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Dear Cadets:

The course selection period is one of the most important times in the school year. Because the courses which you select impact your overall school profile, the process of course selection should be taken seriously with careful review and reflection. As you make your course selections, remember that you want to choose courses and levels in which you feel comfortable and that will interest and challenge you. These courses and the grades that you achieve will eventually be sent to the colleges of your choice. Your academic profile should clearly reflect your talents and abilities.

During this selection process, take time to seek the advice of your guidance counselor, parents, and teachers. Each of these individuals are familiar with the difficulty level of the courses as well as the expectations of most colleges.

May you continue to explore and discover your unique talents, interests, and abilities as you challenge yourselves both inside and outside of the classroom.

Sincerely,

Paul M. Lea IV, M.S., Ph.D.
Dean of the Academy, VFMA
Valley Forge Military Academy Courses at a Glance

MIDDLE SCHOOL
- Middle School English
- Pre-Algebra
- Algebra I
- Middle School Science
- Middle School Social Studies
- Music Appreciation
- Middle School Leadership
- Foundations of Criminal Justice

ENGLISH
- English 9: Survey*
- English 10: American Literature*
- English 11: British Literature*
- English 12: World Literature*
- SAT Prep (s)

MATHEMATICS
- Algebra I*
- Geometry*
- Algebra II*
- Trig/Precalculus*
- Integrated Math
- Pre-Engineering (s)
- Advanced math courses offered at VFMC

SCIENCE
- Physical Science*
- Biology*
- Chemistry*
- Physics*
- Marine Biology (s)
- Environmental Science (s)

SOCIAL STUDIES
- Ancient World History*
- Modern World History*
- US History*
- American Government & Economics*
- Entrepreneurship (s)
- World War II (s)
- Vietnam War (s)
- Public Speaking (s)

WORLD LANGUAGES
- French 1, 2, 3, 4
- Chinese 1, 2, 3, 4
- Spanish 1,2 (VFMAOHS)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS
- ESL Support
- ESL US History

PHYSICAL AND LEADERSHIP EDUCATION
- Physical Education
- Leadership Education Training (s)
- Health (s)

ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES
- Drawing Fundamentals (s)
- Art History (s)
- Customs and Courtesies (s)
- Digital Music Production (s)
- Band

(s) following a course indicates semester-long course

* following a course indicates an honor section is offered

Honors Courses: Cadets who have earned Gold or Silver Star status (88% GPA and above) in the corresponding subject area are qualified for honors courses. Red Star status (85-88%) will be considered for honors if requested; these cadets will be reviewed by the teacher and department chair.

VFMC Courses: Only 11th and 12th grade cadets who have earned Gold or Silver Star status (88% GPA and above) will be eligible to take courses at Valley Forge Military College. In special cases, 10th grade cadets may be considered, but must completed an interview with the college professor and dean. VFMC courses are part of the dual enrollment program: cadets will earn both high school credit and college credit.

Valley Forge Military Academy Online High School (VFMAOHS): Valley Forge Military Academy has entered into an innovative partnership with Citizens’ High School (CHS), a leader in online high school education, to establish Valley Forge Military Academy Online High School (VFMAOHS). Online courses in a variety of subject areas are offered to VFMA cadets and will be awarded credit on their VFMA transcript. Course listing is available upon request, or can be found online: https://vfmaohs.com/
Middle School Program

Middle School English
This course focuses on preparing cadets for high school level English through novel study, expository essay writing, and independent and group projects. Cadets read high interest young adult novels and complete projects that facilitate creativity and higher order thinking. Cadets strengthen essay arguments with support from variety of informational texts, and continue to learn and practice proper research techniques, including creating a bibliography and citing sources within academic writing. Grammar and vocabulary development is also emphasized.

Middle School Science
This course introduces the cadet to concepts and terminology in the four major branches of earth science: astronomy, geology, oceanography, and meteorology. Instruction places major emphasis on astronomy and geology with the purpose of instilling in each cadet a love of science by nurturing an appreciation of the beauty, purpose, order, and design of the universe.

Middle School Social Studies
The course explores our world systemically by continent with an emphasis on maps, political features, landmarks, resources, and how geography affects historic events. Overall, our cadets will not focus on memorizing city and country names but rather actively understanding how geography continuously affects us culturally, politically, socially, and economically. If geography cannot be used and applied in real life it has no use!

Middle School Mathematics Department

Pre-Algebra
In this course, cadets will learn to use fundamental mathematical functions with integers, fractions, and decimals; the order of operations to evaluate variable expressions; to solve variable equations using transformations; to translate word sentences into mathematical equations; and to solve word problems. Course topics will include algebraic symbolism, simplifying equations, solutions to elementary equations and graphic representations associated with variables. This course will introduce algebraic processes applied to word problems.

Algebra I (High School Algebra I for Middle School students with demonstrated advanced skills in Mathematics)
This course serves the college preparatory student in his first real experience with abstract mathematics. Major topics covered include a comprehensive survey of the language and symbols of algebra; operations on rational numbers, strategies for solving linear equations and inequalities, factoring, graphical representation, ratio and proportion, polynomials, and an introduction to right angle trigonometry. In addition to the presentation of algebraic theory, applications of the theories are developed. Appropriate use of technology is taught.

Middle School World Language Department

French 1, Spanish 1, Chinese 1 (Grade 8)
The primary goals of Level I language classes are to enable cadets to use the target language in daily life and to understand the culture of that language, comparing it to the American counterpart. First year activities include simple dialogues and conversations, dictations, videos and films, reading, writing, and grammar exercises. Much of the reading and audio-visual material consists of authentic content.
Middle School Electives

Music Appreciation
This pass or fail course is an elective offering to 7th and 8th grade cadets. It introduces them to basic music history, common instruments of the orchestra and how they are made, a brief history on the classical musical composers Mozart and Beethoven and also introduces them into musical theater.

Middle School Leadership
This course is an introduction to the high-school level course Leadership Education Training. The curriculum is designed to foster the development of individual responsibility and sound leadership skills by providing opportunities for the practical application of leadership theories in positions of increasing responsibility.
High School

Honors Classes
Honors Level work includes more detailed and rigorous reading and assignments in addition to the standard level course offerings to offer a deeper understanding and scope of the materials presented. Cadets who have earned Gold or Silver Star status (88% GPA and above) in the corresponding subject area are qualified for honors courses. Red Star status (85-88%) will be considered for honors if requested; these cadets will be reviewed by the teacher and department chair.

Courses marked with a * indicates an honors section is available for this course.

English Department

English 9: Survey*
English 9 Survey of English presents the skills necessary to interpret various genre of literature and to write expository and descriptive essays. The major components of the course are the study of poetry, novels, drama, grammar, and various forms of writings: narrative, persuasive, expository, descriptive, creative, and poetic. The readings serve as catalysts for the writing assignments. Instruction emphasizes developing vocabulary, fostering proper note taking, and implementing correct grammar.

English 10: American Literature*
English 10 American Literature gives the cadet the tools and skills that enable him to be analytical and independent in his thinking; excited and critical in his reading; accurate, concise, and stylish in his writing; and confident and effective in his speaking. A variety of novels, short stories, poems, and plays form the basis for literary analysis. To Kill a Mockingbird, The Great Gatsby, and Death of a Salesman are examples of the major works studied. Cadets learn to identify basic literary concepts such as plot, setting, characterization, point of view, irony, and foreshadowing. The course gives great attention to the writing process—thinking, planning, writing, and proofreading. Focusing on the paragraph and the short essay, students frequently practice their expository writing skills. The course reviews all aspects of fundamental grammar.

English 11: British Literature*
English 11 British Literature focuses on a chronological survey of English literature, but includes literary works from other countries and cultures that might broaden understanding of the British works. And Then There Were None, 1984, Lord of the Flies, and Detectives are examples of the major works the class studies. Students develop skills that enable them to perform well in the college admissions process and succeed in college courses. Course work includes frequent essays, journal entries, oral reports, recitations, and vocabulary quizzes.

English 12: World Literature*
Cadets prepare for college level expository writing in English 12 World Literature. They respond in writing to short stories, poetry, selections by Shakespeare, and examples of major works include Hamlet and Things Fall Apart. Writing expectations go beyond plot summary to intelligently and fluently analyzing plot, setting, characterization, narration, and language. Cadets study grammar by analyzing their writing. They do a research project using print and online research sources.
Mathematics Department

Algebra I*
This course serves the college preparatory student in his first real experience with abstract mathematics. Major topics covered include a comprehensive survey of the language and symbols of algebra; operations on rational numbers, strategies for solving linear equations and inequalities, factoring, graphical representation, ratio and proportion, polynomials, and an introduction to right angle trigonometry. In addition to the presentation of algebraic theory, applications of the theories are developed. Appropriate use of technology is taught.

Geometry*
This course is an integration of plane and solid geometry with an effective integration of algebra and arithmetic. Emphasis is given to conceptual understanding and multiple representations, along with connections to algebra and arithmetic. The course includes plane figures and circles, similar polygons, area, surface area, volume, and the measurement of the circle. The use of the graphing calculator and computer technology is encouraged.

Algebra II*
Algebra II contains the branches of mathematics that educated people around the world use in conversation and that most colleges expect students to have studied. The course begins with familiar concepts such as properties of numbers, graphs, expressions, and inequalities, and then concludes with new concepts such as matrices, logarithms, trigonometric concepts, and conic sections. Instruction places emphasis on helping cadets relate to and apply algebraic concepts to other areas of mathematics. The course also emphasizes integration of the technological tools necessary for problem solving; a graphing calculator (preferably the TI-83) is mandatory for the course. Cadets are challenged to experience the discovery of learning so essential to facilitate the development of an active thinking and engaged learner.

Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus*
This course provides the cadet with the foundations necessary to study calculus. The major topics covered include functions, graphing functions, polynomial functions, inequalities and linear programming, exponential and logarithmic functions, and limits. The course also includes an in-depth examination of trigonometric concepts and the applications of those concepts such as mechanical design, graphing and modeling, identities, and angular motion. Upon successful completion, the cadet will have the requisite skills for a first semester calculus course at the high school or college level.

Integrated Mathematics
Integrated Mathematics is an option for cadets who have completed Algebra II. Cadets explore a range of mathematical topics including Algebra, Probability & Statistics, Business Math and Personal Finance. Cadets complete assignments using technology such as graphing calculators and digital applications. Independent research and group projects make up an integral part of this course.

Pre-Engineering (Semester Elective)
This class is designed to introduce juniors and seniors to the engineering profession. Cadets learn both the scientific and non-scientific aspects of the engineering profession. The important non-scientific topics we cover include ethics, communication (written and oral), teamwork and planning. All these skills are used for Team Projects, which introduce students to “real world” engineering decision making from planning through design and testing of products. Field experiences and subsequent reports (written and oral), summarizing those experiences, are a required part of the course, since the field experience gives students a broader understanding of university engineering expectations as well as work-site experiences.
Science Department

Physical Science*
The goal of this course is to help the cadet understand the concepts and ideas of scientific discovery. Mathematical computations are used as a means of predicting behavior in the physical world. This course will enable cadets to practice critical thinking and logic and will lay the foundation for future courses in all lab sciences. Topics include mechanics, heat, sound, light, magnetism, atomic and nuclear physics and measurement. Lab activities are integral to this course. Cadets are given extra direction and assistance with math concepts.

Biology* Lab Science
This required laboratory science course gives the cadet a sound background in cellular biology with an emphasis on biochemistry, heredity, and protein synthesis. The work in the laboratory stresses the investigative process, problem solving, and creative and critical thinking skills through firsthand experience.

Chemistry* Lab Science
This laboratory science emphasizes chemistry’s impact on people, while teaching basic theories and mathematical concepts necessary for basic chemistry coverage. Cadets develop knowledge of basic chemical facts and their manipulation, i.e. gas theories, chemical equations, the atom, organic chemistry, the mole concept, Avogadro’s theories, temperature scales, acid/base theories, etc. Instruction gives focus to developing the habit of quick, accurate, intelligent, and orderly thinking. This course aims at preparing cadets for college chemistry.

Physics* Lab Science
This is a basic course in the general practices, instrument use, technology tools, laboratory techniques, and applied mathematics pertaining to the study of physical concepts. It gives particular emphasis to developing the cadet's conceptual understanding of various physics topics. The cadet learns to conduct laboratory experiments using modern computer based apparatus. Instruction continually keeps the practical application of all laws and principles before the cadet. Additionally the course makes reference to historical developments in natural philosophy (physics) and how these developments impact society. Cadets are expected to gain mastery learning of key concepts. The course is primarily for those cadets who intend to be non-science majors in college.

Marine Biology (Semester Elective)
Earth is two-thirds water and most of that water has not seen humankind, however the diversity of life in our oceans is richer than on land. In Marine Biology, Cadets will survey the ocean depths to better understand how life has evolved and adapted. Concepts include the science of marine biology, the physical & chemical features of ocean realms, the organisms of the sea, the structure and function of marine ecosystems, and how humans impact marine life. Cadets will apply their knowledge at of the end of the course by building their own aquatic ecosystems. Other labs and field trips will also be included.
Social Studies Department

Ancient World History*
This course involves a study of the past from human origins to the Age of Discovery with emphasis given to appreciating the impact of ancient peoples on our world today. Instruction supports a global and gender inclusive worldview. The course begins with a discussion of the origins of prehistoric man and the beginnings of civilization. The Egyptians, Mesopotamians, and Hebrews are the first civilizations to be studied. The next examined are the early civilizations and empires of Persia, Greece, Rome, Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Instruction also explores the rise and spread of such world religions as Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Taoism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The course includes an examination of European history through the early Middle Ages. Writing is fundamental to virtually all daily work: homework assignments, the book report, and quiz and test questions.

Modern World History*
This course provides a foundation of knowledge regarding the major events of modern history, integrating themes of geography, economics, the humanities, and scientific achievements. It covers the time period from approximately AD 1650 to 1950, encompassing such subjects as the Enlightenment, the French Revolution and Napoleon, the Industrial Revolution, and Latin American independence. Attention is also given to Nationalism and Imperialism as well as to the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia and the causes and conduct of both the First and Second World Wars. The course closes with a look at the beginnings of the Cold War. Instruction focuses on factual information and the use of those facts in understanding historical events and movements. Students have opportunity to develop and express critical thought through written homework assignments, test essays, and several data based essays.

US History*
The evolution of America from the Jamestown Colony (1607) to the world’s sole super power is unparalleled in history. This course covers U.S. History from Columbus through the Cold War. The study examines and evaluates political, religious, economic, military, social, intellectual, and scientific developments and how they shape lives now. Cadets have frequent opportunity to write essays, reviews, and reports.

American Government and Economics*
This course gives cadets a critical insight into United States government and economics. It includes constitutional themes and historic precedents that are the foundations of American democracy. Instruction places special emphasis on the constitutional principles of the three branches of government, checks and balances, separation of powers, and majority rule. In addition, this course develops cadets’ comprehension of the strong influence economics has over history and current affairs. Along with providing a basic, but solid understanding of the way economies work, this course will emphasize crucial events from the Industrial Revolution to the present day in an effort to help cadets grasp the dominant role economics has had in the rise and fall of nations.

Entrepreneurship (Semester Elective)
Introduction to Entrepreneurship offers juniors and seniors a course that cultivates their creativity and problem-solving skills through active learning. Cadets will learn to think critically, make well-informed decisions, innovate, and communicate effectively in today’s high-tech, fast changing world. They learn finance, statistics, industry knowledge and writing. They also learn how to bring their strengths to a team and how to prioritize and manage time. During this year-long course, real businesses will give cadet teams real and urgent problems with cadet teams delivering their final solutions to CEOs. After working on two to three real business problems involving new venture creation, cadets build their own startups.
World War II (Semester Elective)
World War II was the pivotal event of the 20th Century. This is a one semester elective course on the war in Europe from 1939-1945. Cadets will examine the political, economic, and scientific developments that shaped the war. They will analyze military strategies, operations, battles, tactics, and leadership during the campaigns in Europe. Finally they will evaluate the war’s impact on the 20th Century and into the 21st Century. Special emphasis is placed on the use of primary documents, interpretive readings, photographs, film, and presentations by cadet teams.

Vietnam War (Semester Elective)
This class examines the military, political, and diplomatic history of Vietnam War as well as the context in which it was fought, the Cold War, and the revolutionary changes of the 1960s. Major themes in the class will focus on early history and culture of Vietnam, the French involvement, Cold War tension, and the nuclear standoff between the USSR and the USA as well as early steps in American military involvement. Cadets will also learn about the United States at War in Vietnam, the protest movement and the music of the period to gain an understanding of the lessons learned as a result of American involvement, the memorials raised, and how the conflict haunts and affected American leaders and local people.

Public Speaking (Semester Elective)
Public Speaking offers students the opportunity to enhance their development of skills related to formal oral communications. Cadets will learn communication theory; apply that theory to speech preparation, and present speeches to the class. Emphasis will be placed on the students’ ability to present their research and ideas effectively to an audience utilizing proper public speaking techniques.
Physical and Leadership Education

Leadership Education Training (Semester Elective)
Leadership Education Department of Valley Forge Military Academy in accordance with the schools Mission and Philosophy strives to produce educated leaders for a global community, developing the whole person, continuing to rely on Five Traditional Cornerstones. Valley Forge pursues this goal by using the holistic academic and military environment as the integrative mechanism to prepare its graduates to become educated citizen leaders of character. Employing the dynamics of a military organization in its structured cadet environment, the LET curriculum is designed to foster the development of individual responsibility and sound leadership skills by providing opportunities for the practical application of leadership theories in positions of increasing responsibility. The Leadership Education program consists of instruction adopted from JROTC.

Physical Education
Physical Education is required each year for all class levels. The purpose of this course is to establish and maintain a good state of physical fitness, and to lay the foundation for healthy living and desirable social attitudes.

Health (Semester Elective)
Health is a required class for cadets who have not previously taken the subject in high school. The course emphasizes physical, mental, emotional, and social well-being using assignments and activities with emphasis on consumer health; life cycles; drug, alcohol, and tobacco abuse.
French 1
French 1 is an elective course consisting of an introductory level of study in modern standard French for non-native speakers at the secondary (Grades 8-12) level. All four areas of language skills, reading, writing, listening, speaking as well as grammatical competence are included through a variety of activities such as skits, written and spoken presentations, Daily Do’s, quizzes, tests, workbook exercises, raps, made-for-classroom TV novels, DVD’s for culture and francophone knowledge.

French 2
French 2 is the second level of a two-year world language requirement at the secondary (Grades 9-12) level. All four areas of language skills, reading, writing, listening, speaking as well as grammatical competence are included through a variety of activities such as skits, written and spoken presentations, Daily Do’s, quizzes, tests, workbook exercises, raps, made-for-classroom TV novels, DVD’s for culture and francophone knowledge.

French 3/French 4
French 3/4 is an elective course consisting of an advanced study of modern French for non-native speakers at the secondary (Grades 10-12) level. All four areas of language skills, reading, writing, listening, speaking as well as grammatical competence are included through a variety of activities such as skits, written and spoken presentations, Daily Do’s, quizzes, tests, workbook exercises, raps, made-for-classroom TV novels, DVD’s for culture and francophone knowledge.

Chinese 1
This introductory course is designed for students who have little or no previous exposure to Chinese. The main objective of the course is to help students acquiring basic skills for communication. The course stresses pronunciation, especially the accuracy of the four tones, listening comprehension and speaking. Grammar is integrated into the conversational topic in everyday life. Reading and writing are introduced on a controlled basis. Students are able to communicate in controlled conversational situations and read simple passages and respond orally or in writing. Students are encouraged to acquire both the spoken and the written languages at this beginning stage. Interactive activities and multi-media technology will be applied in the classroom to stimulate the learning environment. Chinese culture related activities, Chinese film and field trip will be also incorporated in the course. Oral and written assessments are included in each unit test.

Chinese 2
This courses reinforce the skills and knowledge acquired in the first year. All activities and grammatical studies are more complex and more accurately applied in usage. Content areas expand to include such additional tasks as introducing one’s self, asking directions, making purchases, and maintaining a personal journal in the target language. In the second semester, all cadets may only speak the target language in class. Additionally teachers encourage cadets to initiate or participate in conversations on topics of personal interest.

Chinese 3/Chinese 4
Advanced Chinese continues to emphasize listening comprehension and speaking. Reading and writing skills assume greater emphasis through the theme. The four major skills are further developed via the acquisition of vocabulary and internalization of grammatical patterns. Through the use of the target language, an interactive learning environment, and the use of technology, the students are encouraged to brainstorm the pre-requisite knowledge and language skills that would enable them to master the language. Further to direct students’ attention to any cultural similarities or differences between the Chinese practices and those of the students’ own culture on the theme. Students continue to explore Chinese history and culture to deepen their appreciation, understanding of the language. Students are expected to create oral presentation in the target language.
Spanish 1
The primary goals of this Level I language class is to enable cadets to use the target language in daily life and to understand the culture of that language, comparing it to the American counterpart. First year activities include simple dialogues and conversations, dictations, videos and films, reading, writing, and grammar exercises. Much of the reading and audio-visual material consists of authentic content.

Spanish 2
This courses reinforce the skills and knowledge acquired in the first year. All activities and grammatical studies are more complex and more accurately applied in usage. Content areas expand to include such additional tasks as introducing one’s self, asking directions, making purchases, and maintaining a personal journal in the target language. In the second semester, all cadets may only speak the target language in class. Additionally teachers encourage cadets to initiate or participate in conversations on topics of personal interest.

English Language Learners: ESL Support and ELL US History
These courses emphasize on the development of all four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The goal of this program is to provide international students with the skills needed to improve communicative competency and be prepared for mainstreaming into a regular English classroom.