- COLLEGE FAIRS
  - SPRING: PACAC Fair – Villanova University (Wednesday evening excursion)
  - FALL: NACAC Fair – Philadelphia Convention Center (Saturday excursion)

- TESTING
  - SAT Reasoning Test and SAT Subject Tests and/or the ACT
    - Register ON-LINE
      - SAT – www.collegeboard.org
      - ACT – www.actstudent.org

SAT vs. ACT Comparison Chart

	SAT	ACT
Length	3 hours, 45 minutes	3 hours, 25 minutes (includes optional 30-minute Writing Test)
Sections	10 Sub-sections: 3 Critical Reading, 3 Math, 3 Writing (including Essay), 1 Experimental (not scored)	4 Sections (plus optional Writing Test): English, Math, Reading, Science, Writing
Reading	Reading passages with questions pertaining to comprehension and sentence completion	4 passages, 10 questions per passage
Science	N/A	Science (analysis, knowledge, problem solving)
Math	Arithmetic, geometry, algebra, and algebra II	Arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and trigonometry
Essay	Required	Optional (final section)
Scoring	Aggregate score 600 - 2400 based on total of 3 scores of 200- 800 (Critical Reading, Math, Writing) Score of 0-12 for Essay	Composite score 1-36 based on average of 4 sections (English Math, Reading, Science) Score 0-12 for Optional Essay. **Note: It is highly recommended that all VFMA students take ACT plus Writing since most colleges require the writing score if submitting the ACT.**
Website	www.collegeboard.com	www.actstudent.org

- Check DEADLINES for the test dates. You will need to register by a certain date for each test.
- Valley Forge Cadets take the SAT test at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School in Plymouth Meeting. Be sure that when you register for the test you indicate Valley Forge Military Academy as the school that you attend, and Plymouth Whitemarsh High School as the school where you will take the exam.

- Valley Forge Cadets take the ACT test at Delaware County Community College. Testing at this location is usually offered 3 times each year: December, February and April. Be sure that when you register for the test you indicate Valley Forge Military Academy as the school that you attend, and Plymouth Whitemarsh High School as the school where you will take the exam.
- In order for us to receive copies of your scores, and consequently forward those scores if requested, you MUST indicate that you attend VFMA but indicating our CEEB Code (395100) in the designated spot.
- SOME schools (Pennsylvania State University) require that you scores be sent directly from the college board. You are allowed to select 4 score recipients when you register for the test. If you are applying to a school, like Penn State, that requires direct scores, it is recommended that you provide that information when you register for the test. If you choose to do it at a later date, the College Board will charge you additional fees.
- Transportation is provided by the Academy to the SAT and ACT exam sites.
- INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
    - TOEFL
        - Test of English as a Foreign Language
        - Register online at www.ets.org/toefl
        - Transportation is NOT provided to this test.
        - Test centers located in Conshohocken and Philadelphia.
- NAVIANCE
    - Career Interest Inventory
        - You should complete at least one, if not all of the possible surveys to help you identify your interests, and how that might translate to a possible educational and career path.
            - Personality Type "Do What You Are"
            - Cluster Finder – find career paths well suited to your skills and interests
            - Career Interest Profiler – what types of jobs are popular with interests similar to yours?
    - College Search
    - Resume
        - You should start working on your resume within Naviance. Enter all of your academic and extracurricular activities in the appropriate fields. Naviance will generate a well formatted resume with the information you provide. This is a document that will be very helpful to you in completing your college applications as it will help to be sure you include all of the important information. Many students choose to send their resume with their applications.
    - We utilize NAVIANCE to send your academic credentials to the schools you apply to electronically.
        - Transcripts
        - School Profile
        - Teacher Letters of Recommendation
    - Scholarship Search (National Scholarship search via Sallie Mae)

- COMMON APPLICATION
    - Many schools utilize the Common Application system. Because we use NAVIANCE, you MUST match your Common Application account with your NAVIANCE account so that your documentation can be sent to your Common Application schools.
- APPLICATION ESSAY
    - Think about what you might like to write about over the summer. Many schools will present similar ideas for the essay, so if you can write one that can be adapted to different schools, it will be helpful. Know that some of the more competitive colleges may require more than one essay,

so become familiar with the applications of your high interest schools to best manage your time should you need to write multiple essays.
- o Speak with an English teacher, ask them to help you by reviewing and editing your essay(s).
- o TYPE your final copy.
- o Be sure to proof read, and have at least one trusted adult (preferably and English teacher) also proof read your essay(s) before submitting them.
- INTERVIEWS – Take advantage of any interview offer that is made. When your school of interest is far from Valley Forge, interview opportunities may still present themselves via local alumni volunteers and Skype.
- LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION
  - o You should <u>always</u> speak with a teacher personally to ask that they write you a letter of recommendation. After they have agreed, you will need to e-mail the request via Naviance so that they can upload the letter to your account. (see Maintaining your list/Naviance Details)
- STUDENT ATHLETES
  - o Submit the NCAA Clearinghouse form for Division I and II athletic eligibility.
  - o Speak with your guidance counselor to best understand how your GPA and course requirements are evaluated by the Clearinghouse.
  - o Treat your Clearinghouse application as a college application, you will need to have your transcripts sent, and they will require official records from every high school you have attended. If you have not spent every high school year at VFMA, you MUST get in touch with your former high schools to request that they too forward your academic record to the Clearinghouse.
- MAINTAINING YOUR LIST ~ NAVIANCE DETAILS
  - o We require that you use Naviance to generate a comprehensive list of all of the schools you are applying to. After you submit your application, whether you do it on-line or on paper, you MUST request the transcript via Naviance. Your Guidance Counselor will help you learn how to do this.
  - o You should always personally speak with any teacher who you will ask to write a letter of recommendation on your behalf. After you have spoken with the teacher, and they have agreed to write a letter, you will need to go in to your Naviance account and request the letter. This will generate an e-mail request to the teacher, and make it possible for them to upload the letter that they will write to your Naviance account.
  - o FERPA – The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. Before we can send any of your information requested (transcripts, letters of recommendation, etc). you must complete the FERPA waiver via Naviance. The waiver includes a value of whether you choose to waive or not waive your rights to review documents in your file. This pertains primarily to the letters of recommendation; you know, and always have access to all of your academic records.
  - o You will be able to check your Naviance account to check the status of your requests for transcripts and letters of recommendation. Your parents will also have access to this information through their own Naviance account linked to yours.

WHO IS YOUR COUNSELOR?
Cadets A-I
Mr. Barkley
Cadets J-Q
Mrs. Sullivan
Cadets R-Z
Ms. Shoemaker

IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

My Initial Junior Interview Date and Time

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My Naviance User ID
connection.naviance.vfma

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My Common Application User ID
www.commonap.org

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My College Board User ID (SAT)
www.collegeboard.org

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My ACT Student User ID
www.actstudent.org

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MY TOP 3 Dream Schools

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My top 3 SAFETY Schools

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