Your Son’s Education: A Worthwhile Investment

The cost of attending a premier private boarding school can seem daunting. Yet a Valley Forge Military Academy education is likely the best insurance policy you can buy to ensure that your son will achieve success in secondary school and beyond. Understanding the Financial Aid process can ease the stress and help you understand that a Valley Forge education is well within reach for most families.

Types of Institutional Awards

There are two types of institutional monies awarded by VFMA:

♦ Scholarships
Generally based on academic, musical and/or athletic performance. Requirements for endowed scholarships are indicated on the application.

♦ Grants
Non-performance-based awards, generally associated with financial need.

Regimental Band Scholarships

Valley Forge Military Academy has two performance musical ensembles: the Regimental Band and Field Music. Acceptance to the Regimental Band requires an audition; whereas Field Music is available to those who do not pass the audition or who would like to learn an instrument. Field Music participants do not receive band scholarships. Regimental Band members may receive scholarship awards based on a subjective assessment of the musician’s potential. Award amounts are recommended by the Bandmaster and approved by the Director of Financial Aid.

Endowed Scholarships

Valley Forge Military Academy has many donors who have established endowed scholarship funds to support both new and returning cadets. Awards range from $400 to full tuition. Each award has specific eligibility requirements and criteria to be selected. Not all applicants will receive endowed scholarship money as competition for these awards is considerable. Available awards, amounts and deadlines are posted on our website in early February. Awards are applied to the following fall semester.

Need-based Grants/Application Requirements

VFMA need-based financial aid may also be awarded to eligible cadets in grades 7 through 12 who display financial need as well as academic ability. Financial need is determined through the filing of the “Parents’ Financial Statement” through SSS (School & Student Services). Applications are available online at: 

http://sss.nais.org/Parents/.

If you do not have internet access and need a paper-copy mailed to you, please contact us at (610) 989-1490 or (866) 923-VFMA.

The fee for financial aid applications is $35 if filed online and $47 if filed through the mail.

General Financial Aid information can also be found on our website at: http://academy.vfmac.edu/HowtoPay.aspx

*The Parents’ Financial Statement (PFS) is not an application for funds, it is a need-analysis tool used by Valley Forge in determining how much (if any) need-based grant money a student may be eligible to receive. The filing of the PFS is not a guarantee of any offer of financial assistance from VFMA nor from any other source.

Priority deadline to file for aid is March 1st.
Financing Your Son’s Valley Forge Military Academy Education
2012-2013 Academic Year

Financing Options

Monthly Payment Plans
Valley Forge Military Academy works with various partners in financing your son’s education. We do not have any influence over decisions made by outside sources of loans or payment plans.

Below is information regarding programs used by families in the past.

Higher Education Services (HES)
HES can help you space out the cost of a VFMA education. You may participate in a payment plan across ten (10) months, interest-free, beginning in June for the upcoming year. The application fee is $50 prior to August 1st but increases to $80 for applications received on or after August 1st. Applications will not be accepted after August 15th. You may apply online at https://www.highereducationservices.org/apply.cfm or call 800.422.0010 for more information.

prepGATE Program/Tuition Management Services (TMS)
prepGATE – The prepGATE Loan program helps make a K12 private school education more attainable for a wider range of applicants. The prepGATE loan application takes as few as 15 minutes to complete online, with qualified applicants receiving repayment terms instantly. The prepGATE loan program offers competitive interest rates and multiple repayment terms including a 5 and 10 year option. To apply and learn more please visit www.prepgate.com.

Private Scholarships
Some organizations offer scholarships for elementary and secondary education based on family background, memberships in clubs and associations and other variable factors. Check your local library for publications and surf the internet for sources of private scholarships. Scholarship searching services should typically be free of charge, be leery of scholarship searches that have fees attached. A list of scholarship opportunities compiled by the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) can be viewed on their website at: http://sss.nais.org/parents/finaidresources.

Home Equity Loans
Some families may wish to pursue a home equity loan. These loans sometimes have lower interest rates and longer repayment terms relative to unsecured education loans. Contact your bank or credit union for inquiries into their various programs.

Private Loans
Lending partners offer various loan products to help finance a secondary education. See their websites as they contain the most up-to-date information with respect to rates and online applications. Note that most, if not all, private loans are credit-based.

Sallie Mae – SLM K-12 Family Education Loan
www.salliemae.com

Springstone Financial – Tuition Solution
www.yourtuitionsolution.com

Scholarships, Financial Aid & Grants: Important Dates and Notes

February 15: Endowed scholarships posted on website
March 1: PFS due for need-based financial aid
May 7: Endowed scholarship applications due
May 11: Bandmaster scholarships finalized
May 11: Academy athletic scholarships finalized
May 14: Final Financial Aid packages mailed (*rolling)

*Scholarship Board meeting will take place prior to financial aid packages being awarded as need-based aid may be affected by significant award monies.

All athletic, band and endowed scholarships, as well as approximately 1/3 of our need-based aid will be offered in the first round of financial aid packaging. Any prospective cadets who don’t receive first-round award offers will be placed on a financial aid wait-list. You may be asked to be placed on this wait-list if additional aid is needed for attendance. Aid packages must be secured with a $500 enrollment deposit within 3 weeks of receipt or funds may be forfeited to additional prospective cadets.
Financial Your Son’s
Valley Forge Military Academy Education
2012-2013 Academic Year

Award Letter Fine Print

A financial aid award is activated only after VFMA receives your $500 enrollment deposit.

Valley Forge reserves the right to change the terms and conditions of a financial aid offer if a deposit is not received prior to the appointed deadline; or, if VFMA financial aid is exhausted by other prospective students who have deposited.

Financial offers are awarded on a full-year basis, and will be pro-rated or cancelled in full if the cadet withdraws, is dismissed, or otherwise does not meet the award requirements.

Renewal of financial aid in subsequent years is automatic as long as:

♦ the cadet continues to meet pre-determined academic and behavioral standards
♦ the family has paid their portion of tuition payments
♦ in the case of need-based aid, the family’s financial situation has not appreciably changed. Families must submit appropriate financial aid application forms every other year.

Financial Assistance does not cover:

Application Fees, Enrollment Deposits, Re-Enrollment Deposits, Mandatory Fees, Books & Supplies, Optional programs: (D-Troop, E-Battery, Flying Lessons, Driving Lessons, etc.)

Cost of Attendance at Valley Forge Military Academy

*Below and to the right are the costs from the 2011-2012 school year. Costs for 2012-2013 will be available after the March meeting of the Board of Trustees.

High School:

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<td>Tuition</td>
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<td>Room and Board</td>
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<td>Basic Services</td>
<td>$5,800</td>
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<td>Mandatory Fees*</td>
<td>$1,355</td>
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<tr>
<td>Books and Supplies **</td>
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Middle School:

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<tr>
<td>Mandatory Fees*</td>
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<td>Books and Supplies **</td>
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Day School (Middle & High Schools):

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<td>Tuition &amp; Basic</td>
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*Mandatory Fees include:

Room safe-                    | $90
Security Deposit-             | $300
Yearbook fee-                 | $90
Activities fee-               | $200
Parents’ Assoc. fee-          | $100
Counseling Center fee-        | $250
Health Center fee-            | $325
Total                          | $1,355

Other Fees may include:

Cavalry (D-Troop)-            | $5,500
Artillery (E-Battery)-        | $750
Driver’s Ed for E-Battery-    | $650
Driver’s Ed for all others-   | $700
Photo lab-                    | $130
Deposit for Flying Lessons-   | $5,000
International Student Mandatory Fees:

Out of Country fee-           | $690
Health Insurance-             | $1,250
Summer ELL-                  | $8,500
Academic Year ELL-            | $4,400

**Valley Forge requires that a $1,000 line of credit be established with Sodexo (managers of our cadet store) for the purchase of text books and school supplies.