**Middletown High School ~ Secondary Specialized Program Grant**

 **Viticulture Program**

The primary goal at this time is to develop and complete a sustainable, working vineyard, for students to utilize and learn through hands on experiences.

Middletown High school has been fortunate in that our principal Bill Roderick has been behind this process from the beginning. After presenting the idea of a viticulture program, Mr. Roderick worked hard to successfully complete two specialized grants, to Middletown’s benefit – both were granted. Mr. Roderick obtained a letter from our district for unused property on Butts Canyon Road, as well as negotiating with our district and bus barn employees to transport students when needed; thus beginning the development of Middletown High School’s Viticulture program and live lab. Without Mr. Roderick – this new program would more than likely never have been introduced or started.

Because Mr. Roderick has given me compete support of this program, I have been able to utilize resources and begin building a program that will prosper with time. Our short term goal for our students is to complete a living lab facility that will enable teachers to teach and benefit students in the years to come. Our long term goal is to develop a self-sustainable viticulture program.

**March 2014** 2013-14 Specialized Secondary Program Grant was awarded

**Spring 2014**

* Foster and begin a vision for the agriculture viticulture program
* Scheduling to accommodate district, bus barn drivers, student scheduling, teacher scheduling for the following year
* Business & community outreach. Fostered community & business support for school site & project.
* Overcome a very tight timeline of being awarded the grant and having to spend $50,000 by June 30th deadline. Immediate expenses versus future expenses.
* Collaborating and obtaining curriculum from St. Helena High School’s agriculture department in regards to their viticulture program
* Gathering information from internet and professional sources to create a viable program

**Summer/Fall 2014**

* Begin creating curriculum in line with labs that will begin the vineyard development process.
* Foster link between community leaders and students at vineyard site
* Vineyard development

**February 2015**

* Second SSP grant awarded

**March 2015**

* Begin developing Apiary program to align with vineyard needs

**April 2015**

* Developing new greenhouse & shade house started for rootstock & nursery program

**May 2015**

* Vineyard roads, entrances and fences complete
* Vineyard planting complete, including irrigation & frost protection
* Collaborate with local Junior Community Colleges for articulation

**Summer 2015**

* Create Honey extracting facility for students

**Fall 2015**

* Development of an olive grove

**Five year goals and expectations**

* Expose the many careers within the viticulture industry as well as related industries available to students
* Articulated courses with local community colleges
* UC approved courses
* Foster and bridge the gap between students and community/industry
* Create a self-sustainable program students & the community are proud of
* Obtain vineyard contract
* Vineyard producing first harvest
* Bottling specialized Mustang Vintage wine in collaboration with local wineries
* Bottling specialized Mustang Vintage Vinegar & Olive Oil in collaboration with industry leaders
* Develop vineyard rootstock program & sales
* Develop an Apiary program; bottling Mustang Vintage honey
* Take courses to “bring back” to the classroom – become PCA certified
* Collaborate with local Agriculturalist; Vineyard specialist, Pest Control Advisors, Local Apiary specialist, etc. to develop an intern programs