

THE BLACK KNIGHTS' SWORD OCTOBER 2024

SUPERINTENDENT MIKE MILES WELCOMES THE BLACK KNIGHTS



MILES SALUTES!

On September 4, 2024, Houston Independent School District hosted a training seminar at Delmar Arena. The Black Knights opened up the event with an exhibition drill performance where the commander of the team, Katherine Alamia, requested permission from Superintendent Miles to use his drill area. He gave them permission by rendering a salute to the commander of the team.

District officials were impressed with the performance, and the Black Knights are thankful for the opportunity to serve.

"TO MOTIVATE YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE BETTER CITIZENS"

A FAMILY AFFAIR

Enlisting in the United States Military almost always involves the family. Some family members find it difficult to see their loved one leaving for military service. Some parents refuse to allow their 17-year-old son or daughter to join and they will not sign the parents' form.

But once parents and loved ones find out how serving this grateful nation helps them become outstanding citizens, they fully embrace the decision.



AYE AYE!

On September 5, 2024, alumnae Alexis DeLeon stopped by to say goodbye to her Army JROTC instructors as she was shipping out for the U.S. Navy's basic training in Chicago, Illinois.

Alexis served this battalion faithfully from 2021-2024 as a member of the physical fitness team and Ranger Swim team.

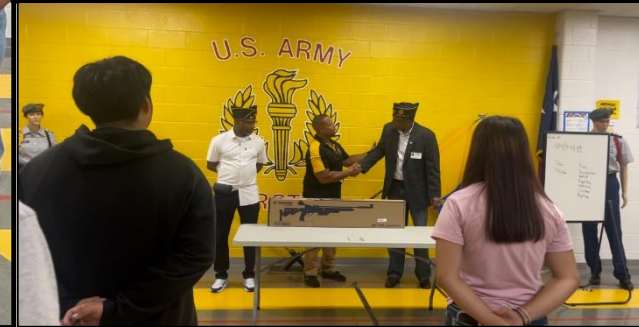
Alexis served as a squad leader, platoon sergeant, platoon leader, and an assistant logistics officer on the battalion staff. She really enjoyed JROTC during her four years at Sam Houston.

The Black Knights wish her well in the U.S. Navy, and we hope she comes back to visit to inform those she left behind that the water is fine outside of Houston.

As a Navy Seaman, she qualifies for the Montgomery G.I. Bill which awards her 36 months of paid college once she completes her contract, full medical benefits, full dental benefits, Veterans Administration's Housing Loan where she will not have to pay a down payment when she decides to buy a home, and she qualifies for Texas' Hazelwood Act which will also pay provide benefits for college when she exits the service. **A GOOD DEAL INDEED!**



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YOUR AMERICAN LEGION TODAY

Commander Dwight Rumph from American Legion Post 586 stopped by *Legacy Hall* at Sam Houston in September to engage with the Black Knights for two distinct reasons. Last school year, the American Legion sponsored the marksmanship team in the Legion's National Competition. Marksmanship teaches respect for firearms, and it also teaches discipline developing concentration skills. Commander Rumph observed last year that the air rifles used by the Black Knights were outdated and not working. He, representing his members, decided to donate two air rifles to the program last year, but they came back this year to donate a third rifle. He made the presentation during one of the JROTC classes.

The second reason he visited that day was to help register Black Knights to vote. The requirements for registration are cadets must be 18 before election day on November 5, 2024, and they must each have a state identification. Four Black Knights registered to vote. JROTC teaches civic responsibilities such as voting and volunteering to support others. The Legion's actions reinforce JROTC curriculum bringing it to life for these students.



Left: Commander Rumph explains the process to register to vote

Right: Cadet Command Sergeant Major Alessandra fills out the voter registration form



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BLACK KNIGHTS IN ATHLETICS

THREE THE HARD WAY

From left to right, senior Sofia Cortez, sophomore Nayeli Davila, and freshman Destiny Cisneros are representing themselves quite well by earning varsity roster spots on the volleyball team.

The ladies also serve as leaders within the Black Knights battalion which helps round out their high school resumes.

Sofia is the varsity unarmed color guard commander while Destiny and Nayeli are both Raider team members.



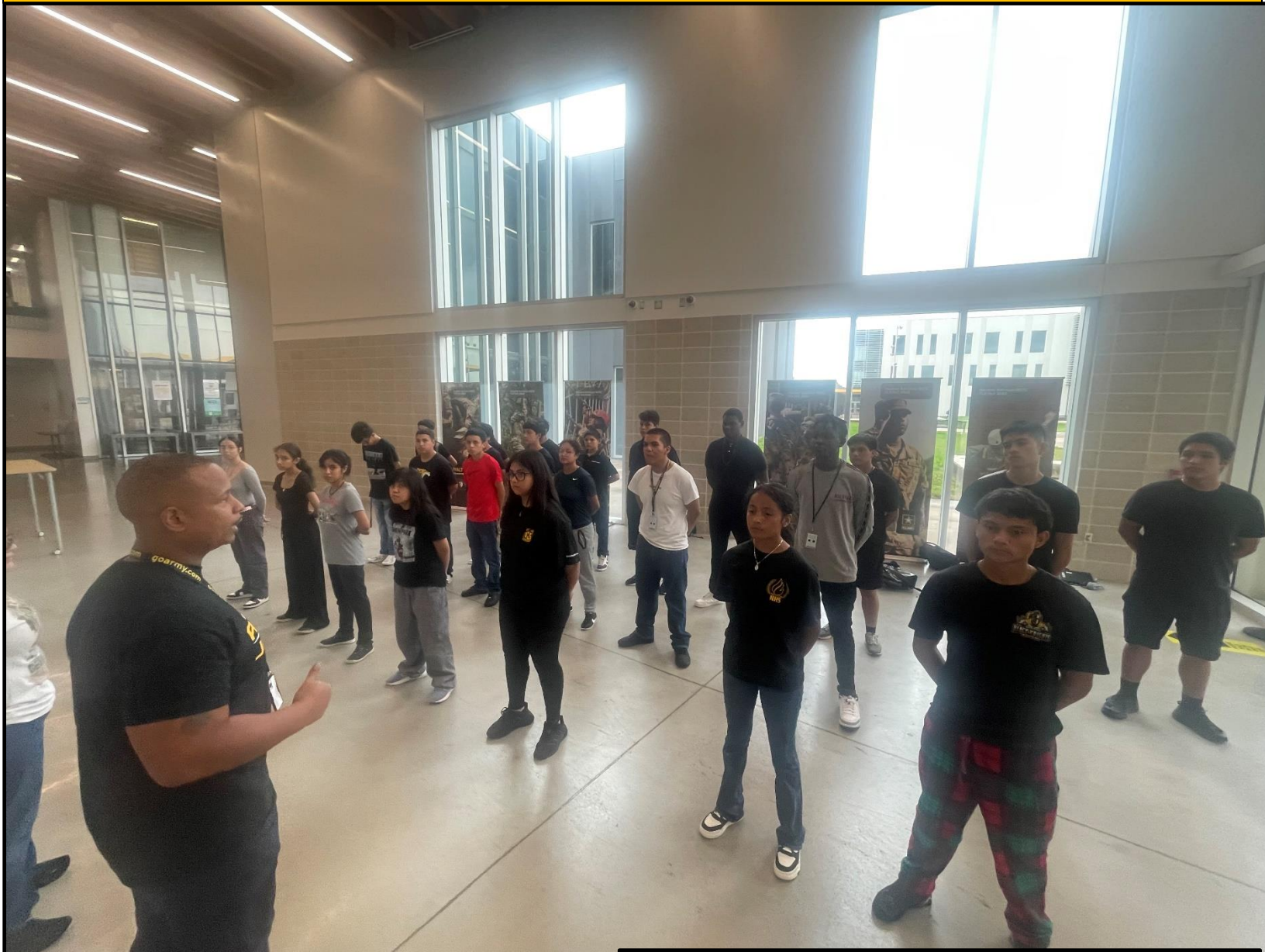
RUN JUSTIN RUN!

The Black Knights recruited sophomore Justin Garza last school year to join the program. He did. As a junior this year, he is set to compete on the JROTC Raider team and physical fitness team. Meanwhile, he is serving Sam Houston's athletic program by running on the cross country team. He just placed 3rd in a district meet bringing home some hardware for himself and his school. Coach "Mo" is very proud of Justin and so are the Knights.



"TO MOTIVATE YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE BETTER CITIZENS"

KEEP THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING



DRILL BABY DRILL!

Coach Adam Obregon is the technical expert and master psychologist when it comes to getting the Black Knights trained and ready to compete at a high level. This year, Over 40 students from freshman to senior are working out with Coach Adam and the JROTC instructors to get ready for competition.

The Black Knights are the district defending champions for the third year in a row. Team commanders Alessandra Rodriguez (Armed) and Luis Castellanos (Unarmed) are getting their squads ready and even training on Saturdays.



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WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE

In May of 2024, Ms. Clabaugh from the art department supported the Black Knights by providing a custom made placard for the drill team who competed in Daytona Beach, FL. The Black Knights thank Ms. Clabaugh for her support. They gave her a coveted Black Knights T-Shirt and thanked her in person...



**ROOT
FOR THE
HOME
TEAM
24/7**



Congratulations to senior Yamileth Aviles who placed 11th out over 80 young ladies at her first cross country meet.

In September, the University of Houston's ROTC recruiter visited with several Black Knights to inform them of opportunities. Several members will take a field trip in October to the campus. Look out!



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BATTALION COMMANDER

Greetings to all! Our Battalion and all our function are going well throughout the battalion. We will continue to push toward great cadets and spectacular officers. Our battalion is accomplishing amazing things, and the year has just begun. Our battalion will continue to make amazing accomplishments! Lead the way **BLACK KNIGHTS!!**



COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

Greetings everyone, we have been pushing forward with the who have joined the JROTC Battalion. I am excited to announce that our companies have been working hard to accomplish the mission and with the standard being set to them. With the new color guards set in every class period, we look forward to seeing accomplishments. Go **BLACK KNIGHTS!!!**



XO

It has been quite an eventful month so far! We have many more things to look forward to in the upcoming months. The Black Knights are excited to continue thriving and pushing towards being the best. Being successful in our field doesn't come from being a natural, but instead it comes from being determined to accomplish our goals and our dreams. We also focus on making leaders and preparing our cadets to deal with real life job positions like personnel, security, operations and training, logistics, and public affairs. If you're interested in any of these, we have meetings every Tuesday at 7:30 AM. Go Black Knights!!



- **Fundraising Opportunities in October:** World's Finest Chocolate Sale and Vertical Raise for the Booster Club. We need each cadet to produce 20 email addresses from family and friends or 20 phone numbers to receive text messages about the fundraiser
- **RAIDER COMPETITION:** The Raider Team will travel to Fort Knox, Kentucky from 24-27 October to compete in a national fitness competition. Wish us luck!

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