



THE BLACK KNIGHT'S SWORD



NOVEMBER 2021

A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE



“To motivate young people to be better citizens.”

12 WEEKS REVIEW

What Have We Learned in 12 Weeks?

In the first 12 weeks of school, Cadets were introduced to JROTC. The initial shock of what this course was about may have been slightly more than some could handle, but over 175 Cadets remain in the program. So far this year, we have covered individual learning styles, personal skills maps, basic formation movements, uniform standards, the **PUSH UP**, and most importantly, we covered leadership and personal responsibility. Cadets sounded off on what they enjoyed most about the program:



The Mighty Black Knights Standing Strong

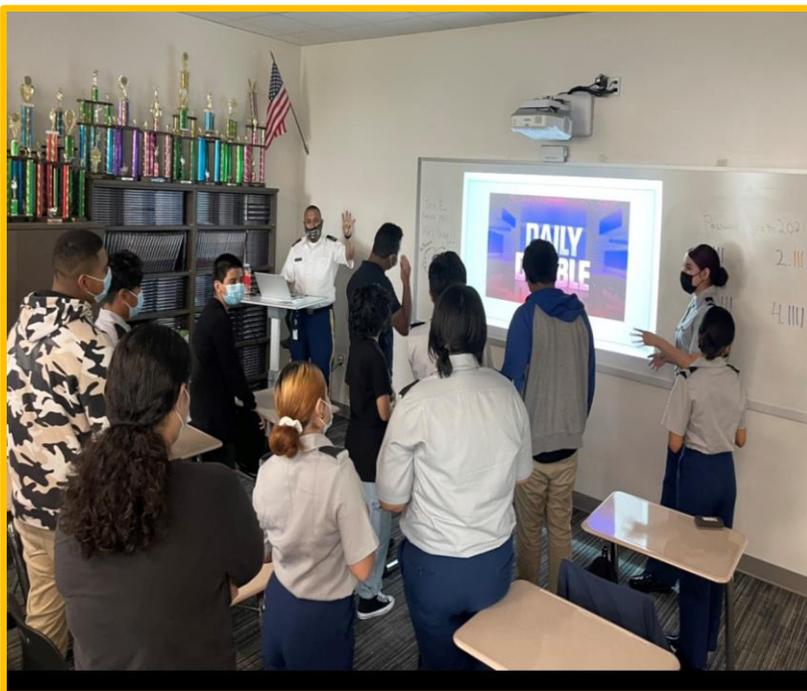
"So far this year, we have talked about discipline, attentiveness and leadership. When in platoon, you have to pay attention and be attentive to the leader to follow along with any and every command the leader may call. The attentiveness that I've learned in JROTC helps me pay more attention in class than I would a year ago in online school because now I respect them and give them my undivided attention so that I can do my work and pass. The discipline I've learned in JROTC by working hard on any team I have been or am a part of helps me apply this in any part of my life, making me more competitive and to not settle for anything but my best. The leadership that I have learned in JROTC by working with my fellow cadets and making sure that they can succeed in the task that must be completed shows me that working with someone is more productive and two heads can do more than just one."
(Cadet Wilkerson, 9th grade)

So far this year, we have learned about discipline. Every day when we walk in, we say "Good morning, Sir/First sergeant" as well as "ma'am, sergeant." We do it as a sign of respect. When the year started, it was difficult to remember to say it every day, but the reason for that was I wasn't used to saying it. As the months went by I realized that I would say it without even realizing it. I also did it in other classes. It seemed like the right thing to do. Discipline is a big part of JROTC and a normal person's life, it can affect everyone. (Cadet K. Ramirez, 9th grade)

So far this year, we have learned respect, honesty, physical training, and discipline and due to this I have changed as a person. When I first started this program, I was a very different person. I hated going up in front of people and speaking. I used to fear it and despise it, but now I don't mind it at all. My confidence has gone way up thanks to this class. I remember when I first started, I wanted to quit, I hated everything; the yelling, shouting, exercise, and commands. The only thing that kept me from quitting was the challenge and discipline that it imposed on me, as I have never done anything like this, and I wanted to break away from my shell and seek discomfort. This would turn out to be one of the best decisions I have made in my 15 years of life as I have never had so much fun doing something so challenging. My social skills have also improved, and I mean ALOT. Beforehand, I could barely talk to anybody that I wasn't comfortable with talking to. Now, I can talk to anybody even if I just met them 5 seconds ago. This class has changed me for the better. I always try my best no matter what it is, and I also always carry a water bottle on me no matter where I go. You always gotta be hydrated no matter where you go.

In conclusion, this class has made me more respectful and to get out of my shell and socialize with people. Anytime I get sad or angry, I remember I am in this amazing program and to not let whatever is bothering me to get the better of me. (Cadet Bustillo, 9th grade)

So far this year, we have covered teamwork, discipline, and leadership. What teamwork has taught me so far this year is that to work as a team you have to understand your team and work together with them to achieve your goal or whatever you are aiming for. Since I've joined my squad and worked together as a team, I've learned more about how to get along with people it has taught me how to connect with them and get the things we need to be done, done. Discipline in this class had also taught me many things. I've been more on top of how I speak with people, and I don't use profanity in front of people because I've learned through the consequences of doing it before. Leadership has taught me this year is that to lead you have to take charge and lead your squad into success. It is not just about the position, but it is about how you treat the position. (Cadet Sergeant J. Jiminez, 11th grade)



Black Knights engaged in weekly "Cadet Jeopardy" which helps learning uniform protocol and citizenship knowledge

THE HEARTS OF CHAMPIONS

WIN WITH INTEGRITY

On October 30, the HISD JROTC district headquarters hosted the annual “**Fall Classic**” Drill Competition at Scarborough High School, and the Black Knights were up to the task. The primary and Secondary Color Guard, the Flag Folding Team, the Armed Drill Team, and the Physical Training Team stepped up to win an overall 3rd place for the Black Knights program, that’s 3rd best out of 27 programs across HISD. The secondary color guard team placed 3rd place earning a trophy. The primary color guard placed 7th place out of 27 schools. The physical training team males placed 10th and the females placed 7th all out of 27 schools. Leading the way, the armed drill team placed overall **1st place** and the drill commander, C/SFC Sabrina Obregon, was voted by judges as the **#1 drill commander** earning an individual trophy for her excellence.

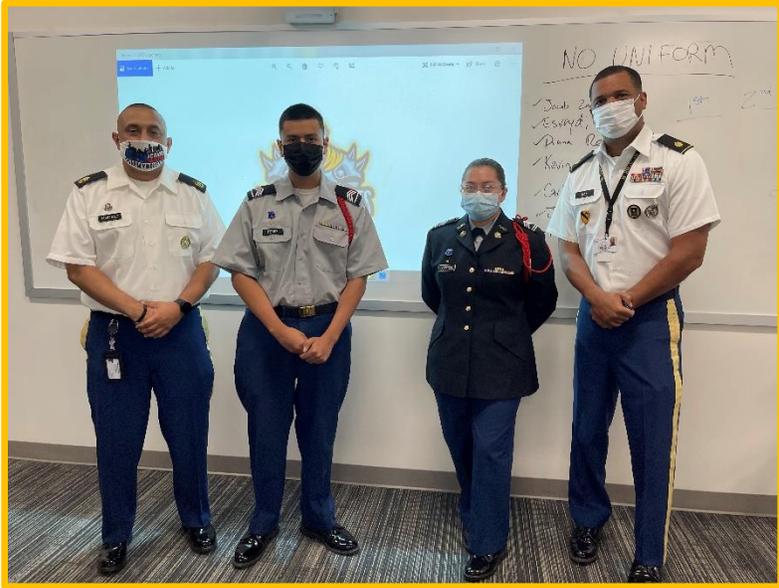


Black Knights just after earning a 96.7 out of 100 in the JROTC Program Accreditation which was held on 9 NOV. CSM (Ret) Briggs from district on hand to witness.

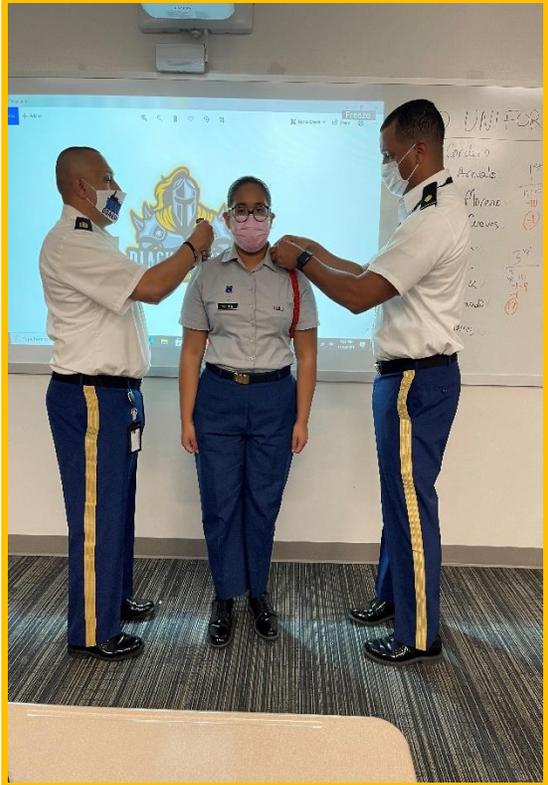


“LEADERS ARE MADE, THEY ARE NOT BORN” (Vince Lombardi)

PROMOTING THE BEST



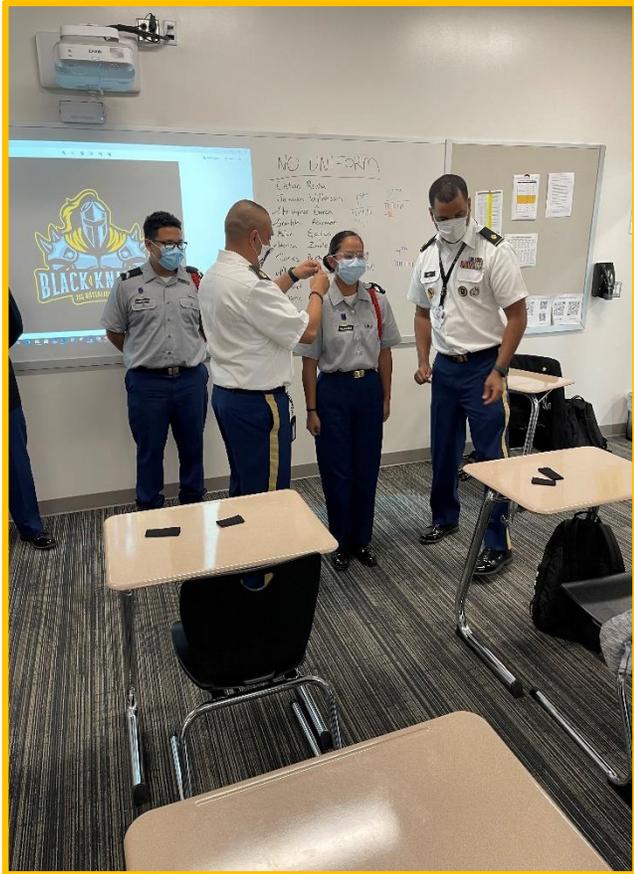
Cadet Staff Sergeant Moises Perez



Cadet Sergeant Alondra Torres



Cadet Sergeant Erik Esqueda



Cadet Sergeant Alessandra Rodriguez



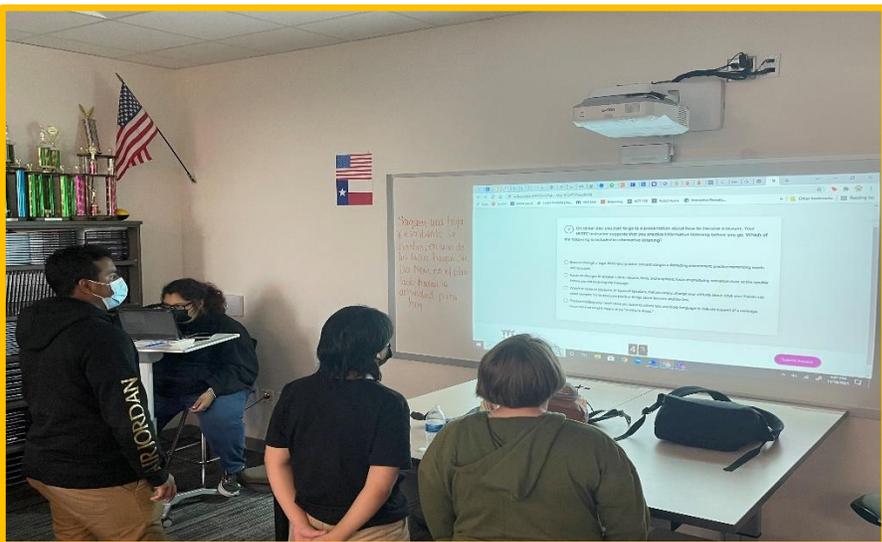
Cadet Sergeant Allan Echeverria

Cadet Sergeant First Class Sabrina Obregon, also the Drill Team Commander, recommended five outstanding Cadets to be promoted over the last month. These Cadets are all members of the drill team and four of them are also squad leaders in their classes. These Cadets have demonstrated knowledge proficiency of JROTC information, and they have separated themselves from their peers by always seeking self-improvement and ways to improve their squads.

In each of their respective classes, the instructors brought them up in front to promote them to the rank of Sergeant from just Cadet, except for now Staff Sergeant Perez who is a Junior this year. This promotion will be one of many as they are the future of this Black Knights battalion since they are all freshmen in high school. The Black Knights will look to them for outstanding leadership over the next four years.

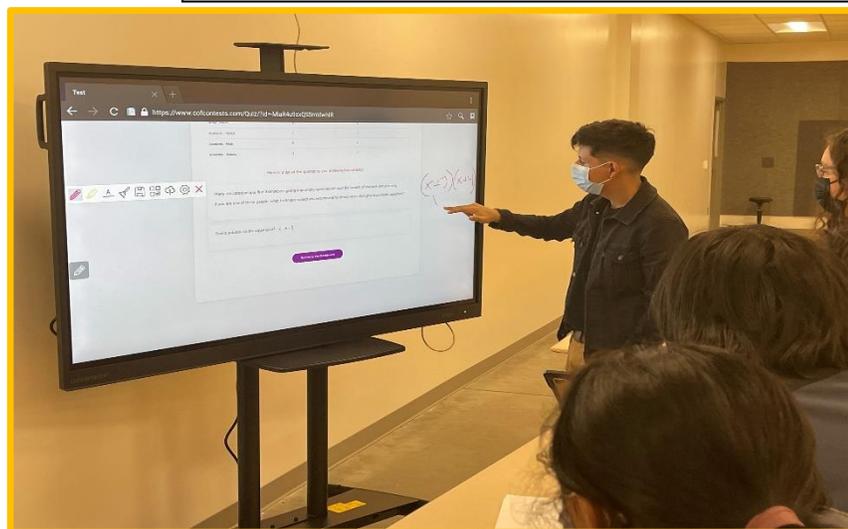
Congratulations to our newly minted leaders.

The Brain Trust



The annual **JROTC Academic and Leadership Bowl** is here. The Black Knights have an Academic and Leadership team led by C/SGT Julie Jimenez and C/MAJ Erik Jimenez. Round one kicks off on 18 NOV where both teams will take a virtual test as a team competing against hundreds of teams across the country. If they are successful, they will advance to round two. If successful there, they will take a trip to Washington DC to compete in person. Wish the Black Knights good luck and let's represent Sam Houston MSTC with pride!

Each member of both teams carries an average of a **4.2 GPA** with some as high as **4.5** and **4.6**. The leadership team consists of Cadet Michael Espinosa, C/CPL Jasmine Nava, C/SGT Elisabeth Rigney, and C/SGT Julie Jimenez. The academic team consists of Cadets Kimberly Ramirez and Monique Lazono, C/CPL Rebecca Pereira, C/2LT Arianna Saenz, and C/MAJ Erik Jimenez. Every Cadet in the program tried out for the team but these nine Cadets were the cream who rose to the top. Practices are held after school in both JROTC classrooms.



A WORD FROM THE TOP



“I’m proud of all of our cadets, especially our staff and our club teams. Our staff has been practicing in order to uphold our legacy through our triannual inspection, and they passed it with flying colors! I’m proud of my team! As for our club teams, please congratulate our drill and color guard teams! They have been practicing effortlessly since the beginning of the year to win their first competition. Thanks to their efforts, we have another trophy to add to our historic collection. Be proud because you have been marked down in our school’s history for many years to come! This is just a steppingstone to **GREATNESS!**”

“Continue to be great. There will be wins and there will be losses. But it isn’t about how hard you hit, it’s about how hard you can get hit and stand back up, HOOAH!”



C/1LT Felicia Romero is the Battalion’s Executive Officer (XO). She is a senior ranking in the top 7% of her class. (Left) She is serving her Cadets pizza and soda after the “Fall Classic” event as service is what leaders are all about in any organization. She also serves as the Color Guard commander training 15 Cadets.



THE LEGACY CONTINUES



On Veteran's Day 2021, the Black Knights held a fitness competition open to the general student body. The local Army recruiters assisted in this effort by providing a pull up bar and deadlifting station. The Black Knights also held a jump rope/push up competition giving A/B/C lunches an activity that was designed to inspire physical fitness and give students an opportunity to honor those who have served our nation in uniform. Several staff members supported by demonstrating feats of strength and stamina. Prizes were awarded to top performing students and the morale of the general student body was high and positive.

HAPPY VETERAN'S DAY

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Daniel is the Sam Houston Pull Up champ with 21 Pull ups!

