

**THE BLACK KNIGHTS' SWORD DECEMBER 2024**

# **FALL CLASSIC**

## **EXCELLENCE**



### **BLACK KNIGHTS WIN THIRD "FALL CLASSIC"**

**On November 2, 2024, The Houston ISD JROTC department held the annual "Fall Classic" Drill Meet. This year, the event was held at Waltrip High School. The Sam Houston MSTC Black Knights took first place in all seven categories: Armed Drill, unarmed drill, primary color guard, secondary color guard, flag folding, male physical fitness, and female physical fitness.**

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## RAIDERS RIDE AGAIN

A major component of the Fall Classic Drill Meet is the physical fitness competition. Both male and female teams have four members each who do pushups, curl ups, and a one-mile run. Both teams won first place as they did in 2023. The teams consist of: Nayeli Davila, Yamileth Aviles, Trinity Rodriguez, Cadet Garibay, Manuel Tzic, Ethan Erazo, Justin Garza, and Carlos Blanco. Congratulations to all team members!



### THE MOST OUTSTANDING CADET AT FALL CLASSIC!

Yamileth Aviles is a senior in her fourth year of JROTC. At Fall Classic, she had one of the most outstanding performances in the history of the event. She competed on the 1<sup>st</sup> place Armed Drill Team, 1<sup>st</sup> place Primary Color Guard Team, 1<sup>st</sup> place Flag Folding Team, and the 1<sup>st</sup> place female physical fitness team. She also did the most pushups for females, had the fastest mile run, and won 1<sup>st</sup> place individual female in fitness. **INCREDIBLE!**



### THE FUTURE IS HERE

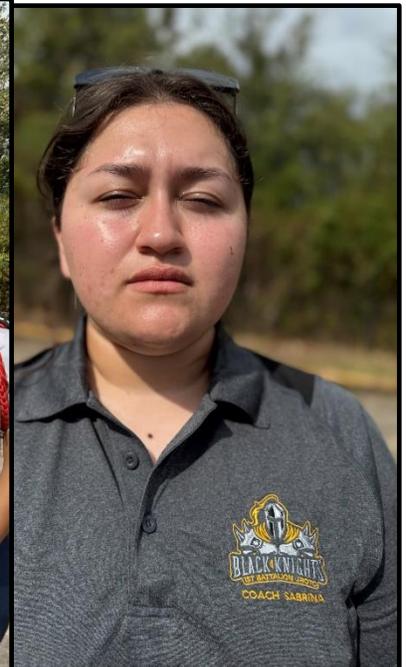
10 freshmen prepared since the first week of school to compete as the secondary unarmed drill team at Fall Classic. Each of them earned a red drill team cord they will wear with their uniforms.

### THE FAMILY

The booster club led by Fabiola Torres and Amanda Celedon provided lunch for the cadets, Chick Fil A. Parents are vital to the success of the program and the Black Knights value each family member that shows up and supports.



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## THE LEGACY LIVES ON!

JROTC Instructors are teachers, coaches, and mentors. They served no less than 20 years in the United States Army. But when it comes to expertise in coaching, Sam Houston MSTC has alumni with superior knowledge and techniques that can lead teams to greater success. Adam Obregon was a member of this drill team over 20 years ago, and he returned to coach the team as his daughter, Sabrina, was a student in the program. Sabrina was graduated in 2023, and she served two years as the drill team commander. Both now coach the drill teams as they want to see their alma mater do well not only at a district level, but they want to see them excel at the highest level in the nation.

Last year, the Black Knights armed team placed 7<sup>th</sup> nationally while the color guard placed 3<sup>rd</sup> nationally out of over 3,200 programs. This father/daughter coaching combination takes great pride in teaching young people the fine art of Army Drill and Ceremony that helps them in self-discipline and confidence.



## GROOMING

Prior to drill meets such as Fall Classic, cadets have to get to a high standard of personal grooming in order to do well in the inspection phase. On the left, Cadet Orellano is having her hair tightened into a bun where there will be no loose hairs. Cadet Palada does a great job meeting the high standard.

On the right, SFC Page delivers a high and tight fade to Cadet First Sergeant Wilkerson the day prior to the meet. Cadets must meet a high standard if they want to be champions.



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# DEDICATION TO SERVICE

## CONGRATULATIONS TRINITY!

She has made the decision to enlist in the United States Marine Corps. She is the 5<sup>th</sup> senior this school year to have enlisted in the United States Military. **How does one join?**

1. Recruits must pass the entrance exam
2. Recruits must meet height and weight standards
3. Recruits must meet moral standards (conduct)

**What are the benefits of enlisting into the military?**

1. Fully paid medical and dental benefits
2. Get paid to learn a job skill
3. 30 days of paid vacation per year
4. G.I. Bill pays for college
5. Competitive pay
6. Veteran preference for hiring after serving
7. The Hazelwood Act (look it up)

There are several reasons to join the military. If you have questions, see your JROTC instructors as they can help you.



The Black Knights were in competition at Sam Rayburn High School in Pasadena, TX winning three trophies: 1. First place in co-ed color guard, 2. Second place in all female color guard, 3. Second place in armed regulation drill. Congratulations to the Black Knights!

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# U.S. ARMY FITNESS CHALLENGE

## PE/JROTC

Before the Thanksgiving break, the United States Army sent a team of fitness trainers to Sam Houston MSTC. All PE and JROTC classes on that day had the opportunity to challenge themselves and compete in a friendly competition in several outdoor events.



- Freshman cadet Jarrel Lennon conducting the weighted sprint drill with his team
- Cadet First Sergeant Contreras set the record for deadlift reps at over 150
- Army Soldiers awarding Sam Houston the trophy for regional competition



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## SUPERIOR INSTRUCTOR

Annually, four cadets from each JROTC program compete to earn the "Superior Instructor" ribbon. Each cadet must teach two classes locally with their own instructors as the evaluators. Once complete, they teach a third class with the a district level evaluator on hand to give a more neutral evaluation.

This year, Cadets Ethan Araguz, Luis Castellanos, Sofia Cortez, and Jamarion Wilkerson took the opportunity to compete for their ribbon. Each were successful this year.



## MEDICAL MAGNET

Every Thursday, Black Knights support Ms. Rodriguez in providing school tours for parents who are deciding if Sam Houston MSTC and the medical magnet program are for their children. The cadets provide bilingual support to parents showing them around the campus. In further support of the medical magnet program, Major Ray visited Burbank and Fonville Middle Schools with Ms. Rodriguez to speak with 8<sup>th</sup> graders about their future at Sam Houston MSTC explaining all of the opportunities from sports teams to academic advancement.



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# ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING THE UNITED STATES MILITARY?



**Army JROTC is giving the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Test (ASVAB) on December 11, 2024 in B152. If you want to sign up, we are only testing no more than 40 students. Stop by B152 and see either Sergeant First Class Page or Major Ray for more information. 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades welcome.**

**This test will help you understand your strengths and weaknesses academically. Even if you have no desire to join the military, find out what your options are based on your test score. Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Space Force are options for you to consider.**

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