

*Office of the Headmaster
Fork Union Military Academy
Middle School
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)*

What grade levels are included in the Middle School?

- Grades 6 – 8

Approximately how many students are in each grade level?

- 6th grade: 15 - 20
- 7th grade: 25 – 30
- 8th grade: 40 – 50

Why do parents send boys to FUMA's Middle School?

Many different reasons:

- A desire for a school program with a proven track record that is academically challenging and that meets the unique developmental needs of their son.
- A desire for a school environment that is safe and free from unnecessary distractions.
- A desire for a school that maintains high expectations of its students and faculty.
- A desire for a school where God is honored and where scripture and prayer provide guidance and direction in the lives of its students and faculty.
- A desire for a school program that teaches respect for self, others, God and country.
- A desire for a school program with a well-developed athletic program that emphasizes fair play and good sportsmanship.

Who is in charge of the Middle School?

- Headmaster – responsible for the operation of the school
- Commandant – for cadet life, including the residential aspects, the military structure, and cadet conduct

How many full-time teachers are employed in the Middle School?

- 9 teachers, including a Health and P.E. teacher and a resource teacher.

What support staff is in place?

- 1 administrative assistant
- 4 part-time teachers: Art, Computers, Drama, and Spanish I
- 1 librarian
- Student Activities Director
- 2 Guidance counselors (who also work with the Upper School cadets)
- 3 Housemothers

What does a student's academic schedule look like?

Schedules include 6 classes:

- English
- 6th grade Math 6; 7th grade Math/Pre-Algebra; 8th grade Pre-Algebra/Algebra I
- Science
- History
- Health and Physical Education
- Activity Period (may include Art, Computers, Drama, Intro. to Spanish) or Resource class or Spanish I for 8th graders

What academic support, besides the daily classroom instruction, is in place?

- Extra help twice a week
- Resource program (additional \$1,200 per year)
- Nightly Study Hall, supervised by an Academy faculty officer

How often are parents contacted about their son's academic and behavioral performance?

- Parents are able to access their son's grades via PowerSchool, a computerized grade reporting program. Report cards are printed and sent home at the end of each grading period.
- Parents are mailed a copy of their son's demerit record at the end of each grading period. A demerit total is also posted on the cadet's PowerSchool grade report at the end of the grading period and at midterm.

How are cadets nurtured spiritually?

- Daily devotions at the beginning of each morning
- Twice-weekly Middle School chapel, conducted by the Middle School Chaplain
- Sunday chapel (or Sunday service at local houses of worship), conducted by the Academy Chaplain

What occurs during a typical weekday at the Middle School?

- 6:15 AM Wake up and clean room
- 7:20 AM Breakfast
- 8 AM – 2:10 PM Classes/Lunch
- 2:10 PM – 3 PM Drill/Chapel/Extra Help, depending on the day
- 3 PM – 5 PM Athletics
- 5:40 PM Dinner
- 7 PM – 9 PM Study Hall
- 9:30 PM Bedtime

What happens on the weekends?

Our student activities director plans both on and off campus events. For example:

- Touch football, basketball, swimming, volleyball, etc. on campus
- Movies, concerts, plays, theme park visits, skating, athletic contests, etc. off campus

Also:

- Saturday morning inspections

- Sunday morning chapel

What athletic programs are available to Middle School cadets?

- Fall: football, soccer, cross-country, orienteering, and intramurals
- Winter: basketball, wrestling, indoor track, swimming/diving, orienteering, and intramurals
- Spring: baseball, lacrosse, outdoor track, orienteering, and intramurals

What is barracks life like?

- All cadets have a roommate and live on a hallway with approximately 15 other boys.
- Each cadet is expected to maintain good personal hygiene and a clean room.
- Each hallway is supervised by a Middle School cadet hall proctor and an Upper School Cadet Advisor.

What can a cadet keep in his room?

- A clock or clock radio
- A desk lamp
- A television (13" screen or smaller; without a VCR or DVD component)
- One poster or wall hanging
- Family photos
- Non-caffeinated beverages (in single serve containers)
- Cadets MAY NOT have food in the barracks

How is behavior addressed?

- Cadets receive demerits for offenses committed or merits for good behavior.
- Conduct levels, based on the number of demerits earned each grading period, differentiate the cadets and determine their privileges for the following grading period.
- Cadets march off their demerits as "penalty tours" during afternoon extra duty.

How is the military way of life worked into the Middle School program?

- Cadets wear uniforms during all waking hours while on campus, including Academy-issued athletic uniforms. They are expected to wear the uniform neatly and per regulation.
- Cadets are involved in military drill twice a week and participate in full-dress parades during the course of the year (the Parents' Day Parade in October and several consecutive Sunday parades in the spring).
- Cadets' rooms are inspected at least three times a week.
- Cadets are expected to treat fellow cadets and faculty members with respect. Faculty members are addressed as "Sir"/"Ma'am", and male faculty officers are saluted when approached.

How do cadets learn the system?

- All cadets are provided a Cadet Handbook (to be also read by the parents)

- All cadets are provided orientation to the program and are allowed a 2 week grace period to learn the rules

How do cadets earn rank through the military structure?

- Cadets who earn Excellent Conduct (based on demerit total for a grading period) receive first consideration.
- A cadet's leadership potential is assessed through daily interactions with faculty, especially the Middle School Commandant.

How often are cadets allowed to contact home?

- Cadets are able to call home each weekend. (Cadets on Excellent Conduct are allowed to phone home after dinner during the week, as well.)
- Cadets are able to email home (using Outlook only) several times a week.

How often are cadets able to go home?

This depends on a cadet's progress at FUMA.

- He can take day passes virtually any weekend (Saturday and/or Sunday).
- Most leaves have to be earned through grade achievement or good conduct.

As a parent, how can I best support my son while he is a cadet?

- Write often. Emails are good, but letters are better.
- Avoid sharing emotionally upsetting information with your son while he is at school (e.g. family conflicts, death of a pet, etc.)
- Email or call your son's teachers periodically to check on your son's progress.
- Become familiar with the Cadet Handbook and reinforce the school's rules and regulations, even while your son is at home.