.



Boys' Varsity Track Co-captains Olly Mylon '25 and Kwame Addison '25 accepted their team's trophy after Middlesex finished third at the New England Division II meet.



New England Champions: Josh Richards '26 and Grace-Ann Bailey '27 sported their first-place medals in the shot put and high jump, respectively.



ISL Champion: Stella Curwin-Amfitheatrof '26 finished first in the 3000-meter race on May 11 at Milton Academy.

Spring Standouts



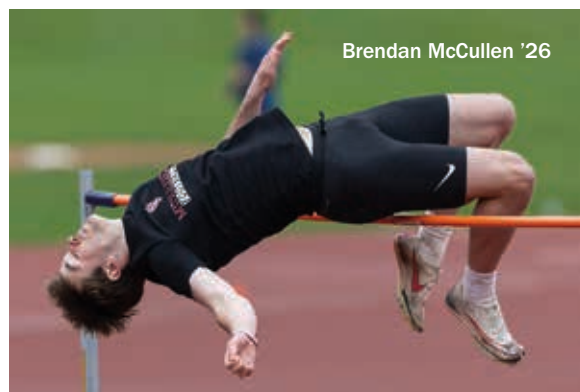
Tournament Champion

With a two-under-par 70, Lucy Wang '26 won the 39th annual Pippy O'Connor NEPSAC Girls' Golf Tournament, held at Connecticut's Simsbury Farms Golf Course on May 12, 2025. Middlesex's team that day—which also included Olivia Zhang '28, Ellie McCalmon '26 and Asiya Ramazanova '28—finished fifth overall, an impressive achievement!



All-American Points Leader

All-American Co-captain Owen Crann '25 finished his Middlesex career as the School's all-time points leader with a total of 318—topping the previous record of 206 points, set in 2006 by Jamie Atkins '06. Owen also led the ISL in total points this past season with 102 (69 goals and 33 assists), earning the title of ISL MVP, as well as being named All-League and All-New England once again. He will play next year for the University of Virginia.



Brendan McCullen '26

Leading the Pack

Several track-and-field athletes surpassed established school records during the 2025 season, including:

Josh Richards '26

broke the 2019 record of 112'7" by throwing the discus 128'9"

Grace-Ann Bailey '27

added an inch to the previous high jump record of 5'5" set in 2022

Brendan McCullen '26

extended his own high jump record from 6'2.75" to 6'6"

Kassie Schaeberle '26

reached the girls' pole vault record of 7' before attaining 8'6"

Ellie Calo '25

Cassidy Bruno '26

Addie Creelman '25

Grace-Ann Bailey '27

achieved a time of 51.33 seconds in the 4x100-meter relay at the ISL Championships

Aidan Canty-Whitt '26

pushed beyond Josh's new discus record, reaching 134'10"



Ellie Calo '25

Spring Highlights

For more sports news, visit athletics.mxschool.edu



Girls' Lacrosse

Co-captain Finley Crosby '25 beat a St. Mark's defender on her way to the goal in a mid-April contest. Named All-League and All-New England for the season, Finley was the team leader in goals, ground balls, draws, and caused turnovers. She is taking her talents to Hobart and William Smith, where she will play both ice hockey and lacrosse for the Herons.



Boys' Crew

The first boat put forward some excellent races throughout the spring season. Pictured, left to right, are Daghan Konur '26, Alex Clapp '25, Allan Lu '28, Alexei Liska '27, and Coxswain Kaya Surmeli '26.



Girls' Crew

With Coxswain Mollyanna Nuki '25 in the bow, the first boat trained for the NEIRA Regatta in mid-May. Rowing, from left to right, are Charlotte Friedmann '26, Captain Caroline Ripsteen '25, Avery Green '26, and Ally Deng '26.



Boys' Tennis

Co-captain Hudson Hinckley '25 prepared for a backhand shot in a match against Lawrence, which ended in a 7-0 victory for Middlesex. Hudson had a 12-4 win/loss ratio in his senior season, meriting All-League and All-New England Honorable Mentions.



Softball

In the second year of its return to Middlesex, the JV softball team improved its record to 5-0-1 with the efforts of players like Grace Najarian '28, shown here making a massive hit in the final game against Rivers.



Ultimate Frisbee

Captain Ben Feuer '25 looks for an open teammate to move the disc upfield in a late-April game against Concord Academy.



Girls' Tennis

Along with great wins at the NEPSAC Tournament and on St. George's Day, Co-captain Sadie Schuler '25 earned an All-New England Honorable Mention in her last Middlesex season.



Baseball

Co-captain Charlie Driscoll '25 beat the tag at home to score against Pingree.

Challenges—and Achievements—Await College Athletes

With graduation just days away, 26 seniors who were recruited to play for their colleges gathered to celebrate their Middlesex careers and look ahead to their first season at the next level. Two fellow alumni, Jack Lyne '16 (Johns Hopkins University Lacrosse) and Ali Joseph '20 (Hamilton College Ice Hockey and Crew), joined the group to offer their encouragement, reflections, and advice. The following is an excerpt from Ali's remarks that evening.



My recruiting process coming from Middlesex was unique. While I initially had dreams of playing ice hockey in college, the stars at the time did not align. I was fortunate enough to be recruited to the rowing team at Hamilton, where I have since made more friends and athletic strides than I could have imagined, but this was never where my heart was.

For 17 months between the end of my senior hockey career and the next chance I would have to try out for the Hamilton team, I did off-ice conditioning work, spent time at physical therapy to rehab a shoulder injury, and went to on-ice clinics in my spare time. But one thing that stands out the most was a program I did with one of my Middlesex teammates after our last season during the pandemic. As one of my best friends and a co-captain with me on the hockey team, she had already been accepted to Bowdoin College to play hockey; but one thing that we did together was make a packet of workouts that we could do together to keep each other in shape and hold each other accountable—to get us to the places we wanted to go. Her future was established, and she was pushing me to help my dreams come true.

This is exactly what I mean [about Middlesex athletics]. I was surrounded by teammates who were dedicated, passionate, and caring to a degree that would help me get to the level I wanted to reach. She pushed me to be better, and I pushed her. It's this constant game of tug-of-war that you will play that will help you to find success in college.

After ending my Middlesex experience, the expectations I had for my college career completely underestimated the future I was about to have. While on the rowing team, I helped my team get a second-place national title and later went on to captain the squad my junior year. After walking onto the hockey team, I had the opportunity to play as a part of a semifinal and quarterfinal national team, and had the privilege to captain that team this past season. These experiences would not have been possible had it not been for the challenge, structure, and opportunity provided to me while I was at Middlesex, and I am confident that you will have similar stories to tell in the future. So, when things get hard, I want you to remember that you are ready for the challenges ahead of you, you will always have a support network to lean on, and you already have so much to be proud of.

Before embarking on the next step in her career after college graduation, Ali Joseph '20 is training with her father to run the 2025 Chicago Marathon to support the Alzheimer's Association.

Commitment, Investment, Teamwork Coaching Philosophies at Middlesex

From the School's earliest days, athletic involvement has been considered an integral part of a Middlesex education—important not only to students' health but also to their character development. In the current era of early sport specialization, with its emphasis on individual training and progress, what is the approach and focus of Middlesex's Athletic Program today? As successful, longtime coaches, Director of Athletics Craig Najarian and Associate Director of College Counseling Natalie Martinez offer their perspectives.



Beginning his professional career in athletics as a college coach, Craig Najarian was an assistant baseball coach at Boston College in 2000–2001, when the team won the Baseball Beanpot in Fenway Park.

Craig Najarian

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

SPEND SIGNIFICANT TIME watching, examining, and reflecting on today's overall athletic culture. I do this daily with an even closer eye focused on the evolution of athletic culture in both college and pro sports. It's been disheartening for me to witness how commercialism and individualism have become all-encompassing and how these ideals are in stark contrast to what is truly special about the high school athletic experience. As I consider the landscape of sports in

At Middlesex, our student-athletes have balance in their lives and learn how to compete and lead in several areas—that's where I always see the most potential for student growth.

general, it's been important for me to reflect on what sets Middlesex apart.

Since joining Middlesex as the athletic director in 2023, it's been refreshing for me to see many commonalities here with my own athletic experience some 34 years ago: the

blending of competitiveness with fun; kids competing in multiple seasons because of the bonds they have with teammates and their talented coaches; and students being so passionate about their school and wearing their school colors proudly. At Middlesex, our student-athletes have balance in their lives and learn how to compete and lead in several areas—that's where I always see the most potential for student growth. I truly believe that responsibility to each other and committing yourself fully are paramount tenets in athletics. That culture and that approach are what I learned as a young athlete; that's what impacted me the most, and that's what I have witnessed during my short time at Middlesex.

My love affair with sports as a kid was centered on great teams, great moments, emotional wins, underdog stories, and, more than anything else, groups of ordinary people coming together to do extraordinary things. As I watch and study today's landscape, I often wonder if some of those signature moments would happen today in college and pro sports. Would there be a 1980 Miracle on Ice? Would you see Doug Flutie throw that Hail Mary for Boston College? Would you see Jim Valvano's 1983 NC State "Cardiac Pack" beat the unbeatable in the NCAA tournament? Those moments don't happen by simply assembling talent. Those inspirational stories are

born out of teams that are emotionally invested and fully committed, and those stories are what are truly great about sports. Today's culture at the professional and collegiate levels is chipping away at those moments. That said, it is continually uplifting for me

to see that emotion, investment, and commitment on full display right here at Middlesex.

I am so very proud of our student-athletes, and it is deeply rewarding for me up to see them compete, lead, and coalesce as teams and enjoy this

moment in time together. That feeling of being a part of something bigger than yourself exists profoundly here at Middlesex, and *that* is the difference. That is the gold in this experience, and I can promise you that's what our students will remember years from now. **M**

Natalie Martinez

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
OF COLLEGE COUNSELING

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE that my coaching philosophy is always evolving. While my core values and goals for a team remain the same, I believe it is essential to adapt to both the needs of today's athletes and the demands of an ever-changing game.

But here are a few of my core values.

First: Joy. The prime motivation of sports should be joy. Don't get me wrong—athletics can be hard and will not only consist of "great moments": scoring the game-winning goal, winning the championship, working hard and having it pay off, or playing well all the time. It will also include heart-wrenching losses, devastating injuries, getting little playing time, and many failures. At those times, as an athlete, you need to take a step back and ask yourself, "Why am I doing this in the first place?" And the answer should be, "Because it is fun." It's as simple as that. Once that is established, everything else falls into place. All the sprinting, lifting, preparation, sweat, and tears exist because, at the heart of it, we love the game. In my opinion, when you find these things in life, the ones you love so much that they can cause just as much pain as joy, you have found success.

Second: Human Relationships. Strong relationships are consistently shown to be the greatest source of

At the end of the season, I hope my players leave feeling empowered, having gained life lessons, built lifelong relationships and memories, and enjoyed the experience so much that they are sad to see it end.

happiness, and the best ones are built on trust, honesty, care, and understanding. There's no better place to build these bonds than on a team of any kind. In fact, I encourage everyone to experience as many different types of "teams" as possible. In athletics especially, relationships with teammates are formed through a unique blend of physical and mental trust, interwoven with shared effort and commitment.

Third: Team building. My goal each season is to develop the best team possible with the unique strengths and goals of the players in front of me. Every team is different, so there's no "magic formula" or clear definition of the "best team." What I hope for is a team of players who: hold themselves and each other accountable and to a high standard; exploit each other's strengths; make every player feel valued; work hard in high-paced practices; enjoy time together on and off the field; trust one another; and compete seriously but don't take themselves too seriously. Getting there takes time, adversity, and growth—it doesn't happen overnight.



Natalie Martinez joined the Middlesex faculty in 2002 as a teacher of physics and coach of both varsity field hockey and girls' varsity lacrosse; she has continued to serve as the girls' lacrosse head coach since moving to Middlesex's College Counseling Office in 2016.

At the end of the season, I hope my players leave feeling empowered, having gained life lessons, built lifelong relationships and memories, and enjoyed the experience so much that they are sad to see it end. While some will go on to have wonderful collegiate athletic careers, I always remind them: There is nothing quite like high school sports. Being on a team alongside classmates during such a formative time of growth is an extraordinary opportunity. **M**

PERFORMING Arts

Urinetown

Kaye Theatre | May 2 & 3, 2025

Inspired by the works of Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill, the irreverently humorous musical *Urinetown* was a hit with Middlesex audiences last spring. Satirizing everything from politics and the legal system to capitalism and corporations—and even the Broadway musical form itself—the demanding production highlighted the talents of actors, vocalists, and dancers, whose collaborative efforts made the show a resounding success.



VISUAL Arts

Garden-Variety

A BOSTON UNIVERSITY MFA
PAINTING SHOWCASE

April 12–May 7, 2025

With the assistance of former Middlesex faculty member Daniela Rivera—now a professor of art at Wellesley College—the School partnered with Boston University’s Master of Fine Arts Program to produce the Ishibashi Gallery’s spring exhibition. In Garden Variety, 23 M.F.A. candidates explored what it means to be emergent artists amid the unrest of the contemporary moment. Growth emerged as a constant theme, along with the diversity of ideas that can flourish in a fertile academic ecosystem.



Spring Showcase

THE AP STUDIO ART EXHIBITION

A highlight of the year in late May, the exhibition of work by seniors who have just completed an Advanced Placement Studio Art course gives the community a chance to appreciate the final portfolios assembled by these talented artists.



Vivienne
Milosavljevic-
Cook '25

Isla
Ferrari
'25



Alvie Zobel de Ayala '25



Ada Sprong '25



Mila Chow '25

Alumni Weekend

Held at the end of April this year, Alumni Weekend drew graduates, families, and former faculty back to Concord to enjoy Middlesex in mid-spring, with gray skies and occasional rain making the campus look greener than ever. At dinners, receptions, and special ceremonies—and, of course, under the reunion tent—alumni caught up with their classmates and made new connections, too, finding commonalities among Middlesex traditions and student experiences across generations.



Standing between Head of School Bessie Speers and Board Chair Jason Robart '83 P'11-'13, longtime history teacher Ken Whitlock and CFO Terry Cunningham were both celebrated for their caring, dedicated service to Middlesex at a special reception on Saturday. Their significant tenures on the faculty—39 for Ken and 29 for Terry—will be commemorated on campus with a new Harkness table in Ken's history classroom and a new Adirondack chair on the Circle for Terry.

Alumni connected with each other in affinity groups on Saturday afternoon in Ware Hall.



Danyul Cho '85 and Jared Schott '85 caught up during lunch at the reunion tent.

Alumni in the class of 1975 began their 50th reunion celebration with dinner at the Head's House. In the front row, from left to right: Jamie Jones, David Ruiz P'97, Spencer Sloan, John Kosartes, Andy Brown, Brad Durham, David Perkins, Chris Phillips, and Tony Ryerson. Middle row: Andrew Deery, Bill Truesdale, Brad Keeler, Tom Costello, and Henry Dudley. Back row: John Sweney, Blair Villa P'12, Doug Kinney, Ki Haden, and Larry Slattery.



Among those attending the 30th reunion dinner on Friday night at Concord's 1780 House were, from left to right, Janine Robinson, Jon Fortmiller, Todd Keck, Torrey Coyle Ogden, and Stirling Churchman.



(ABOVE) Volunteers and donors were recognized at a Saturday evening reception at the Head's House, including (far left) Trustee Bill Ho '86 P'23, Mollie McPhee P'23, Deanna Ho Montgomery '88 P'28, and Jesse Ho '84; (middle) Ben Howe P'14'17 and Board Chair Jason Robart '83 P'11'13; (on right) James Kessler '90, Julie Zagars '90, and Alan Bunce '90.

Younger reunion guests could opt to watch Jungle Jim create balloon animals—or check out living ones at the Rainforest Reptile Exhibition.



The class of 2020 enjoyed an impressive turnout for their fifth reunion, with more than 60 classmates attending Saturday night's clambake.

Alumni Weekend



Back to mark their 30th reunion, members of the class of 1995 assembled for a photo outside the tent. Pictured from left to right: Meghan Boardman Siegal, Jon Fortmiller, Sarah Hall Weigel, Janine Robinson, Stirling Churchman, Essi Vulli, Tyler Davis-Jeffers P'24, Cinda Scott, Torry Coyle Ogden, Heather Hobbs, Director of Counseling Sarah Moss Cohane, Nikki Matthias, Pam Diem Willis P'27, Charles Field, Katina Tsongas, Todd Keck, Sarah Wilson, Stan Tassev P'21'24, and David Martinez P'26'29.



It's been 25 years since the class of 2000 became the first to graduate in a new century. Celebrating under the reunion tent were, from left to right, Ian Calhoun, Trustee Rob Trumbull, Laurel Pierpont Reichold, Chris Mansfield, Hilary Shepard Thomas, Fred Warburg, Phoebe Evans Walsh, Andrea Carr Fitzpatrick, Kelsey Kester Calhoun, David Cody, Elgin Fulton, Tim Moulton, and John Lawrence.



Sharing and comparing their Middlesex experiences, current students joined alumni who had already celebrated a 50th reunion at the Old Guard breakfast on Saturday morning.

Members of the class of 1980 reconnected during dinner at the Colonial Inn on Friday night. From left to right: Middlesex's Head Athletic Trainer Laura Darby McNally P'16, Robert DeBenedictis, Sarah-Jane Vokey Zerbino, Tom Strickler, and George Elliman.



Lewis Canfield '85, Devin Hill '85, and Tad Goltra '85 P'20'22.

Athletic Hall of Fame

2025 Inductees



The Middlesex Athletic Hall of Fame Nominating Committee welcomes your nominations of classmates, teammates, and coaches. If you have someone you'd like to see considered for induction, please contact Director of Alumni Relations John Morrissey at jmorrissy@mxschool.edu.



1994 Girls' Cross-Country Team

With a perfect 10-0 record, the team finished first in the ISL and in the NEPSAC Division III Championship. Coached by Middlesex Athletic Hall of Famer Malcolm Russell, the team's margin of victory was over 20 points, and the closest race that season was decided by six points.



Lillian Rosenthal '01

Lillian won eight letters in her Middlesex career, including four in squash, three in soccer, and one in track. Named All-League in squash each year and in soccer as a senior, she was also named a Boston Globe All-Scholastic in squash in 1998. As a soccer captain in 2000, she helped her team capture the NEPSAC Championship, and in her second year as a squash captain, her team earned a share of the ISL Championship. Lillian then played four years of squash at the number one position at Brown University, where she was named All-Ivy and All-American three times. She was a senior co-captain of the team with her Middlesex teammate Julie Flygare '01 and attained a college national individual ranking of seven.



T.A. Demoulas '11

Winning 12 letters in his Middlesex career—four each in football, ice hockey, and lacrosse—T.A. was a captain of each team as a senior. He earned an All-League Honorable Mention in both football and lacrosse in 2010 and was named All-League and All-New England in lacrosse in 2011. Additionally, T.A. was the recipient of many Middlesex athletic awards, including the Kelton Athletic and Scholarship Bowl, the Class II Alumni Prize, the Joseph Morrill, Jr. Hockey Bowl, the Ruth S. Kondon Memorial Lacrosse Bowl, and the Ty Prince Memorial Bowl. At Bentley University, he played lacrosse for four years and was drafted by the Boston Cannons of Major League Lacrosse.



1999 Field Hockey Team

Finishing the season with a record of 17-1, the team captured the ISL and NEPSAC Class B titles. In the NEPSAC Tournament, the team defeated Hopkins, Thayer, and Williston Northampton without allowing a single goal—and allowed only seven goals the entire season while scoring 41. The team roster featured three future members of Middlesex's Athletic Hall of Fame: Laurel Pierpont '00, Tori Scott '00, and Barrie Shapiro '01.

E. Duane Jones '70 Service to Alumni Award

Established by the Middlesex Alumni Association in 2021—and named in honor of former Trustee Duane Jones '70—the Jones Award is presented to individuals who, alongside their own demanding careers, have dedicated substantial time and effort in service to the alumni of the School.

Mary Lou Boutwell W'73 P'02'06

For loyal support and extraordinary leadership



A graduate of Williams College, Mary Lou earned an M.B.A. at Columbia Business School and an M.S. in real estate development at MIT. Her relationship with Middlesex began when she met Steve Boutwell '73, and they were married in Memorial Chapel.

Tragically, Steve passed away in 1989, yet Mary Lou remained in touch with several of his classmates, and her ties to Middlesex deepened when her sons, Rob '02 and Charlie '06, attended the School.

Mary Lou joined the Middlesex Parents' Committee in 1998 and, in 2006, became a trustee. In addition to serving on committees concerning finance, fundraising, governance, and long-range planning, Mary Lou has been a dedicated member of the buildings and grounds committee, serving as its chair since 2022 and furthering many transformative campus projects.

"I am deeply grateful to the many extraordinary people here—faculty members, heads of houses, advisors, coaches, staff members, fellow students and their families—who taught, mentored, and nurtured Steve, Rob, and Charlie. This is why I am personally devoted to Middlesex and want to return all that I can.

"I am also driven to serve by the satisfaction of working with exceptional colleagues over the years, on the Board and at the School, who are equally dedicated to Middlesex from diverse backgrounds and perspectives. My life is enriched by the various talents, expertise, and ideas they bring to our work together and by all I continue to learn from them."

— Mary Lou Boutwell

Coleman W. Hoyt, Jr. '70 P'02'04'07

For more than 50 years of loyal support



Coleman entered Middlesex as a ninth grader in 1966, and though he did not graduate with his class, this did not adversely affect his future relationship with the School. After earning a B.A. in history from Beloit College, he began his career in the

automotive industry, working in sales for Ford for many years before opening Acton Lincoln Mercury in 1989. Coleman emerged as a leader in his Middlesex class, hosting reunion dinners and serving as a class agent. At their 25th reunion, Coleman, John Finbury '70, and Dutch Treat '70 received the Class of 1940 Award for their leadership in motivating classmates to support Middlesex.

When their children—Woody '02, Sam '04, and Ellie '07—began attending the School, Coleman and his wife Amy joined the Middlesex Parents' Committee for nearly a decade. Coleman then became a trustee in 2007 and immediately became an important contributor. In 2015, the faculty officially voted to award him a Middlesex diploma, and he carved his plaque at last, 46 years after his classmates.

"I'm being recognized here for my dubious contributions as an alum, on the 55th reunion year of my original class, but the diploma Kathy [Giles] gave me on the steps of Eliot declares me a member of the Class of 2015... so I'm looking forward to getting together with my fellow alums later today during my 10th.

"It's been an honor to help Middlesex in the small ways that I have, and to get to know so many terrific people, but I must observe honestly that I got far more from the School than I ever gave, for which I am most grateful... and I promise to stay out of trouble moving forward!"

— Coleman Hoyt

Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. (1920) Distinguished Alumni Award

Named in honor of the late Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. (1920), former U.S. senator and ambassador to the United Nations, this award is presented by the Middlesex Alumni Association to graduates whose lives and careers have made a significant and lasting contribution to society, bringing great credit to the School.

The Honorable Jeffery P. Hopkins '78

For his decades of impressive legal service



After graduating from Bowdoin College, Jeff earned a J.D. from the Michael E. Moritz College of Law at Ohio State University. He then clerked for the Honorable Alan Norris in the Ohio Court of Appeals before joining the firm of Squire, Patton & Boggs. In 1990, Jeff

was appointed an assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District of Ohio and held that position until 1993, when he was appointed chief of the civil division there. In 1996, he became a U.S. Bankruptcy Court judge in the same district, serving as the chief judge during the final seven years of his tenure.

In 2022, Jeff was nominated by President Biden and sworn in to serve as a U.S. District Court judge in the Southern District of Ohio. In addition to his many affiliations and memberships within the legal field, Jeff served a three-year term on the Middlesex Board starting in 2008—the same year that he was inducted into the School's Athletic Hall of Fame as an outstanding three-sport varsity captain.

“Our work as Middlesex School alumni and friends remains unfinished. We must broaden ‘The Circle’ to make this already great nation the ‘more perfect Union’ our foreparents have striven for since the battle of Concord and Lexington when this nation—then new—was: ‘conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men [and women] are created equal.’”

— Jeff Hopkins

Lise Strickler '78 P'14

For her passionate advocacy of environmental action



A Yale University graduate, Lise earned an M.B.A. at Columbia Business School prior to working in the movie industry's financial sector, where she was an investor relations expert at Columbia Pictures, a financial analyst at Tri-Star Pictures, and an executive consul-

tant for technology at Sony Pictures. She also served on the Middlesex Board from 1996 to 2007, providing extraordinary leadership and support to the School during her tenure.

For the past 20 years, Lise has been involved in the climate advocacy sector at the local, state, and national level as she works to advance public policy to address the world's climate crisis. To that end, she has served on the advisory boards of many institutions and organizations; currently, she is the managing principal of the Three Cairns Group, a mission-driven investment and philanthropic firm focused on the climate crisis.

“Institutions like Middlesex matter now more than ever—schools that teach young people to think critically, to care, to act, and to feel rooted in the world and community around them. This is the foundation that allows young people to be brave and find their own pathway to action.

“I am both inspired and challenged by the words of the late Pope Francis from his climate encyclical: ‘Everything is connected. Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society.’”

— Lise Strickler

ALUMNI Events

In gatherings both large and small, alumni and parents enjoyed getting caught up with each other and all things Middlesex this year.

San Francisco

February 25, 2025

Bay Area alumni and parents met at the Olympic Club, thanks to the sponsorship of Bart Goldie '65. Seated, from left to right: Daniel Wan '03, Greg Wernitz '03, Bart Goldie '65, Head of School Bessie Speers, and Whit Cheever '02. Standing, first row: Janice Wong '07, Maya Sidhu '20, Calloway Cox '15, Leslie Clark '78, Tree Tam P'22, Brenda and Richard McNulty P'06, and Chief Advancement Officers Heather Parker P'16'18 and George Noble P'23'25. Second row: Jack Pelletier '17, Annie Longworth '88, Jasmine Lam '20, Tom Speers '76, Kirsten Vernon P'24, Alumni Relations Director John Morrissey P'18'22, Sam Mills '60, and Lyz Ferguson. Back row: Nick Stewart '13, Nick Kafker '13, Gregory and Christine Scott Thomson '89, Sarah Leary '88, Bob Vernon P'24, Patrick Morris P'22, and Julie-Anne and William Heafey P'25.

California Receptions



La Jolla

February 26, 2025

Bill Purves '64 and his husband, Donald Schmidt, once again opened their home to Middlesex for an evening reception. From left to right: Chief Advancement Officer Heather Parker P'16'18, Head of School Bessie Speers, Ben Rohn '95, Kenzie Ferguson '03, Bill and Donald, Yuri Koh P'28, Tom Speers '76, and Alumni Relations Director John Morrissey P'18'22.



College Connections in Maine

February 11 & 12, 2025



Bowdoin College: Sam Raye Steiner '22, Claire Stone '24, Kiley Briand '20, Griffin Miller '24, and Carter McCray '21.



Colby College: Gray Malitsky '24, Sophia Schubnel '22, Sawyer Rogers '24, Kate McBride '24, Charley DiAdamo '24, and Avery Taylor '24.



New York City

FAM Reception

June 18, 2025

Connecting graduates in classes from 1970 to 2025, a FAM alumni gathering at Chica and The Don drew a great crowd in mid-June. In front, from left to right: Kofi King '20, Andrea Flores '25, Samantha Rodney '25, Middlesex Alumni Association President and Trustee Gavin Johnson '09, and Steve Gunn '06. Standing, front row: Carlos Quirola '05, Trustee Freddie Pantoja '85, former Trustee Duane Jones '70, Christine Conwell '05, Odamea Akomah Gbamuse '04, Kaylee Arzu '20, Jessica Agyei '20, Nailah Hamilton '24, Taylor Portlock '22, Chief Officer for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Jason Sport, and Trustee Courtney Portlock. Second row: Board Chair Jason Robart '83 P'11'13, Max Brown '11, Jin Kang '12, Chris Lawrence '09, Ari Odom '17, Benson Ku '09, Abisola Lawal '19, Prentis Robinson '07, Ray Sanchez '96, Gawain Patterson '05, Moe Ceesay '10, Aaron Braxton '96, Anyolo Makatiani '20, Rod Odom '10, and Rhoden Monroe '05.



Chief Advancement Officer George Noble P'23'25, Kofi King '20, Chief Advancement Officer Heather Parker P'16'18, and Trustee Courtney Portlock P'20'22.



Chief Officer for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Jason Sport (center) with MxAA President and Trustee Gavin Johnson '09 and Taylor Portlock '22.

Carlos Quirola '05, Gawain Patterson '05, Christine Conwell '05 and her husband Joshua Pal (on far right), with Steve Gunn '06.



Kaylee Arzu '20 and Jessica Agyei '20.

ALUMNI Events



New York City

Parent Reception

May 14, 2025

Hosts Eliza and Alex Bolen P'19'21'24 (above, center) once again graciously opened the Oscar de la Renta Showroom to Middlesex families and leaders, including Chief Advancement Officer George Noble P'23'25, Head of School Bessie Speers, Chief Advancement Officer Heather Parker P'16'18, and Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Doug Price P'16.



Tom Speers '76 and Trustee Curt Curtis '62.

Claudia Aubourg P'27, Head of School Bessie Speers, and Sweeta Yaqoobi.

Baseball Outing at Yankee Stadium

July 29, 2025



Steve Gunn '06 (middle) and Trustees Freddie Pantoja '85 (left) and Gavin Johnson '09 were among the Middlesex crowd who cheered on the home team as the Yankees beat the Tampa Bay Rays 7-5.

Summer Gatherings

Martha's Vineyard

July 10, 2025

Chris and Pam Diem Willis '95 P'27 hosted a reception for Middlesex alumni, family, and friends at their Vineyard Haven home. In front, from left to right: Chief Advancement Officer Heather Parker P'16'18, Director of Development Courtney Fein P'24, Roxy Willis, Annie Vanderwarker '29, Gussie Willis '27, Caroline Ripsteen '25, Jane Barton '23, Lucy McGaraghan '27, Charlotte Friedmann '26, Amy Anderson P'26, Karen Darby Scott '80 P'11'12'14'17, Amy Brauer P'02'04'07, retired Head of School Deirdre Ling, Lynette Vanderwarker P'29, Ruthie Cromwell, and Head of School Bessie Speers. Back row: Coleman Hoyt '70 P'02'04'07, Chief Advancement Officer George Noble P'23'25, David Kloss '80 P'11'12'14'17, Pam Diem Willis '95 P'27, Charlie Brand '26, Will Willis '92, Board Chair Jason Robart '83 P'11'13, Neil McGaraghan P'27, Chris Willis P'27, Tom Speers '76, Amy McGaraghan P'27, Ed Russell, Dudley Willis P'92'96'98 GP'27, Sue Lester, and Chris Parker P'16'18.



Martha's Vineyard

Boston

July 17, 2025

The annual outing on the terrace of Tia's Waterfront drew a sizeable group of young alumni who live or work in the Boston area.



Boston

Cape Cod

July 21, 2025

Middlesex parents and alumni in the Chatham area gathered at the home of Laurel and Bill Driscoll '87 P'19'25. In front, from left to right: Charlie Driscoll '25, James Counselman '25, Milly Noble '25, Margot Boyd '25, Jon Thiel P'28, and Chief Advancement Officers George Noble P'23'25 and Heather Parker P'16'18. Middle row: Sam Wilson '06, Laura Darby McNally '80 P'16, Jane Hall, Melissa Noble P'23'25, Gergana Thiel P'28, Bill Driscoll '87 P'19'25, Trustee Caroline Counselman P'25'28, Laurel Driscoll P'19'25, Aisling Morrissey P'18'22, Alumni Relations Director John Morrissey P'18'22, and Al Lucchese P'13. Back row: Linda and John Doherty P'15'18, Newell Hall '73, Tom Speers '76, Head of School Bessie Speers, Dan Shapiro '68 P'01'04, retired Assistant Director of Admissions Joe Mallen P'07'10, Chris Parker P'16'18, and Barry Soosman '78.



Cape Cod

Maine

August 7, 2025

Alexis and Laurence Wintersteen P'27'29 opened their home on Prout's Neck for the last Middlesex event of the summer. In front, from left to right: Daphne Chapin, Graham and Brooke Davis Nalle '93, Sarah Gould P'17, Max Wintersteen '29, Alexis Wintersteen P'27'29, Lucas Wintersteen '27, Tom Speers '76, Lizzie Baker '99, Melissa Noble P'23'25, Chief Advancement Officer George Noble P'23'25, Visual Arts Department Head Stacey McCarthy P'28, and Geoff McCarthy P'28. Back row: Chip Chapin '79, Chief Advancement Officer Heather Parker P'16'18, Chris Parker P'16'18, Laurence Wintersteen P'27'29, Blair Lyne '79 P'13'16, Tucker and Kate Hastings P'28, Head of School Bessie Speers, Helen Watson '11, Aimahd Sabky '10, and Bob Gould P'17.



Maine

IN Memoriam

George B. Emmons '46

George Beale Emmons, Jr. passed away on April 21, 2025.

Born on August 18, 1927, to Alice Wetherill and George Beale Emmons, Beale was raised on the banks of the Potowomut River in East Greenwich, RI, and spent his childhood exploring the great outdoors, which became his lifelong passion. He joined Middlesex's fourth class from Moses Brown School in 1942 and, after receiving his diploma, earned his undergraduate degree at Harvard University. Beale was a tremendous athlete: a pitcher famous for his blooper ball, a varsity football player, a golf club champion, and a prodigious hunter and fisherman. Part of an amazing generation that grew up during the Great Depression, Beale served in the Navy in World War II and the Korean War.

For 30 years, Beale worked for the textile giant Cannon Mills in New York City, specializing in military sales. He was very involved with his church and many cultural and charitable institutions, especially the Berkshire National Fish Hatchery and the Bidwell House Museum in Monterey, MA. At his home in Fairhaven, MA, on the beautiful marsh, he spent his time drawing and writing articles for *The Wanderer* newspaper, watching the ospreys, and scoring free coffee at the Dunkin' drive-through.

Beale was predeceased by his wife of 64 years, Janice Pinkham Emmons. He is survived by his daughters, Alice Emmons Maciejowski and Liz Emmons Mulroy; and by his four grandsons. The family is deeply grateful for the wonderful care he received at Our Lady's Haven in Fairhaven, MA.

William L. Kingman '49

William Lockwood Kingman died quietly in his sleep on June 23, 2025.

Bill was born on August 21, 1930, in Medford, MA, to the late Henry E. and Helen Crandell Kingman. He grew up in Concord, entering the fourth class at Middlesex in 1945, and went on to pursue a B.A. in economics at Yale University. While at Yale, Bill participated in the Naval Reserve Officer Training program; he went into full service in June 1953 and was honorably discharged in June 1956.

Bill met his future wife, Nancy Barbara Dean, while they were both in college, and they married in March 1954. Nancy joined Bill in Key West, FL, where he was stationed, subsequently relocating to Norfolk, VA, for the remainder of his service. They moved to Concord, MA, for a short time before settling in Acton, where they stayed for the next 60 years.

After his Naval service, Bill joined Franklin Management Corporation, where his father had worked. During his 32 years there, Bill served as a portfolio manager, trustee, and later, chairman of the corporation. In 1989, he left Franklin to work for Appleton Partners as a principal and wealth manager; his years of experience in investment, tax management, trusts, and leadership were instrumental in the company's growth and development.

Not one to sit still, Bill served as a scout master for several years and lent his expertise to town committees in Acton. Additionally, he served on the Middlesex Savings Bank's Board of Investment and as a trustee and vice president for the Board of the Charlestown Armed Forces YMCA. Bill was a member of the Emerson Hospital Corporation and supported

the Boston Port Seaman's Aid Society on its board of directors, serving as president for a year.

An ardent sailor, Bill enjoyed crewing on a friend's boat in the Newport to Bermuda Race, the Gloucester to Halifax Race, and the Off Soundings Races. He also pursued his love of horseback riding as a member and president of the Nashoba Valley Fox Hunting Club. Bill loved his family and found time to teach his children to ski and ride horses, among other sports. He also supported their chosen sports, cheering them on at football games or gymnastics meets.

Predeceased by his wife Nancy and one sister, Sally Kingman Beal, Bill leaves behind his children, **Lawrence E. Kingman '74** and **Celena E. Kingman**; two grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; his sister, Deborah Kingman Ormsby; and many nieces and nephews. His late cousins, **Baird K. Eaton '38** and **Mark S. Eaton '39** also attended Middlesex.

Edmund K. Summersby '50

Edmund Kirkwood Summersby passed away on May 17, 2025, surrounded by friends and family at the Neville Center in Cambridge, MA.

Born on September 9, 1931, Ed was raised in Summit, NJ, where he was introduced to many lifelong interests and hobbies, including carpentry, scale-model building, and skiing. He joined Middlesex's third class from Pingry School in 1947 and, on graduating, earned his undergraduate degree at Harvard College in 1954. Drafted into the Army, Ed spent two years stationed in Berlin, Germany, where he managed also to study German, learn to develop the photographs he took of street scenes, take sailing lessons, and attend the opera. During the winter of

1955-56, he was fortunate to land a spot on the Army Ski Patrol at Garmisch-Partenkirchen in the Alps.

After completing a B.Arch. at RPI in 1959, Ed began his career the following year at The Architects Collaborative, Inc., in Cambridge, where he worked for nearly 30 years. Primarily focused on hospital design, he served as project manager for new buildings at Boston Children's Hospital and Long Island Jewish Hospital. Later, he joined Hoskins, Scott, Taylor, where he became lead architect for the redesign of Boston City Hospital, which became Boston Medical Center. His last major project was St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester.

With his trademark precision, Ed was a tireless worker who loved to solve problems, fix things, and help others with their own projects. He was also an accomplished skier and avid mountain climber who met many lifelong friends during his adventures on the trails of New Hampshire and Vermont. A supportive father, Ed made it a priority to attend little league games, early morning hockey practices, and important school events. He was similarly committed to spending time with his grandchildren and other younger family members, sharing his love for the outdoors and for building things.

In retirement, Ed and Judy traveled extensively while also continuing to entertain friends in their Cambridge home; they shared a mutual love of opera, theatre, and concerts.

Ed will long be remembered for his positive, caring nature, his strong work ethic, and his dedication to family. His kindness made a big impression on his caregivers, as it did on everyone who interacted with him over his lifetime.

Ed was predeceased by his sister, Alan Summersby Emmet. His survivors include his wife

Joseph S. Junkin '57



Joseph Swan Junkin passed away peacefully, with his loving family at his side, on March 29, 2025.

Born on June 17, 1939, Joe grew up in New York and, in 1952, entered the fifth class at Middlesex, where he later served as a trustee from 2000–2004. His academic journey continued at Harvard College and culmi-

nated at Harvard Business School, equipping him with the skills for a highly successful career. Joe began his professional life on Wall Street as an investment banker with several firms, including Smith Barney and Robert Fleming. He later switched careers and joined California Products in Cambridge, Massachusetts, rising to the position of CEO and making a lasting impact on the company.

Joe was not only an accomplished executive but also a devoted family man and passionate adventurer. In 1962, he married Sara A. “Toni” Caldwell, who passed away in 2016, and together they raised three sons. He was deeply involved in his community, serving on his town’s finance committee for many years. An avid outdoorsman, Joe enjoyed hiking, fly fishing, hunting, and traveling. After retiring to Boca Grande, FL, he indulged his other loves of gardening and genealogy and delighted in visits from his grandchildren. Later in life, Joe found love again and married Bryn Madden, embracing her family as his own. Joe’s friends, colleagues, and family knew him to be especially scrappy and determined but with a big, generous heart and broad intellectual curiosity. This unique blend of traits made him a successful businessman, an adoring husband and father, and a compelling presence in the community. He will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife Bryn; his three sons, Robert, Joseph, and **Angus H. Junkin '90**; Bryn’s children, John and Nicholas; and 14 cherished grandchildren.

of 62 years, Judy Allen Summersby; his sons David and **Andrew A. Summersby '90**; and three grandchildren.

Benedict N. Smith II '53

Benedict Nelson Smith II passed away on March 11, 2025.

The son of the late Lucinda Huffman and Ralph C. Smith, Ben was born in New York City on March 25, 1935, and attended New Canaan Country School before entering Middlesex’s fifth class in 1948. On receiving his diploma, he earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Colorado. Ben started his 37-year career in personal wealth management at Fairfield County Trust Co. (now Wells Fargo Bank). On retirement from Union Trust Company, he held the position of senior vice president and senior portfolio manager. Ben volunteered his time at The Darien Nature Center, Darien Historical Society, At Home in Darien, Saint Luke’s Parish, and the Community Fund.

Predeceased by his sister, Lucy S. Rowan, and his nephew, Michael C. Huebsch, Ben is survived by his wife of 60 years, Hester Huguley Smith; his daughter, Lucinda S. Wesson; his son, David P. Smith; three grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Paul T. Wise II '55

Paul Tower Wise away peacefully on April 14, 2025.

Born in New York City on March 23, 1937, Paul was the son of Rebecca Phifer and **Parker S. Wise (1925)**. He transferred from Hackley School to the fifth class at Middlesex in 1950 and, after graduating, went on to Middlebury College, where he earned a B.A. in economics and was the captain of the golf team, as well as a

member of the hockey team and Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. Following graduation, Paul was part of the Army Reserves from 1959 to 1968. He began his banking career in 1960 at Chase Manhattan Bank and received an M.B.A. from NYU in 1967. Paul retired in 1996 to Savannah, GA.

Preceded in death by his wife, Margaret “Peggy” Watson Wise, his parents, and his sister, Mary Wise Wight, Paul is survived by his daughters, Torrey Wise Keeley and Cornelia Wise Crisci; five grandchildren; and his brother, **Parker S. Wise, Jr. '65**.

John H. C. Minott '70

John Heard Couch Minott unexpectedly passed away on February 21, 2025.

Raised in various corners of the world as the son of a U.S. diplomat, John was born to Lorraine Lukens and **Joseph A. Minott, Jr. '41** on August 26, 1951. He spent much of his childhood in Norway, France, and Madagascar, and these formative years sparked his lifelong love of history and global cultures. John joined the fifth class at Middlesex in 1965; on graduating, he earned a bachelor’s degree in history at Stanford University and a master’s degree in international studies at the University of Oregon. He worked in the University of Oregon’s archives between degrees, further nurturing his passion for history and research.

For over 30 years, John dedicated his career to the Masonic Temple on Broad Street in Philadelphia, PA, where he brought history to life for countless visitors. As a skilled spokesperson, history buff, and Mason, John possessed a quick wit and sense of humor that made him beloved by all who encountered him, whether they were local visitors or international guests. Fluent in

French, he took great pride in giving tours in both English and French to dignitaries and tourists from around the world. John's legacy endures through the many lives he touched, including his family, friends, and fellow Masons, with whom he shared a deep passion for history and storytelling. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Predeceased by his parents, John is survived by his siblings, Joseph, Owen, Elizabeth, and **Geoffrey D. Minott '71**; and a niece and two nephews. His uncle, the late **Rodney G. Minott '47**, also attended Middlesex.

John B. M. Place, Jr. '72

John Bassett Moore Place passed away on May 15, 2025.

John—who was known as “Bassett” while at Middlesex—was born on December 10, 1953, to John and Katharine S. Place. He entered Middlesex's fourth class from St. Bernard's School in 1968 and, after graduating, earned a bachelor's degree at Colorado College and a master's in early childhood education at Stanford University. His years at both Middlesex and Colorado College resulted in friendships that played important roles in his life.

Bassett started his career as a teacher working with children in preschool through fifth grade. He then completed the Chase Manhattan Bank Training Program and was assigned to cultivate relationships in underprivileged communities. While working in business in the early 1980s, Bassett recognized that dual-career families needed assistance with childcare, and he launched Developmental Child Care, one of the first organizations in the country to work with companies to establish on-site childcare facilities. This pursuit joined his corporate expertise with his love of educating young

children. Bassett and his team then successfully transitioned the business into LifeCare, a counseling and referral service for employees' families.

An avid lover of his family and the many dogs he cared for throughout his lifetime, Bassett was also a talented photographer who created beautiful family, pet, and flower images. In retirement, he rediscovered tennis, a passion he enjoyed until his death.

Bassett is survived by his beloved wife Margaret; his sisters, Marian Place and Judith Sloan; and three dogs. His late uncle, **H. Curtis Place '46**, also attended Middlesex.

Kenneth M. Scagel III '91

Kenneth McClellan Scagel III passed away far too soon on August 2, 2025, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Born on August 21, 1972, in Lowell, MA, Kenny was the youngest child and only boy, which meant he was doted on by his three older sisters. Kenny attended The Eaglebrook School before joining the third class at Middlesex in 1988. He developed a lifelong love affair with football—playing it, coaching it, watching it, and above all, cheering on his beloved New England Patriots.

In the mid-1990s, Kenny headed south to Texas, where he earned his undergraduate degree in philosophy at the College of St. Thomas More. More importantly, it was there he met the love of his life, Elizabeth Jarvis. They were married on August 1, 1998, and raised seven children together.

Kenny was fortunate enough to find his true calling: teaching. He began at The Lady Margaret Roper School under his mentor, Harry Lacey, and later joined Cassata Catholic High School in Fort Worth, where he often said it was “the best job he ever

Edwin R. Sage II



Retired faculty member Edwin R. Sage II died at home on May 25, 2025, after almost a decade with Alzheimer's disease.

Born in Cambridge, MA, on August 4, 1937, Ted was the son of Marjorie Llewellyn and Rodney C. Sage. A graduate of Brown & Nichols School and Williams College, he earned an M.A. at Boston College and completed

graduate work in computer science.

During his Middlesex tenure, from 1959 to 1992, Ted taught math, served as a department head and dorm assistant, and coached football, wrestling, and crew. In 1966, he became a pioneer in creating and teaching computer programming courses. Ted also custom designed and maintained programs for Middlesex's administrative offices, training staff for a decade. Additionally, he wrote the first two textbooks for teaching programming to high school students and shared his expertise at conferences, inspiring other educators just as he inspired his own students.

In 1963, Ted married Kristen Nelson, who passed away in 1977, leaving him with two sons. He then married Hope Richins Quick, who became Middlesex's Director of Development, and they raised their combined family of four children together.

After retiring from Middlesex, Ted moved to North Haven, ME. Still passionate about seeing students discover and learn, he volunteered to teach an advanced high school math class at the North Haven Community School, eventually becoming a half-time math teacher. Ted retired for a second time after 12 years and learned a new language—one designed to teach programming to elementary students. He returned to NHCS to teach coding and robotics, retiring one last time in 2019.

Ted's great joy was working in his 26-acre woodland, where he created and maintained a network of beautiful walking paths for residents and visitors. Happily, a conservation easement held by North Haven Conservation Partners will preserve it for posterity.

In addition to his wife Hope, Ted is survived by their four children, Peter and Robert Sage, **Margaret Quick Noble '79**, and **James E. Quick '79**; eight grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; his sister, Joan Sage Amory; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Lucy K. Tittmann



Former Middlesex Trustee Lucy Keith Tittmann died peacefully on April 2, 2025, at her house in Cambridge, MA, less than five months after the death of her beloved husband, **Barclay Tittmann '49**.

Lucy was born on February 28, 1932, in Kansas City, MO, to Edward and Sally Ingalls Keith. At Smith College,

she majored in art history and, after graduation, earned a degree in landscape architecture from the University of Durham in England. For two years, she worked in Washington, DC, for Perry Wheeler, a prominent landscape architect whose style would inform Lucy's work throughout her career.

While in DC, Lucy met Barclay Tittmann; they married in May 1957 and moved to Edmonton, Alberta. Over the next eight years, they lived in Liège, Belgium, and Madrid, Spain, before returning to the U.S. in 1965 and settling in Concord, MA. While raising her children, Lucy designed private gardens and public outdoor spaces. Dedicated to environmental and historic preservation, she worked tirelessly to protect wetlands and open spaces from development. She was also among the first women to join the Middlesex Board, serving as a trustee from 1979 to 1991.

Lucy and Barclay later moved to Cambridge, where she embraced a new community and found time to paint hundreds of watercolor landscapes. In the summer, they lived on the island of North Haven, ME. At 92, she and Barclay were inseparable, still enamored with each other after 67 years together.

A passionate mother, Lucy cheered on her children with all her customary enthusiasm and zest for life. She leaves behind her six children, Eleanor Andrews, **John B. Tittmann '77**, **Robert K. Tittmann '79**, **Sally Tittmann '81**, **Anna Stevens '84**, and **Edward Tittmann '86**; several grandchildren, including **Jon Luke Tittmann '14** and **Halina M. Tittmann '18**; and one great-grandchild. Her brother-in-law, **Harold H. Tittmann III '47**, is also a Middlesex graduate.

had." Kenny taught history, theology, literature, and Latin, and he was selected as one of *Fort Worth Magazine's* Top Teachers in 2023. A gifted and passionate teacher, he would say, "You have to love what you are teaching, and you have to love the kids because they can tell." He was especially amazing with kids whom other teachers had given up on. It was his determination to see them grow in character and in life that made the difference. Throughout his 20 years in the classroom, he referred to his students as his "kids," and when they got married and had children of their own, he would often say he loved hearing about his "grand-students."

Kenny was a devoted husband, a loving father, a cherished brother, and a loyal friend. Though we mourn his loss, his legacy and love live on through his family, his children, and the students he taught.

Preceded in death by his parents, Kenneth McClellan Scagel Jr. and Elizabeth Anne Root Scagel, Kenny is survived by his wife Elizabeth; their seven children, Kenneth IV, Augustine, Claire, Wyatt, Deacon, Major, and Bowie; and his sisters, Susan Young, Elizabeth Whitman, and Elsa Bottomley. He will be missed by his many nieces and nephews and countless students who will forever carry a bit of his wisdom and warmth.

Jane Williams

A former tutor at Middlesex from 1980 to 1993, Jane Bang Williams passed away peacefully on January 4, 2025, after a brief illness.

The daughter of the late Read R. and Shirley Smith Bang, Jane often remarked that she was born on "Black Thursday"—October 24, 1929—the first day

of the stock market crash that is considered the beginning of the Great Depression. She lived in Emporia, KS, for the first 12 years of her life before moving to Forest Hills, NY, as a teenager. After graduating from Forest Hills High School, Jane attended DePauw University before transferring to the University of Rochester, where she met Bruce R. Williams. They married in December 1951 and moved to Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, where Bruce served in the Marine Corps. Jane attended Katherine Gibbs School and worked for the superintendent of schools until her children were born. After settling first in Buffalo, NY, the Williams moved to Holden, MA, in 1960 and then to Lexington in 1970, remaining there until their move to Carleton-Willard Village in Bedford about 15 years ago.

While raising her family, Jane volunteered with many organizations, including the League of Women Voters and the Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology. She attended a language therapy course at MGH, which led her to earn her master's degree in reading at Lesley College. Jane had a passion for teaching and working with children with dyslexia and other learning disabilities. She taught reading skills at the Carroll School and Fenn School in addition to Middlesex, leaving a positive impact on many students over the years. At Carleton-Willard Village, Jane and Bruce were active members of the community. Jane also stayed connected with family and friends, remaining engaged until her passing.

Predeceased by her husband Bruce in 2017, Jane is survived by her sons, Jeffrey and Glenn; her sisters, Betty Bang Mather and Laura Anne Michelson; three grandsons; and three great-grandsons.



Charitable Gifts Through Your IRA

Your IRA can provide a tax-smart way to make an impact at Middlesex now. The Qualified Charitable Distribution, or QCD, is a great way to make a tax-free gift now to Middlesex and satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), too.

How Do I Qualify?

The Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) offers multiple benefits for making gifts from your IRA.

- You must be 70½ years or older at the time of the gift.
- Gifts must go directly from your IRA to Middlesex.
- For 2025, total QCD gifts cannot exceed \$108,000 per donor.

Benefits of Qualified Charitable Distribution

- If you don't itemize your income tax deductions, a QCD offers all of the benefits of an itemized income tax charitable deduction.
- If you are age 73 or older and must take a Required Minimum Distribution RMD, a QCD may satisfy your RMD without increasing your income taxes.
- You may direct your gift to a program or area of your choice.
- It is a wonderful way to create an immediate impact on Middlesex.

How Can I Make an IRA Charitable Distribution?

Contact your IRA administrator to request a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA to Middlesex.

Information that you may need for the QCD

Legal Name: Middlesex School

Mailing Address: 1400 Lowell Road,
Concord, MA 01742

Federal Tax ID number: 04-2103821



To learn more about giving through your IRA, scan this QR code.





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Celebrating Middlesex's 125th Anniversary 1901-2026

In the fall of 1901, Bryant-Paine House was the sole building completed on the new campus that Headmaster Frederick Winsor envisioned. Next fall, Middlesex will celebrate all that the School has become in the decades since!

