

HOUSTON MSTC  
ARMY JROTC



# THE BLACK KNIGHTS' SWORD



**APRIL 2023**

**BACK-TO-BACK BLUEBONNET CHAMPIONS!**



**"TO MOTIVATE YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE BETTER CITIZENS"**

**HOUSTON MSTC  
ARMY JROTC**

**THE RESULTS**

**Armed Drill: Overall 1<sup>st</sup> Place**

- Inspection: 1<sup>st</sup> Place
- Regulation: 2<sup>nd</sup> Place
- Exhibition: 1<sup>st</sup> Place

**Unarmed Drill: Overall 3<sup>rd</sup> Place**

- Inspection: 2<sup>nd</sup> Place
- Regulation: 2<sup>nd</sup> Place
- Exhibition: 4<sup>th</sup> Place

**Color Guard:**

**Primary Team: Overall 1<sup>st</sup> Place**

- Inspection: 1<sup>st</sup> Place
- Performance: 1<sup>st</sup> Place

**Secondary Team: Overall 1<sup>st</sup> Place**

- Inspection: 2<sup>nd</sup> Place
- Performance: 1<sup>st</sup> Place

**Flag Folding: 1<sup>st</sup> Place**

**Physical Fitness: Overall 1<sup>st</sup> Place**

- Males: 2<sup>nd</sup> Place
- Females: 1<sup>st</sup> Place

**Marksmanship: 4<sup>th</sup> Place**

**Academic: 4<sup>th</sup> Place**

**Ranger Swim:**

- Males: 11<sup>th</sup> Place
- Females: 9<sup>th</sup> Place

**Top 10 Rankings at Bluebonnet:**

1. **Houston MSTC: 1,636 points**
2. **Scarborough: 980 points**
3. **Pearland: 730 points**
4. **Westside: 535 points**
5. **Northside: 510**
6. **Waller (Air Force): 455**
7. **Lamar: 350**
8. **Willis (Air Force): 270**
9. **Travis (Marines): 265**
10. **HS for Law and Justice: 230**



**DOMINATE THE DRILL PAD**

33 other high schools came from as far as Killeen, Texas to meet the defending Bluebonnet Drill Meet champions, the **BLACK KNIGHTS**. The drill meet is the largest in all southeast Texas consisting of armed and unarmed drill, color guard, physical fitness, swim competition, flag folding, academics, and marksmanship.

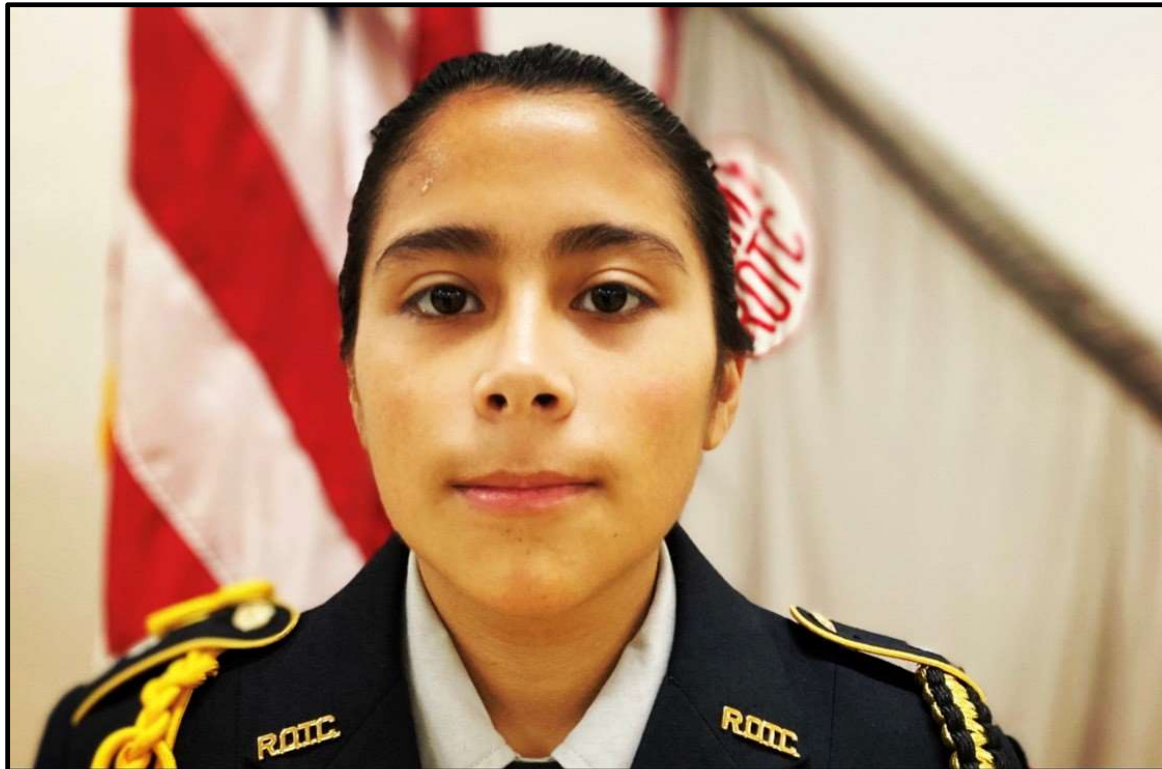
Cadets from Texas A&M Corps of Cadets assisted in judging and scoring the competition and they talked with high school cadets about their experiences in college. Houston ISD instructors were the primary judges, and they too would chat with cadets from all over the region to reinforce the reason they were there and that was to become better citizens through patriotic competition.

There could only be one champion. The Houston MSTC Army JROTC 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Black Knights brought their "A Game" and put on a masterful performance taking most of the 1<sup>st</sup> place positions that day. Next year, the Black Knights will seek to "**Three-peat**" at this competition and maintain the competitive edge.

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**"I AM NEXT"**

Cadet Captain Nava is an official United States Military Academy at West Point applicant. She started the formal process on February 1, 2023, and was approved to attend the summer camp in June of 2023. Let's examine her resume:

**GPA:** 4.5

**Athletics:** Captain on Varsity Volleyball

**Clubs:** National Honor Society / Diamonds Club

**JROTC:**

**Leadership** – Squad Leader, Assistant Operations Officer, Company Commander, Operations Officer in Charge

**Teams** – Leadership Bowl Team commander, Marksmanship, Physical Fitness female commander, Unarmed Drill Team

**GO BLACK KNIGHTS!**

**Congratulations! You've been offered 2023 SLE Session starting on 6/3/2023 and ending on 6/9/2023. To accept your offer, please log into the West Point Summer Leaders Experience Registration Site using following link:**

**THE WEST POINT CONNECTION**

Jasmine Nava joined Army JROTC in August of 2021 as a sophomore citing she was interested in the physical training. She quickly rose to the top of her class learning all required knowledge and demonstrating proficiency in basic drill. She joined the physical fitness team and became the top curl-up performer in the district over males and females. Her team is ranked #1 two years in a row. She also joined the marksmanship team last year and now her team is ranked #1 in the district. She served on the leadership bowl team competing in the national tournament for two years. She has also joined the unarmed drill team which is currently ranked #2 in the district. All of this along with her grade point average, varsity volleyball, and being inducted in the National Honor Society has her competitive for a **West Point appointment**. Stay Tuned...



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**THE SUPERIOR  
INSTRUCTORS**

**Cadet Staff Sergeant Krystal Ramirez**  
(10<sup>th</sup> grade): 4.6 GPA

**Cadet Staff Sergeant Elizabeth Rigney**  
(10<sup>th</sup> grade): 4.5 GPA

**Cadet Staff Sergeant Monique Lozano**  
(10<sup>th</sup> grade): 4.5 GPA

**Cadet Captain Jasmine Nava** (11<sup>th</sup>  
grade): 4.5 GPA, Class Rank #3

**Mentor - Cadet Major Arianna Saenz**  
(12<sup>th</sup> grade): 4.5 GPA, Class Rank #6

Cadets earn two ribbons for teaching three approved classes and this evaluation is a component for the Superintendent's Cup competition.



**JROTC IS STUDENT LED**

Cadet Major Saenz is a soon to be graduated by Houston MSTC. She serves as the executive officer of the battalion, and she also serves as a mentor to younger cadets who are seeking staff positions and opportunities for high level competitions. Arianna earned her superior instructor ribbons last year, and this she taught the next group how to properly prepare the four step lesson plan and taught them how to stand in front of large groups of people and present JROTC material.

The district competition awards maximum points for a program earning 270 raw points. These cadets scored 287 raw points placing them at the top of the district for the competition.

Next year, these four cadets will teach, coach, and mentor the next four cadets helping them earn their ribbons and contribute to the Black Knights winning top battalion in the Houston ISD.

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## CALL TO SERVICE

### HISD SUPPORT FOR GIRLS

Early in March, HISD requested support from the Black Knights to support the “Girls in Industry” round-robin where 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls from across the district were exposed to various STEM based career fields. The Black Knights escorted the groups of girls around to each station and served lunch by handing out the meals and drinks. For their efforts, Ms. Joanna Villanueva provided a pizza luncheon to the cadets who participated.

**LEFT:** HISD official providing guidance to the cadets on what they were to do throughout the day. She told them without them, the event would not have been a success and thanked them for supporting the effort.



**Upper Left:** Cadets serving lunch.

**Above Center:** C/LTC Jimenez direction traffic to keep the groups moving.

**Above Right:** C/CSM Chavez monitoring the lunch traffic.

**Left:** Cadets thanking HISD for the pizza party...

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# HOUSTON MSTC ARMY JROTC



## BLACK KNIGHTS SWAG!

The “Merch” is coming out. Cadets ordered baseball style jerseys that will be worn mostly on Fridays or the end of the week. Other merchandise is coming so cadets will have a variety in JROTC uniformity.



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**PATRIOTS WELCOME THE BLACK KNIGHTS**

**PATRICK HENRY VISIT**

On Marcy 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Patrick Henry Patriots invited the Black Knights to come visit the entire 8<sup>th</sup> grade class so they could inform the class all about Houston MSTC and the Black Knights' program. As usual, the Black Knights got the crowd rowdy with a push up competition where one male and one female could win a coveted Black Knights T-Shirt. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade counselor, Ms. Cockett was thrilled with the performances by the drill teams, and she hopes many Patriots sign up to attend Houston MSTC and join the Army JROTC programs. The Black Knights look forward to meeting new members next school year.



**MALE WINNER**

SFC Page and C/Captain Nava award the male winner for over 50 correct push-ups.



**FEMALE WINNER**

MAJ Ray and C/Captain Nava award top female for over 30 correct push-ups.



**PATRIOTS TO TIGERS**

Ms. Cockett takes a group photo with the Houston MSTC JROTC program leaders.

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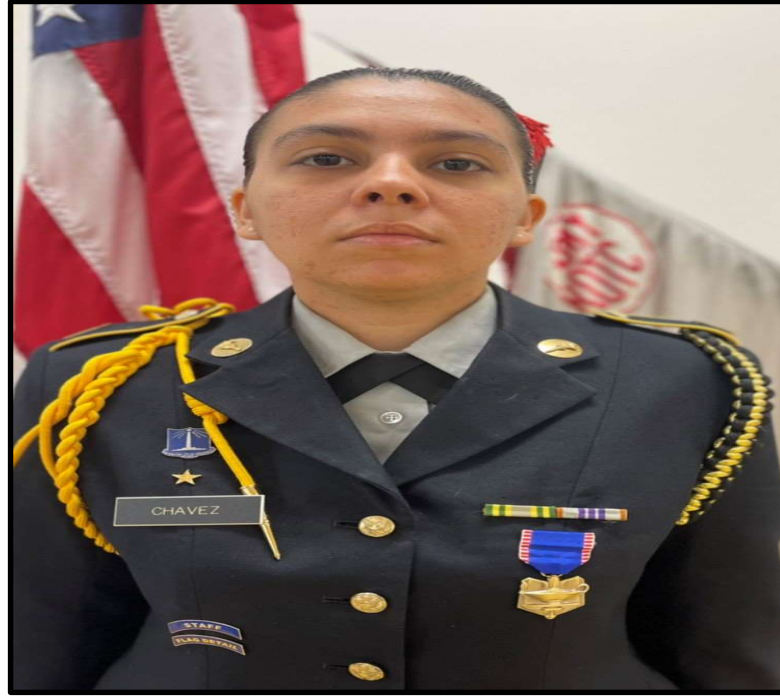
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**BATTALION COMMANDER JIMENEZ**

Good day cadets and patrons. We are almost near the end of an outstanding year! Yet this does not mean we are at the end of our fight. Continue to support our cadets as our armed drill team prepare to shine at national competitions. Also, look forward to our military ball as well as our final review ceremonies. Hard work never goes unnoticed.

**GO BLACK KNIGHTS!!!**



**COMMANDER SERGEANT MAJOR**

Greetings everyone,  
Our cadets have been busy these past few months with dominating competition, doing community service, and much more. I want to acknowledge the dedication from all the cadets that have put in the blood, sweat, and tears into making this program number one in district. Let's continue this Legacy of Excellence for future generations.  
**HOOOAAHHH!!**



**EXECUTIVE OFFICER SAENZ**

Greetings cadets and readers alike! We are nearing our end of this semester; however, the Black Knights continue to work diligently as always! Our barbecue plate sale will be kicking off on April 1st, you do not want to miss out on a delicious plate of food, drinks, and sweets! With end of the year celebrations on the way, we will be hosting our annual military ball this year on April 22nd; join the 1st Battalion for an elegant night of accomplishments achieved this year by our extraordinary cadets! If interested, please reserve your seat by April 7th. Attention Cadets: Final Review for District JROTC will be held on April 29th, and the Black Knights will be reaping the rewards of all our success from our program we built from the ground up! If anyone is hungry for victory, it is the **1st Battalion!**

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