

Tenth Anniversary
HANDBOOK

of

Middleburgh Central School

1944

-- including --
HISTORY OF EDUCATION
COURSES OF STUDY
LIST OF GRADUATES

The following information was reproduced from the

10th ANNIVERSARY HANDBOOK of Middleburgh Central School **1944**

William F. Spencer, *District Superintendent*

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Thomas Bush, *President*

Caryn W. Bulson

LeGrand Shaul

Henry V. Pindar

Leonard Wood

Stewart H. Smith, *Supervising Principal*

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Supreme Court
Appellate Division, Third Department
Albany, N. Y.

Middleburgh, N.Y.,
April 11, 1944

Dr. Stewart H. Smith, *Supervising Principal*,
Middleburgh Central School,
Middleburgh, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Smith:

I gladly accede to your request for a word on the observance of the tenth anniversary of the dedication of the Middleburgh Central School. The formation of the Middleburgh Central School District has proved to be the most important forward step in the progress of our community within my memory and I take much pride in the fact that I was President of the Board of Education of the old Middleburgh Union Free School District when this project was launched. A committee of business men was named to start the movement and did its work well. Like every progressive movement, our district had its growing pains, but all problems were gradually solved until we now have one of the finest schools in the entire State and one which is the pride of every person living in the district.

The new school is now the community center for a large area. It has brought us all closer together and created a fine, friendly feeling throughout the entire district. It is with hearts thankful for its creation that we remember its dedication a decade ago.

Sincerely yours,

F. Walter Bliss

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History of Education

History of Education in Middleburgh

Miss Flora I. King, *School Librarian*

With the opening of the Middleburgh Central School in 1933 came the realization of a dream had long, long ago by John Conrad Weiser and his followers when they came to this valley in the autumn of 1712 – a dream that future generations might grow up strong and free and educated.

Very determined must have been the Palatines to give their children all the privileges denied in the old country, for we are told that almost as soon as their homes were built, schools were established here in the wilderness.

The first schools of Schoharie Valley were very different from ours of to-day. Little attention was paid to conveniences or comfort of the scholars. In most cases the schools were taught in log barns during the summer. If the instruction was continued into the winter, a log dwelling witnessed the child's improvement. These structures would have a doorway but no door, and a small opening cut in the wall would serve as a window. To keep out the cold of winter the teacher's cloak was hung over the window, and over the doorway was fastened a blanket under which the pupils had to crawl when going in and out. A large hole in the roof allowed smoke from the fireplace to escape and also permitted entrance of light by which the children studied.

In the German settlements German teachers were employed, while at Vrooman's Land a school was taught in Dutch. About 1760 English instruction was introduced into these schools and in some cases English, Dutch and German languages were all taught by one teacher in the same school.

Then came October 17, 1780. On that day Brant with his horde of British and Indians raided Weiser's Dorf and burned the settlement with its church and school. Great must have been the feeling of resentment but the pioneers were undaunted. In the years following homes were rebuilt and a new school was established opposite the Dutch Reformed Church. This was known as the Old Riverside or Little Hudson Schoolhouse.

As 1800 dawned, Weiser's Dorf was rechristened Middleburgh, a new turnpike road was built through the town and soon another school district, called the Upper or Bull's Head district, was organized. This schoolhouse stood on the corner of upper Main Street and the Huntersland road.

Finally, as people began to extend the settlement, a third district was established up Clauverwie and was called the Clauverwie School. These three districts remained intact until the early 1880's.

Meanwhile, around the middle of the century, an almost unreasonable urge for higher learning (often spoken of as "seminary fever") struck the country. Middleburgh did not entirely escape. About 1853 there was erected an Episcopal chapel to be used for religious worship and as a select school. This building was made possible by popular subscription, money being donated by people of all churches as the instruction given was non-sectarian. The school became known as the Wainwright Institute, named after Bishop Wainwright whose New York diocese

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contributed \$500 to the cause. This select school ceased to function around 1882. The building is now used as the Catholic Church.

Another school of this type was opened in 1878 on Railroad Avenue in the old Martin Building by Jean Isadore Charlouise and was known as the Charlouise Institute. Excellent instruction in the languages and classics was given but there were financial difficulties and the school passed out of existence about 1881.

With the select schools gone and the district schools fast becoming outdated, a need was felt for a Union Free School. Thus, George E. Borst called a meeting to discuss consolidation of the three districts. The first step was to secure the signatures of fifteen voters in each district. This done, the trustees of each district were to call a public meeting for the purpose of voting upon the proposition.

On January 17, 1883, the citizens of the three districts met with George L. Danforth acting as chairman. The vote taken upon the resolution to consolidate resulted in 218 votes for and 33 against.

The new district was to be known as "Union School District No. 1 of the Town of Middleburgh," and the three trustees elected were William H. Albro, Montraville Guernsey, and Harmon A. Vroman.

In March further meetings were held to decide about the erection of the new building. The corner of Main and Clauverwie Streets, known as the "stone house lot," was selected for the location. No more historical spot could have been chosen for this is the very ground upon which Weiser first settled. On this site had been built around 1750 a house with heavy stone walls and here lived the compatriot of Timothy Murphy, Lieutenant Colonel Zielie, when the village was raided. The wooden parts of the house were then burned but it was later rebuilt keeping the original walls and was to stand firmly until torn down for the new union school in 1883.

For this new building \$15,000 was raised in annual installments of \$1,000 and \$3,000 was paid for the site. The school was opened in the fall of 1883 with John Kelley as the first professor.

The 1899-1900 Year Book of the Middleburgh High School tells us that "*The school building is constructed after the most approved methods of school architecture. It is of brick, three stories in height. The entire third story is fitted as a chapel and public hall. The building is well arranged, supplied with modern furniture, and well heated and ventilated. It has water facilities on every floor. Few towns of the size in the State can boast of so suitable and commodious a school house.*" And so it was. Beyond a doubt this school admirably served its purpose in the community for half a century and sent out from its halls 360 graduates.

But with those fifty years of Middleburgh High School came many changes in all phases of society. Again there arose the need for reorganization in the educational field to meet these changes. This time centralization was the answer to the need. For some time the people of Middleburgh had been considering the problem of bringing the various districts together. During 1930 the Board of Education consisting of M. B. Rickard, F. Walter Bliss and Caryl Bulson, in accordance with plans made by Superintendent of Schools Luman R. Bowdish, appointed Roger Cornell, A. E. ReQua, Thomas Bush, Dr. Josiah Mann, and Everett Vroman to canvass the outlying districts and get the opinion of the people. This being favorable the people met April 3, 1931, and voted to centralize. (Shortly after this committee was appointed, and before the

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meeting to vote on centralizing, Mr. Bliss resigned and was succeeded by James West). Two more meetings were held during 1931; one, on October 30 when it was decided to buy 13 more acres of land adjacent to that already owned by the district; the next, on December 15 when it was voted for the issuance of bonds for the sum of \$403,000 to erect the new school and to purchase the land.

On September 6, 1932, the pupils from the 29 centralized districts met for the first time. The enrollment was 647 and as the old building was much too small to accommodate all, the pupils were located in temporary rooms about town for the school year.

Work on the school grounds continued during the winter months, actual construction of the building began in the spring, and in September 1933, the new school was ready to use.

The formal dedication of the new school took place in April, 1934, with the Board of Education taking a very active part. The members at this time were Clark Spickerman, Elmer Wood, LeGrand Shaul, Charles C. Dutton and Caryl W. Bulson, President. During the dedication exercises the bronze tablet in memory of Johann Conrad Weiser was presented by the State of New York to the school.

Since its opening Middleburgh Central School has been steadily progressing. During the past decade under the leadership of Stewart H. Smith, Principal, and William F. Spencer, Superintendent, every effort has been made to keep the school and its curriculum abreast of the times. In 1935 the new departments of agriculture, homemaking, and physical education were added. In 1937 industrial arts was introduced as a course of study and in 1938 art was added. The Elementary vocal music department and the Opportunity Class were organized in 1939.

In the year 1939 a spacious garage built on concrete, brick and slate and housing 13 buses was completed. A well-equipped work-repair shop in charge of a capable mechanic has made possible a bus-maintenance program which has proved to be unusually successful.

So to-day we have standing on that ground where two centuries ago played Indian boys and girls, a school which gives every child a chance to grow up strong and free and educated.

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Original Districts

DISTRICTS INCLUDED AT TIME OF CENTRALIZATION

Middleburgh No. 1	Union Free School
Middleburgh No. 2	Acker Hollow
Middleburgh No. 3	Brooky Hollow
Middleburgh No. 4	Canady Hill
Middleburgh No. 5	Lime Kiln
Middleburgh No. 6	Hartman's Dorf
Middleburgh No. 7	West Middleburgh
Middleburgh No. 9	Cotton Hill
Middleburgh No. 10	Huntersland
Middleburgh No. 11	Saddlemire Hill
Fulton No. 1	West Fulton
Fulton No. 2	Fultonham
Fulton No. 3	Swart District
Fulton No. 4	Breakabeen
Fulton No. 5	Armlin Hill
Fulton No. 7	Bouck's Falls
Fulton No. 8	Fairland
Fulton No. 10	Pleasant Valley
Fulton No. 11	Husons Corners
Fulton No. 15	Vroomansland
Broome No. 1	Hawversville
Broome No. 2	Dutton Ridge
Broome No. 5	Pine Grove
Broome No. 7	Franklinton
Broome No. 9	Mace Hill
Broome No. 10	Livingstonville
Broome No. 11	Windy Ridge
Blenheim No. 4	Bouck's Falls
Berne No. 16	Garvey Hill

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Districts Added -- Principals

DISTRICTS ADDED SINCE CENTRALIZATION

1939 - Fulton No 6 _____	Rossman Hill
1939 - Fulton No. 12 _____	Hamm District
1939 - Fulton No. 14 _____	Dibble Hollow
1939 - Broome No. 3 _____	Gates Hill
1941 - Berne No. 20 _____	Cook Hill
1942 - Broome No. 6 _____	Cook Hill
1943 - Broome No. 14 _____	Pucker Street
1943 - Broome No. 8 _____	Bates Hollow

PRINCIPALS OF MIDDLEBURGH HIGH SCHOOL

John Kelly _____	1883 - 1884
*Roland Keyser _____	1884 - 1893
H. H. Snell _____	1893 - 1895
William M. Marvin _____	1895 - 1897
Edwin F. Norton _____	1897 - 1899
Silas C. Kimm _____	1899 - 1904
**John C. Chase _____	1904 - 1908
Ralph Armitage _____	1908 - 1909
Milo Brown _____	1909 - 1910
Addison L. Hill _____	1910 - 1911
Arville Cone _____	1911 - 1912
David B. Lockner _____	1912 - 1914
J. Harvey Leneker _____	1914 - 1918
Neil Quackenbush _____	1918 - 1921
Karl Rex _____	1921 - 1922
Vernon F. Morrison _____	1922 - 1928
Ralph F. Pyle _____	1928 - 1934
Stewart H. Smith _____	1934 - _____

*Left during school year for Ed. Dept., consultant in English and Greek

**Left in spring for Milne High School, Albany.

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Courses of Study

Middleburgh Central School Courses of Study

HIGH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

During the past ten years our high school curriculum has been broadened. To the original course of study, which prepared students for college, has been added, Vocational Homemaking, Agriculture, Industrial Arts, Physical Education, Art and Music. To meet the need for better trained students who will enter college as well as to provide a more practical preparation for non-academic students, a general curriculum reorganization has been made.

The present organization of the high school curriculum is in line with the new diploma requirements of the State Department of Education and is likewise in accord with national trends in high school curriculum development.

Under the courses of study offered, a high school student must make a choice between taking an academic course of study or a non-academic course of study. The academic courses of study as outlined are designed to prepare students for college and for professional schools. Students selecting an academic course of study will be required to take Regents examinations in all those subjects in which such examinations are given. The course in English will become more intensive under the new plan.

Students who choose a course of study in the non-academic areas will be given a type of English course similar to that offered in city vocational high schools. In the non-academic courses of study students will not be required to take Regents examinations. However, this choice will be left to the student who, with the assistance of the Guidance Counselor and the Principal, will make this decision. The students who choose not to take Regents examinations will be given school final examinations and will be graduated with the high school diploma if all required work is completed satisfactorily.

The courses of study in both the academic and non-academic areas are set up so as to allow a student to take four or five elective subjects during his high school course. By allowing this freedom of choice, each student's curriculum is to some extent different from that of every other pupil.

Among the new subjects added to the curriculum are Health which is a required subject in the tenth year, and Vocational Science which can be taken during the tenth, eleventh or twelfth years of school. Solid Geometry will be taught to twelfth-year students who major in Mathematics.

Subjects to be dropped from the curriculum after June 1944 are Homemaking 9 and Agriculture 1. These subjects are no longer considered necessary offerings in a school such as ours.

Some rather important changes in the curriculum include the offering of one-half year of English in the tenth year in both the academic and non-academic fields. In addition to this, the non-academic pupils will take four periods of English per week in both the eleventh and twelfth years of school. The non-academic pupils will receive 3 ½ units of credit for high school English upon completion of the work as outlined. Academic pupils will receive 4 units of credit

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in English inasmuch as they are required to take five periods of English weekly during the third and fourth years of high school.

Social Studies 10 will be a full year subject. Students will take one-half year of Social Studies 10 in the tenth year and one-half year of Social Studies in the 11th year. Social Studies 11 will be taught to students during the second semester of the eleventh year and the first semester of the twelfth year. Social Studies 12 will be a half-year subject and will be taught during the second semester of the twelfth year. All students who complete the Social Studies program as outlined will receive 4 units of credit for Social Studies.

Agriculture students will take Comprehensive General Shop 9 instead of Agriculture 1 during their ninth year. Students majoring in Vocational Homemaking will take Introduction to Business rather than Homemaking 9 in the ninth year.

Intermediate Algebra will be a full year course hereafter.

It will be observed that the new diploma requirements no longer require a minor sequence. This change in requirements allows a student more freedom in the selection of electives.

It is believed that the courses of study as outlined on the following pages will make it possible for every student to select a program that will meet his needs and will therefore make it possible for students of many levels of ability to secure the benefits of a high school education.

These courses of study have been checked by all the supervisors of high school subjects in the State Department of Education. Final approval of the courses has been given by Mr. George K. Stone of the Bureau of Curriculum Development of the Division of Secondary Education, who assisted the Principal in the reorganization, and by the Board of Education of Middleburgh Central School (March, 1944).

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Courses of Study

ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT
COLLEGE PREPARATORY COURSES

Major sequences may be chosen in Mathematics, Science, Latin, Art or Music.

Mathematics Sequence

		Units
First Year:	English I.....	1
	Social Studies 9.....	1
	General Science 9.....	1
	Elementary Algebra.....	1
	Elective.....	1
	Physical Training	
Second Year:	English II (one-half year).....	½
	Social Studies 10 (one-half year).....	½
	Health.....	1
	Plane Geometry.....	1
	Two electives.....	2
	Physical Training	
Third Year:	English III.....	1
	Social Studies 10 (one-half year).....	½
	Social Studies 11 (one-half year).....	½
	Intermediate Algebra.....	1
	Elective.....	1
	Physical Training	
Fourth Year:	English IV.....	1
	Social Studies 11 (one-half year).....	½
	Social Studies 12 (one-half year).....	½
	*Trigonometry.....	½
	*Solid Geometry.....	½
	Elective.....	1
Physical Training		

Recommended Electives: Latin, Physics, Typing, Industrial Arts.

Other electives: French, Biology, Chemistry, Bookkeeping, Shorthand, Art, Music, Homemaking.

*Note: Solid Geometry will be offered in the first semester and Trigonometry in the second.

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Courses of Study

Latin Sequence

		Units
First Year:	English I.....	1
	Social Studies 9.....	1
	General Science 9.....	1
	Elementary Algebra.....	1
	Latin I.....	1
	Physical Training	
Second Year:	English II (one-half year).....	½
	Social Studies 10 (one-half year).....	½
	Health.....	1
	Latin II.....	1
	Two electives.....	2
	Physical Training	
Third Year:	English III.....	1
	Social Studies 10 (one-half year).....	½
	Social Studies 11 (one-half year).....	½
	Latin III.....	1
	Elective.....	1
	Physical Training	
Fourth Year:	English IV.....	1
	Social Studies 11 (one-half year).....	½
	Social Studies 12 (one-half year).....	½
	Two Electives.....	2
	Physical Training	

Recommended Elective: French.

Other electives: Plane Geometry, Intermediate Algebra, Trigonometry, Solid Geometry, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Typing, Bookkeeping, Shorthand, Art, Music, Homemaking.

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Courses of Study

Science Sequence

		Units
First Year:	English I.....	1
	Social Studies 9.....	1
	General Science 9.....	1
	Elementary Algebra.....	1
	Elective.....	1
	Physical Training	
Second Year:	English II (one-half year).....	½
	Social Studies 10 (one-half year).....	½
	Health.....	1
	Biology.....	1
	Plane Geometry.....	1
	Electives.....	1
	Physical Training	
Third Year:	English III.....	1
	Social Studies 10 (one-half year).....	½
	Social Studies 11 (one-half year).....	½
	Chemistry or Physics.....	1
	Elective.....	1
	Physical Training	
Fourth Year:	English IV.....	1
	Social Studies 11 (one-half year).....	½
	Social Studies 12 (one-half year).....	½
	Chemistry or Physics.....	1
	Elective.....	1
	Physical Training	

Recommended Electives: Intermediate Algebra, Trigonometry, Typing, Industrial Arts.

Other electives: Latin, French, Solid Geometry, Bookkeeping, Shorthand, Art, Music, Homemaking.

Note: Girls planning to enter nursing should include Chemistry, Biology and Homemaking D in their courses.

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Courses of Study

Music Sequence

		Units
First Year:	English I.....	1
	Social Studies 9.....	1
	General Science 9.....	1
	Elementary Algebra.....	1
	Music Organizations.....	$\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, 1
	Physical Training	
Second Year:	English II (one-half year).....	$\frac{1}{2}$
	Social Studies 10 (one-half year).....	$\frac{1}{2}$
	Health.....	1
	Rudiments of Music.....	1
	Two electives.....	2
	Physical Training	
Third Year:	English III.....	1
	Social Studies 10 (one-half year).....	$\frac{1}{2}$
	Social Studies 11 (one-half year).....	$\frac{1}{2}$
	Harmony I.....	1
	Elective.....	1
	Physical Training	
Fourth Year:	English IV.....	1
	Social Studies 11 (one-half year).....	$\frac{1}{2}$
	Social Studies 12 (one-half year).....	$\frac{1}{2}$
	Harmony II.....	1
	Elective.....	1
	Physical Training	

Recommended Electives: Art, Plane Geometry, Physics, Typing.

Other electives: Latin, French, Intermediate Algebra, Trigonometry, Solid Geometry, General Biology, Chemistry, Shorthand, Bookkeeping.

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Courses of Study

Art Sequence

		Units
First Year:	English I.....	1
	Social Studies 9.....	1
	General Science 9.....	1
	Elementary Algebra.....	1
	Design, Representation or Mechanical Drawing.....	1
	Physical Training	
Second Year:	English II (one-half year).....	½
	Social Studies 10 (one-half year).....	½
	Health.....	1
	Design, Representation or Mechanical Drawing.....	1
	Two electives.....	2
	Physical Training	
Third Year:	English III.....	1
	Social Studies 10 (one-half year).....	½
	Social Studies 11 (one-half year).....	½
	Design, Representation or Mechanical Drawing.....	1
	Elective.....	1
	Physical Training	
Fourth Year:	English IV.....	1
	Social Studies 11 (one-half year).....	½
	Social Studies 12 (one-half year).....	½
	Two Electives.....	2
	Physical Training	

Recommended Electives: French, Music, Plane Geometry, Typing.

Other electives: Latin, Intermediate Algebra, General Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Shorthand, Bookkeeping, Industrial Arts, Trigonometry, Solid Geometry.

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Courses of Study

NON-ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT

Vocational Agriculture

		Units
First Year:	English I.....	1
	Social Studies 9.....	1
	General Science 9.....	1
	Mathematics 9.....	1
	Comprehensive General Shop 9.....	1
	Physical Training	
Second Year:	English II (one-half year).....	½
	Social Studies 10 (one-half year).....	½
	Agriculture II.....	2
	Health.....	1
	Elective.....	1
	Physical Training	
Third Year:	English III (four periods weekly).....	1
	Social Studies 10 (one-half year).....	½
	Social Studies 11 (one-half year).....	½
	Agriculture III.....	2
	Elective.....	1
	Physical Training	
Fourth Year:	English IV (four periods weekly).....	1
	Social Studies 11 (one-half year).....	½
	Social Studies 12 (one-half year).....	½
	Agriculture IV.....	2
	Elective.....	1
	Physical Training	

Recommended Electives: Vocational Science, General Metal, General Electricity, General Woodwork.

Other electives: Art (Mechanical Drawing, Design, Representation), Music, Plane Geometry, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Typing, Bookkeeping, Shorthand, Latin, French.

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Courses of Study

Industrial Arts

		Units
First Year:	English I.....	1
	Social Studies 9.....	1
	General Science 9.....	1
	Mathematics 9.....	1
	Comprehensive General Shop 9.....	1
	Physical Training	
Second Year:	English II (one-half year).....	½
	Social Studies 10 (one-half year).....	½
	Health.....	1
	General Electricity, Metal, Woodwork.....	1
	Elective.....	1
	Physical Training	
Third Year:	English III (four periods weekly).....	1
	Social Studies 10 (one-half year).....	½
	Social Studies 11 (one-half year).....	½
	General Electricity, Metal, or Woodwork.....	1
	Elective.....	1
	Physical Training	
Fourth Year:	English IV (four periods weekly).....	1
	Social Studies 11 (one-half year).....	½
	Social Studies 12 (one-half year).....	½
	General Electricity, Metal or Woodwork.....	1
	Elective.....	1
	Physical Training	

Recommended Electives: Plane Geometry, Vocational Science, Biology, Chemistry, Typing.

Other electives: Art (Mechanical Drawing, Design, Representation), Music, Physics, Bookkeeping, Shorthand, Latin, French.

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Courses of Study

Vocational Homemaking

		Units
First Year:	English I.....	1
	Social Studies 9.....	1
	General Science 9.....	1
	Mathematics 9.....	1
	Introduction to Business.....	1
	Physical Training	
Second Year:	English II (one-half year).....	½
	Social Studies 10 (one-half year).....	½
	Health.....	1
	Homemaking A.....	2
	Elective.....	1
	Physical Training	
Third Year:	English III (four periods weekly).....	1
	Social Studies 10 (one-half year).....	½
	Social Studies 11 (one-half year).....	½
	Homemaking B or D.....	2
	Elective.....	1
	Physical Training	
Fourth Year:	English IV (four periods weekly).....	1
	Social Studies 11 (one-half year).....	½
	Social Studies 12 (one-half year).....	½
	Homemaking B or D.....	2
	Elective.....	1
	Physical Training	

Recommended Electives: Biology, Chemistry, Typing, Bookkeeping.

Other electives: Art (Mechanical Drawing, Design, Representation), Music, Plane Geometry, Vocational Science, Physics, Shorthand, Latin, French.

COMMERCIAL SUBJECTS

Middleburgh Central School does not offer three-year sequences in Commercial studies. Students wishing to get a Commercial background should choose as electives Introduction to Business, Typing, Bookkeeping and Shorthand.

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List of Graduates

There are eleven pages listing the graduates from 1886 to 1943
in the 1944 Anniversary Book.

ALMA MATER

Words and Music by Frank B. Rickard

*On the banks of a lovely river,
By the side of a quiet stream
Stands our dear old Alma Mater
Our School of White and Green.*

*In the fairest valley fashioned
By the hand of God unseen,
Stands our dear old Alma Mater,
Our School of White and Green.*

*In the days that lie before us
In the silent years between,
May we love her as we do to-night,
Our School of White and Green.*

Chorus:

*Then join we all in singing
And may this be our theme,
Keep bright her shield of Snowy White,
Keep fair her field of Green.*
