

SAM HOUSTON MSTC
ARMY JROTC



THE BLACK KNIGHTS' SWORD



DECEMBER 2022

DISTRICT CHAMPS!



"I was very impressed with the Houston MSTC Secondary Color Guard; one of the best performances I have seen in several years...including Brigade and National Championship meets."

Director of Army Instruction for HISD, LTC (Ret) Cornell McGhee, Ed.D

"TO MOTIVATE YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE BETTER CITIZENS"

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**Male Fitness: #1
Female Fitness: #1
Armed Drill: #1
Armed Drill Commander: #1
Unarmed Drill: #2
Unarmed Drill Commander: #2
Primary Color Guard: #1
Secondary Color Guard: #1
Flag Folding: #10**

Left: The unarmed drill team is led by Cadet Command Sergeant Major Dakota Chavez

Below: The armed drill team is led by Cadet 1LT Sabrina Obregon, and she was overall best armed commander at the meet

The Black Knights walked into Fall Classic as defending champs from last spring's Blue Bonnet district drill meet. Nothing has changed except for the fact they are even better than they were last spring. The unarmed drill team and both color guard teams have elevated their performances from being middle of the pack to now on top of the district. The armed drill team remained steady winning their third 1st Place trophy in the last three district meets.

Here is how the district measured up:

Sam Houston: 6,718 points

Scarborough: 5,799 points

Westside: 4,280 points

Bellaire: 4,060 points

Furr: 3,412 points

The Black Knights will compete for district supremacy in March in the annual Blue Bonnet Drill Meet. They will also compete in San Antonio in January for the brigade drill meet. Cheer for the home team!



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BATTLE OF THE BAYOU

The Black Knights fresh off winning the Fall Classic took their talents to Sam Rayburn High School in Pasadena. The drill meet was more focused on physical activity but did include drill and color guard. This sort of competition does not favor inner city schools that do not have the land nor resources to train for RAIDER competitions.

NO FEAR! NO EXCUSES!

The Black Knights with good strategy and high caliber athletes managed a 3rd place overall victory in an out of district meet against stiff competition.



The Battle of the Bayou tested our logistical operations. **Cadet Sergeant Krystal Ramirez** is the logistician for the battalion, and she measured all physical competitors for their combat uniforms and coordinate with district JROTC for pick up and turn in. The drill meet required physical competitors wear this uniform and HISD schools do not have them on hand. She did a brilliant job coordinating and executing from behind the scenes. KUDOS!



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WINNING ISN'T EVERYTHING...

It's the pursuit that matters. The Black Knights picked up eight total trophies and 15 individual medals for performance at the Battle of the Bayou:

Armed Drill: 2nd Place

Unarmed Drill: 1st Place (top commander Dakota Chavez)

Male Color Guard: 3rd Place (top commander Erik Jimenez)

Male Raider: 3rd Place

Female Raider: 3rd Place

Male Obstacle Course: 3rd Place

Female Obstacle Course 3rd Place

Co-Ed Tug Of War: 2nd Place

The cadets enjoyed a rigorous competition and that matters!

Without fail, the **Booster Club** took care of a light breakfast and solid lunch on the road in Pasadena. No parents? No success. The Black Knights value the parents of the Booster Club who take time out of their schedules to support these young men and women achieve greatness. If you happen to see the Black Knights holding a fundraiser, this is exactly where the funds go, direct support to the wonderful cadets who love to compete and win.

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"A DAY OF GIVING"

The Black Knights with the American Legion Post 586, planned and executed a service project entitled "A Day of Giving." The National Honor Society and AUSA greatly assisted in helping donate over 90 thanksgiving baskets to veterans and active-duty military members.

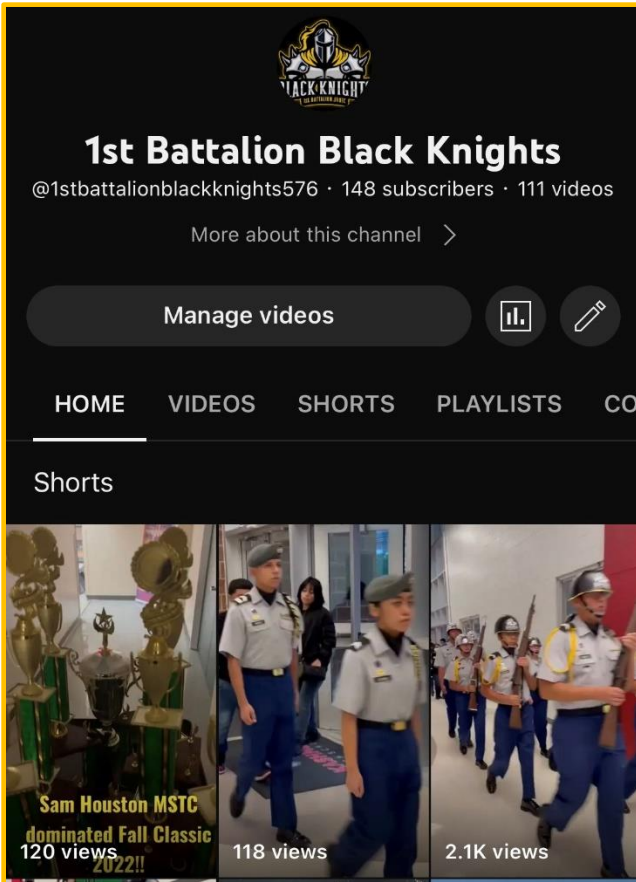


ABOVE: Cadet Lopez interviewed Commander Dwight Rumph asking his thoughts on partnering with the Black Knights for the event and he was thrilled to work with young people (full interview on youtube channel 1st BN Black Knights). Left: Ms. Liza Garza of AUSA greatly assisted by collecting enough "Fixins" to match the turkey donations.



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1st Battalion Black Knights
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Sam Houston MSTC dominated Fall Classic 2022!! 120 views

118 views

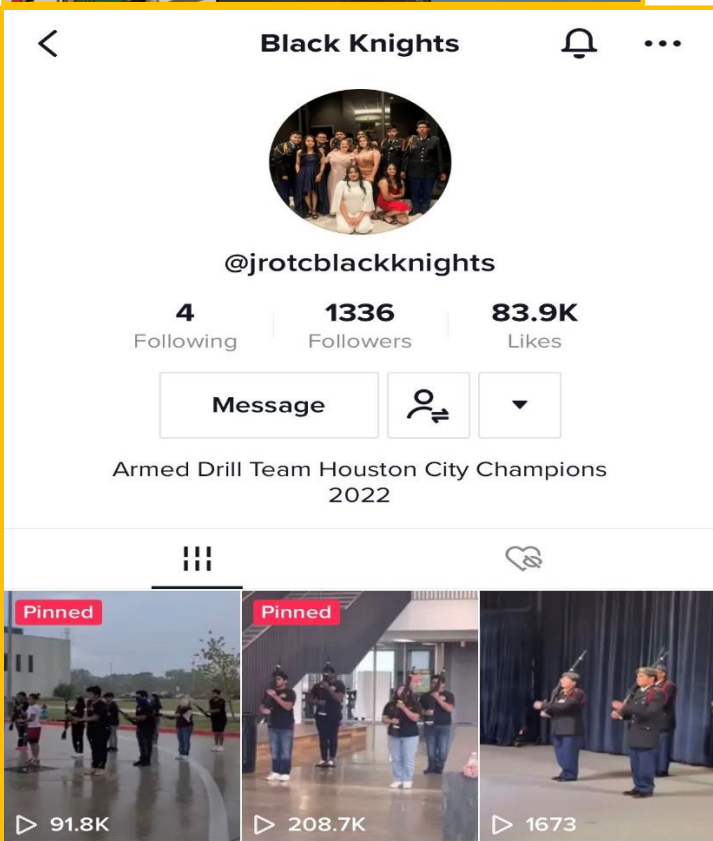
2.1K views




Black Knights JROTC
Youth Organization
"A legacy of excellence"
Black Knights Official Instagram Page
SHMSTC
Teams more

6 Posts 59 Followers 1 Following

Each cadet is a recruiter who can earn a ribbon for bringing in new members. Social media is a great tool that attracts more eyes and interest in Sam Houston's JROTC program. Twitter, TikTok, Youtube, and Instagram help the Black Knights tell their story to the public. Continue to follow on your platform of choice.



Black Knights

@jrotcblackknights

4 Following 1336 Followers 83.9K Likes

Message

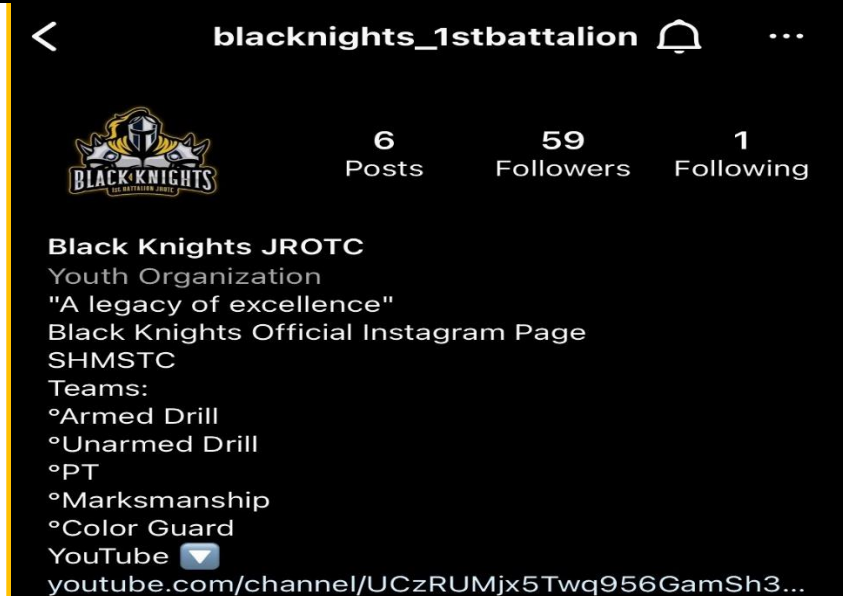
Armed Drill Team Houston City Champions 2022

Pinned

91.8K

208.7K

1673



blackknights_1stbattalion

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Teams:
°Armed Drill
°Unarmed Drill
°PT
°Marksmanship
°Color Guard
YouTube
youtube.com/channel/UCzRUMjx5Twq956GamSh3...

6 Posts 59 Followers 1 Following



Black Knights
@SHMSTC_JROTC

A legacy of excellence Black Knights Official Twitter Page SHMSTC Teams: °Armed Drill °Unarmed Drill °PT °Marksmanship °Color Guard
YouTube

Following

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TO THE VICTOR GOES THE SPOILS

District headquarters awarded the top five JROTC programs from Fall Classic five tickets each. SFC Page along with David and Frank Barajas with Ja'Aniah Wesley attended the Texans game vs the Washington Commanders. They each received a free meal and later moved toward the field to get a better view of the game.



COLOR GUARD IN DEMAND

During November, the Black Knights Color Guard took on several assignments: HCA Northwest meeting COO Tricia McGusty, The Construction Management Association of America (CMAA), and the Rotary Club of Downtown Houston. Local groups are reaching out to the Black Knights for service and the team is happy to serve.



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AROUND THE BATTALION

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Not just in drill or athletics, several cadets were admitted into the National Honor Society in November demonstrating well-roundedness as a student.



DOWN BUT NOT OUT

During the Raider challenge in Pasadena, Alexis DeLeon rolled her ankle. She only cried as she wanted to help her team fight on but couldn't. She also wanted to cheer on her teammates but couldn't walk. Soooooo, Major Ray carried her around the school grounds so she could cheer and support her team. Booster Club parents also offered some love and care to her. Her teammates rallied around her to set her mind at ease while the competition continued.

TEAM!



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

In September, the Black Knights supported the local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) by helping set up their hall for a formal dinner. The Black Knights did not ask for anything in return. In November, Ms. Joann Mata from the VFW asked if they could make a donation to the program. The VFW donated \$3,000 to the program and those funds will assist the battalion with transportation to San Antonio to compete at a multi-state drill meet which will decide who gets to compete at the National Drill Meet in Orlando, FL in May. The Black Knights thank the VFW for the support and the Black Knights will make the VFW proud.



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THE WEST POINT CONNECTION

During the Thanksgiving break, four Black Knights met with a West Point cadet. The cadet explained to them his own experiences and how he became interested in the school. Congressional District 29 has not sent a student forward to West Point in several years. **CHANGE!**



There are currently five students now interested in attending the school: Senior Erik Jimenez (awaiting nomination), Juniors Jasmine Nava and Diego Roldan (application process begins February 2023), Sophomore Michael Espinosa, and Freshman Ethan Araguz. Stay tuned!



UPDATE: Erik Jimenez has passed his physical fitness exam for West Point. KUDOS! He is mere steps away from earning an appointment to the school to become an Army Officer. Once accepted, he will be the guiding light for future cadets to follow.



Left: Ms. Myrna Trevino is the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA). She spoke with Junior Jasmine Nava about her ambitions to attend West Point. The CASA stated she is willing to help her in any way possible for her to realize her goal.

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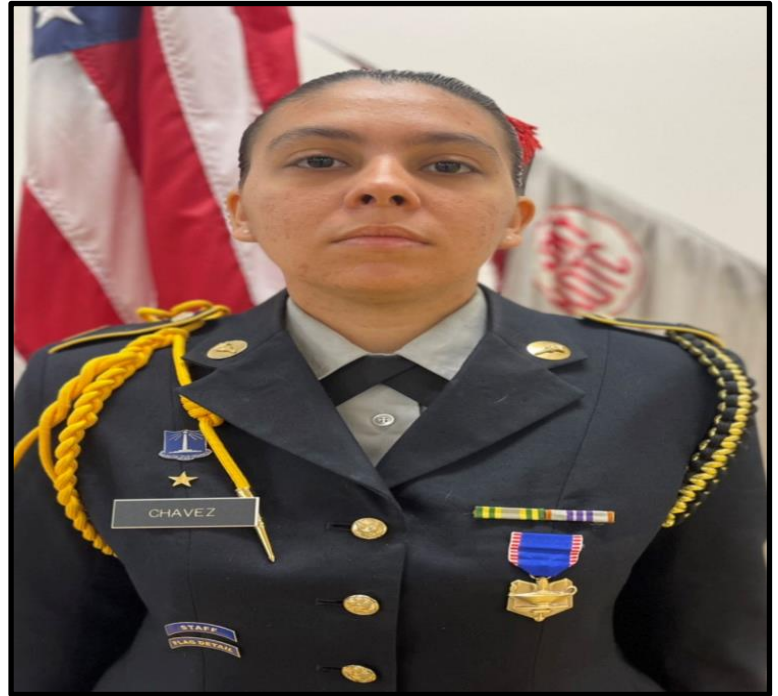
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A WORD FROM THE TOP



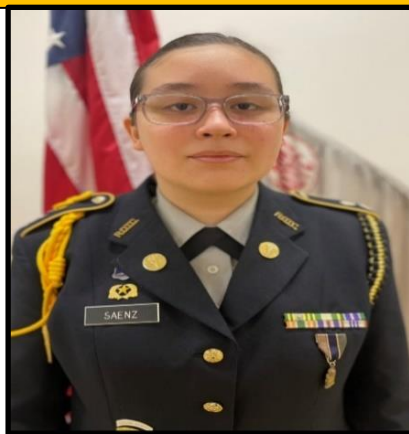
BATTALION COMMANDER JIMENEZ

Happy holidays to all cadets, patrons, and families! I'm sure everyone has had their share of fun, we sure have. This month has been filled with multiple competitions, community events, and celebrations. I want to give a big thanks to all the cadets, parents, teachers, and friends of the program who have made all these events possible and successful. Our program is truly grateful for these opportunities and the continuous support. Expect greater things from our outstanding program. **GO BLACK KNIGHTS!!!**



**COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR
CHAVEZ**

Greetings everyone, I hope y'all had a great Thanksgiving break. Our cadets have done extraordinary things these past few weeks. The Black Knights battalion has been putting their best effort in the Day of Giving for the veterans at the Legion and done a stupendous job at battle of the bayou. Lastly, our color guard presented the colors flawlessly and those that went got awarded with tickets to a football game with SFC Page. Let's continue the fighting spirit, **HOOAAHH!!**



EXECUTIVE OFFICER SAENZ

Greetings cadets and readers alike, I would first like to thank the cadets who came to the Day of Giving event, keep being the example to continue our mission to aid our community. All drill teams: we will hold practice for all Saturdays except for the 24th of December. As we practice for dominating competitions, the first battalion is in preparation for the mass battalion inspection on the 15th of December, let's show what we are capable of! In addition, the Black Knights will host a Christmas Party full of gift-giving and delicious food on December 21st, hope to see you and the cadets!

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