



Exploring Opportunities at NFA & The 2019-2020 Course Selection Process

During the first week of February, students will receive NFA's 2019-2020 Opportunity & Choice Course Catalog with course selection sheets. The registration form includes a worksheet to help plan for four-year academic success. Students should discuss their options with their parents, teachers, and counselor to make course decisions best suited to meet their goals.

NFA's Career Clusters (pp. 15-23) provide information about how various courses, knowledge, and skills relate to different career areas. The clusters are a tool to encourage students to connect their interests, skills, and goals to courses and activities at NFA and post-secondary education and careers.

It is essential that students fulfill the credit requirements for graduation, but it is also important to consider which classes will help prepare for plans after high school. Often high school graduation requirements and college entrance requirements are different. An example is the world language requirement. Many four-year colleges require two or three years of a world language for admission. Some majors such as nursing or engineering have very specific high school prerequisites. Colleges expect students to take a challenging course load for all four years.

Many NFA courses give students the opportunity to earn high school and college credit (pages 4-5).

To help students make informed decisions about course selections, NFA will hold **Exploring Opportunities Day**, Thursday, **Feb. 7, 2019**. Teachers will spend time that week sharing recommendations for the next courses in their department sequence. Also, students will have the opportunity to visit the teachers who teach elective classes to ask questions and learn more information.

Find all the information you need on your MyNFA>Student Portal Dashboard. Click on *Exploring Opportunities* on the left-hand menu for instructions and additional course selection sheets. Students submit course requests online through PowerSchool and hand their course selection sheet to their counselor or house office.

Parents can learn information about Exploring Opportunities and the course registration process at MyNFA>Parents. Click on *2019-20 Course Registration*.

Seniors

- See your counselor to review your post-grad plans.
- Visit the Career Center for possible employment opportunities.
- Follow up with each college once you submit your application to be sure they are complete.
- Check your email for any correspondence from your colleges. If you receive a request for information from your college, act on it quickly, and be sure to see your counselor.
- Don't forget that you need to request that the testing company send your SAT and/or ACT scores to your colleges.
- Update your **Naviance** account to list all the colleges to which you have applied, and enter application results once you know them. We use this data to track your progress and to mail final transcripts.
- NFA will send midyear transcripts to all Common App schools. Let your counselor know if you need your transcript sent to other colleges.

Financial Aid

Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) as soon as possible to be considered for aid. Many colleges set financial aid deadlines between Feb. 15 and March 1. Apply online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. There is no charge to submit the FAFSA. Do not wait to be admitted to college to file for financial aid.

After submitting the FAFSA, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) including the EFC (Expected Family Contribution). To be considered for NFA need-based scholarships, you must submit a copy of the SAR and information about your college financial aid award to your school counselor.

The Financial Aid Office at each college will send a letter to you detailing their offer for financial assistance. Promptly respond if they ask for any verification of income. Call the college financial aid office if you have questions about your award letter or if your financial situation changes.

Scholarships

- NFA lists all scholarship information on Naviance. Check frequently for newly added scholarships. Select the *College* Tab at the top right and follow to the *Scholarship and Money* page. Follow the directions to apply.
- Requirements and deadlines for scholarships vary greatly. Many, but not all, are designated for seniors. We encourage underclassmen to look as well.
- Do not wait until May or June to start searching for scholarships. You will have missed many deadlines.
- See Mrs. Lauzier in the Career Center for help with scholarships. Call 860-425-5620 or email lauzierk@nfaschool.org.

Student Success Plan (SSP) Meetings

The annual SSP meeting is an opportunity to review your transcript, credit requirements, course selections for the next school year, and steps to achieve college and career goals. Meetings are either a small group in some grades or individual in others.

- 12th-grade individual meetings will continue through February and 10th-grade through April.
- School counselors plan to meet all 11th-grade students in small groups from the middle of February through March.
- 9th-grade meetings will be held within the classroom from mid-March through April.
- Information from the 9th and 11th-grade meetings will be presented to parents at afternoon and evening sessions.
- Please contact Mrs. Danieluk, Guidance Secretary, at 425-5601 with questions.

11th-Grade College Search and Application Process Program for Parents

3 p.m., March 19 or 5:30 p.m., March 21, in the Ensemble Room of the Frank Center.

9th-Grade Student Success Meeting for Parents

3 p.m., April 2, or 5:30 p.m., April 4, in the Ensemble Room of the Frank Center.

Naviance

All students at NFA have access to this Web-based resource for college and career planning. 9th-graders will be introduced to the program in the second semester and complete a *Career Cluster Inventory*. Tenth-graders will complete the *Career Interest Profiler*, and 11th-grade students have completed the *Do What You Are* personality inventory. Results are saved to help students evaluate their interests, explore potential careers, and become knowledgeable about schools and colleges. The information is also helpful to plan course choices in high school.

Link to Naviance from your MyNFA>Student Portal Dashboard. For assistance, contact your school counselor or Mrs. Lauzier in the Career Resource Center.

College Fair

The NFA College Fair will be held Thursday, **March 14, 2019**. 10th and 11th-graders will attend during the school day. Before the event, a list of the anticipated 100 colleges attending will be available on Naviance. Colleges share information about their programs and admissions requirements. We encourage students to prepare and use this time to explore different college opportunities.

PSAT and PSAT 8/9 Results

Students, grades 9-11, who took the PSAT in October should log on to the College Board website for their scores and review their skills. Students will receive their test booklet and paper score report in English class. Get free, personalized practice for the SAT with Khan Academy. For questions, see your School Counselor. 11th-grade students are strongly encouraged to visit www.collegeboard.org to prepare for the SAT.

SAT School Day Test – March 27, 2019

All 11th-grade students will take the SAT at NFA during the day, March 27. Teachers will help prepare students for the test. Students do not need to complete online registration for this test. 11th-grade students interested in an additional SAT prep program should contact Mrs. Auger in the Allis House Curriculum Office.

ACT/SAT Information /11th-Grade

TEST	TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE
ACT	April 13	March 8
ACT	June 8	May 3
SAT	May 4	April 5
SAT	June 1	May 3

Students wishing to take a test on Saturday should register online at either www.act.org (ACT) or www.collegeboard.org (SAT). Registration requires each student to upload a photo. For assistance, see your counselor or Mrs. Lauzier in the Career Center. Sample tests for both exams are available online. Be sure to prepare to take the test.

SELECTIVE SERVICE: By law all 18-year-old men (including non-citizen immigrant males) must register with the selective service within 30 days of their 18th-birthday. If you fail to register, you may not qualify for Federal student grants or loans, job training benefits, and state and federal employment in the future. You can register online at www.sss.gov or go to any post office. It is easy to register. Submit your information as early as 17 years and 3 months, and it will be held for processing until your 18th-birthday.

DO NOT FORGET!