

*Office of the Headmaster
Fork Union Military Academy
Middle School*

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) for Parents of Day Students

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 their son 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 (rotation schedule)

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 (available to Day Students with the approval of the Middle School Headmaster or Commandant)

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

What does the Day Student's schedule look like?

- 7:45 AM Arrive at the Middle School
- 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 (optional for Day Students)
- 7 PM – 9 PM Study Hall (optional for Day Students)

Monday – Thursday: Departure time is typically 5:15 PM. Athletic events held off campus will result in a later departure time. Day Students are expected to let parents know of events that will involve a later than usual departure.

Friday: Departure time is typically at 1 PM.

What are the expectations in relation to bad weather and school attendance?

FUMA does not close down when bad weather hits. Classes are held regardless. Parents should use their best judgment in determining whether or not to bring their son to school when road

conditions are poor. A general misconception is that Day Students are excused from school anytime the public schools are cancelled due to weather. Our policy is that Day Students should make it to school if at all possible, but that parents should not risk injury to get them here.

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

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).
- The Day Student room in the Barracks is inspected regularly.
- 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 all new cadets 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.

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

- 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.