



**East Kentwood Middle College**



## **Parent and Student FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)**

1. Is the EK Middle College a 4 year program?  
*Yes. It starts in the 10th grade year (sophomore) and ends in the 13th grade/year, the year after senior year.*
2. What is an associate of arts degree? Is it an art degree?  
*An Associate of Arts degree consists of general studies type courses; it is not an art degree. The EKMC is designed to prepare students for postsecondary study and/or employment starting in high school.*
3. Is there any cost that I should expect to pay for the EK Middle College program?  
*There will be little/no cost for the Middle College program. There may be cost for parking, and other miscellaneous items.*
4. Can I start the EK Middle College program during 9th grade year so as to finish during 12th grade?  
*No. Students apply in their 9th grade year; in the spring. The Middle College program begins at the start of the 10th grade year, no sooner.*
5. Do I get an extra year of high school athletic eligibility?  
*No. Students enrolled in the EK Middle College program cannot participate in high school athletics in the last/13th year of the program.*
6. Can I participate in GRCC college athletics while enrolled in the EK Middle College?  
*Yes. This is newly approved in the winter of 2023. Students enrolled in the EK Middle College could potentially participate in college athletics during the 13th year. To learn more about the sports offered at GRCC students can refer to the [GRCC Raiders](#) website*
7. Can I take AP courses while in the EK Middle College?  
*Yes. AP courses can still be taken while enrolled in Middle College. It is important to verify which college courses from the EKMC Program of Study would earn credit; so that a desired AP course isn't a duplicate of credits earned. NOTE: AP Scores acceptance vary from college to college.*
8. Can I be in band/orchestra/choir and still be enrolled in the EK Middle College?  
*Yes. School counselors will make every effort to schedule around a requested Fine Art choice. NOTE: There may be cases where classes are not offered or available at the time needed.*
9. Can I take World Language classes all 4 years and be enrolled in the EK Middle College?



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*Yes. Counselors will make every effort to schedule around the requested World Language choice. NOTE: There may be cases where classes are not offered or available at the time needed.*

10. Do I sign up for EK Middle College with my counselor?

*No. There is an application and interview process required for current 9th grade students interested in enrolling in the EK Middle College.*

11. When will I graduate?

*You will participate in graduation with your expected high school class but your diploma is held until you complete the Middle College program in the 13th year.*

12. What happens in the 13th year?

*All classes in the 13th year will be taken **on a GRCC campus**. Students will work with a GRCC advisor and are able to select their classes and schedule. Courses should be selected from the Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA) list and meet the Middle College Program/MME requirements.*

13. What kind of college degree is earned from EK Middle College?

*Students who complete the 13th year will earn an **Associate of Arts** degree that is transferable to most 4 year colleges and universities. If you have a certain 4 year institution in mind make sure to follow transfer requirements and communicate with advisors at both GRCC and the intended college.*

14. How many college credits can be earned with this program?

*Students can earn up to 60 college credits upon completion of all courses required. College credits are paid for through the program **the first time a course is taken only**. In the event that a student does not pass a college course; there may be out-of-pocket expenses to complete the Associate of Arts credit requirements.*

15. Can I get my high school diploma after my high school graduation while in Middle College?

*No. Students enrolled in Middle College are part of a 5 year program, meaning they are on a different track to earn their diploma. Students must meet the requirements of the program each year until the completion of the 13th year.*

16. Are students in all of their classes together?

*No. Students are only in their GRCC classes as a cohort at EK. Students are scheduled in their own high school courses and their college electives their 12th and 13th years.*