



THE BLACK KNIGHTS' SWORD



JANUARY 2022



Cadet Second Lieutenant Arianna
Saenz, Battalion S1



The 1st Battalion JROTC Black
Knights thanks Post 586 of the
American Legion for their service

Speak It into Existence

As students left school on Friday, December 17th for the winter break, C/2LT Saenz took her talents to the American Legion that night to compete for a scholarship in a speech competition. The local American Legion hosted a competition where high school students had to present an eight-minute speech over "The Responsibilities of the Citizen to the Government." Ms. Saenz was up to the task that night and she won a **\$250 scholarship**. She will compete next at the American Legion district competition in Jersey Village on **January 8, 2022**. 2LT Saenz is well on her way to accomplishing her goals of attending Rice University to major in astrophysics and winning the district competition will produce even more scholarship funds. Wish her luck!



President Dwight Rumph presenting 2LT Saenz the \$250 scholarship

"TO MOTIVATE YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE BETTER CITIZENS"

**SAM HOUSTON MSTC
ARMY JROTC**



Cadet Corporal Gutierrez

The merchandise is here. Cadets and family members can order Black Knights paraphernalia through the JROTC department. This is not a fundraiser and merchandise for now will be sold at cost to manufacture. Currently, dry fit shirts are \$12, and jackets are \$56. In the near future, hats, hoodies, shorts, and sweatpants will be available. Stay tuned!

BLACK KNIGHTS SWAG



Cadet Cortez



**C/Command Sergeant Major
Sandoval**



C/2LT Chavez S3



Cadet Perez S3

“TO MOTIVATE YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE BETTER CITIZENS”

NO EXCUSES!

Cadet Medina committed to a **S.M.A.R.T.** goal at the start of the school year following a year of online learning. His goal was to lose much of the weight he picked up while at home and he credits his actions in JROTC as partly why he was able to meet that goal. He joined the drill team where he marches and wields a rifle at least an hour per day after school. What is a **SMART** goal?

S: Specific

M: Measurable

A: Attainable

R: Realistic

T: Timeliness

Cadets are required to set a SMART goal at the start of the semester and follow up throughout the year.



In his own words: 2019-2020 was a rough year. COVID-19 started spreading and it impacted most of us. Some of us gained a ton of weight. Some of us stayed the same. I was one of those people who gained weight. Now, I'm in high school and it's not virtual as it was last year. I decided to take care of my body. I changed my diet and I started working out. I am dedicated to keep losing the weight until I reach what I need to be. I was 191lbs and currently I am 170lbs. I lost 21lbs this year and I'm ready to try losing more next year.

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THE WHITE ELEPHANT PARTY



Before the end of the year, the Black Knights got together with the booster club parents to host a "White Elephant" party with food for all. A White Elephant party is where people exchange gifts through a random drawing and take gifts away that are coveted by onlookers. Coveted gifts can only be exchanged no more than three times and there were several gifts where this occurred for everyone's amusement. Parents provided food and soft drinks for the cadets and cadets cleaned up the drill hall after the affair.

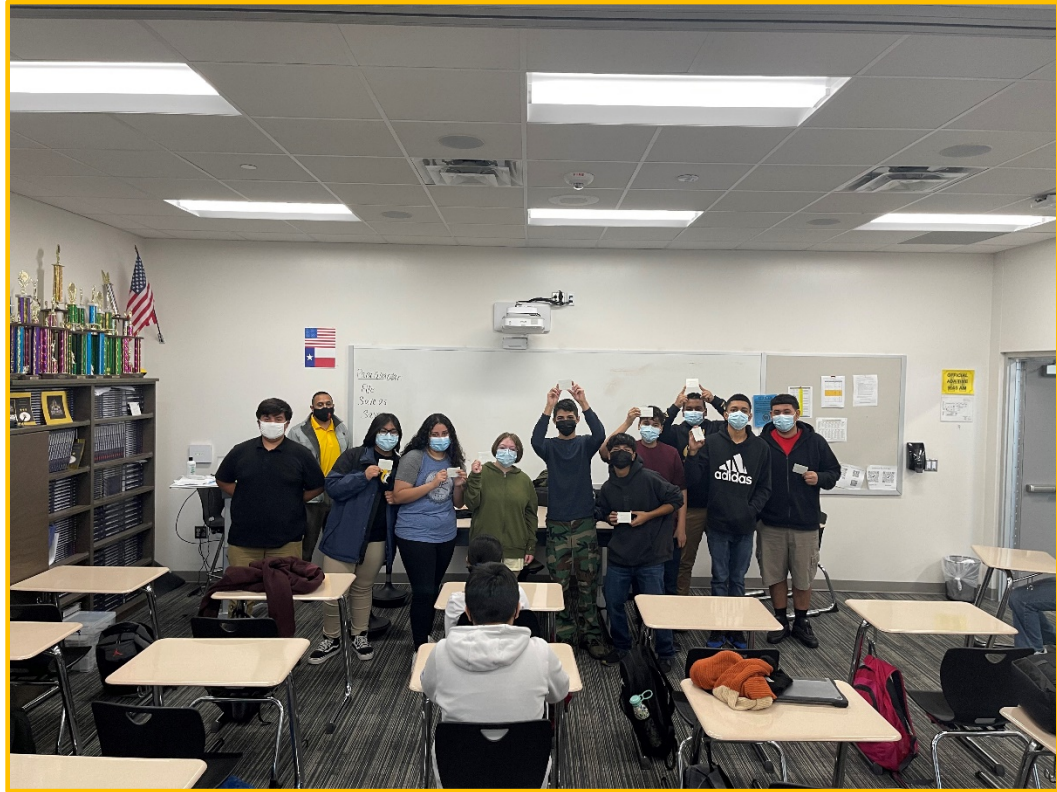


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Fundraising Results

In October, The Black Knights sold \$24,000 in chocolate bars. After paying the company 55%, the battalion was able to keep 45%. But as promised, cadets would be rewarded incentives from the company in gift cards, t-shirts, and other items. Sellers of four boxes received a \$10 gift card to Chick-Fil-A. Sellers of six boxes received a battalion shirt. Sellers of eight boxes received a \$40 gift card to Whataburger. The incentives in total were over \$1,600 leaving around \$8,000 in funds that will support the military ball in the spring season. Cadets and parents worked hard to raise these funds and they are anticipating a fantastic military ball they can be proud of this year. **KEEP HUSTLING!**



Coaches' Corner



Be prepared for the Black Knights to take a field trip to San Antonio, TX on 28-29 January to compete in the annual Brigade Drill Meet. The primary color guard and the drill team will travel and stay overnight. Both instructors and Coach Obregon along with Ms. Obregon (female chaperone) will escort the teams and allow them to excel. Permission slips are coming soon.



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A WORD FROM THE TOP



Drill and Color Guard, we have one last final month of training before our grand competition. Remember, keep working hard. Team members, we will be visiting middle schools to recruit promising future cadets so look forward to returning to your middle schools. Let's show these middle school students the fun and seriousness of JROTC. I look forward to the second semester events.

GO BLACK KNIGHTS!



Hello 1st Battalion. I hope you had an amazing break. It's great to have time away from school and work, but now it is time to hit the ground running. As your Battalion Commander said, we will be visiting local middle schools to showcase our program's wonderful teams and benefits. I'm looking forward to seeing you all once again.



XO's Corner

Hello staff and cadets. Welcome back to school. I hope you all had a refreshing break, but get ready for changes and improvements. We'll be planning more events and we hope to recruit more cadets for the incoming year. Also, our teams are working hard to get ready for our upcoming competition in San Antonio. We will, of course, aim for 1st place. Here are some important dates:

January 28-29: San Antonio Drill Competition

February 1-14: Valentines Fund Raiser

GOOOOO Black Knights!!!

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THE LEGACY CONTINUES



THE IMPACT PLAYER

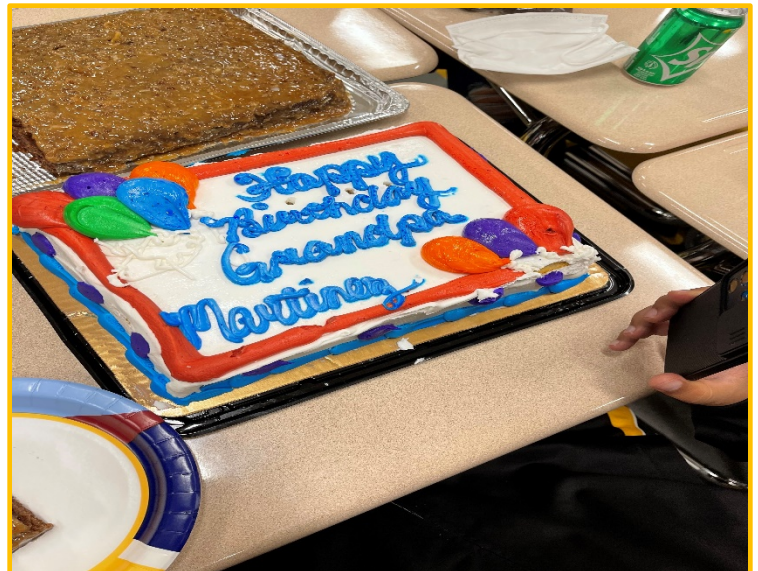
At the White Elephant Party just before the break, the Cadets and the booster club planned a surprise birthday party for First Sergeant (1SG) Martinez. He joined the Black Knights as the Army Instructor in late July of 2021 and has had a powerful impact on the battalion and Sam Houston MSTC as well.

1SG Martinez grew up in the neighborhood around Sam Houston High School but attended and was graduated from the Law and Justice High School before shipping off to the United States Army where he served 23 years on active duty. He served as a recruiter for over 16 years and his first high school he was ever assigned to recruit from was in fact Sam Houston MSTC.

He is a true Houstonian as he is a fan of the Houston Astros, Houston Texans, and the Houston Rockets. He chose Sam Houston to serve as a JROTC instructor and the Black Knights really appreciate him choosing them.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FIRST SERGEANT!

The staff and the booster club both bought a custom cake and baked his favorite cake, German Chocolate, for the 1SG. The Executive Officer, 1LT Romero, planned the White Elephant Party and also gathered enough "Intel" on the 1SG to really make his first birthday celebration as a Black Knight really special. Ms. Benavides has a special set of skills when preparing food for the battalion and the German Chocolate cake was a hit at the party. **Thanks Ms. Benavides!!!**



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