

Magruder AJROTC Eagle Battalion 2019-2020 Fall Newsletter



Welcome to our first Magruder HS Army JROTC newsletter of SY19-20! This will be our opportunity to highlight the activities of our program at least twice a semester. Over the summer, we said goodbye to our Assistant Instructor (AI), **SFC (Retired) Carlos Alvelo**, after his three years of service to the Eagle Battalion; we wish him the best in his new job. In the next week, we will welcome **CSM (Retired) John McConnell** as our new AI. He brings an enormous amount of experience and joins us after serving for over 15 years as an instructor at St John's College High School Army JROTC program and over 30 years in the US Army. We said goodbye to 12 seniors and a handful of other Cadets over the summer, but welcomed 54 new Cadets, including 38 freshman, putting us at 100 Cadets; 26 more since the beginning of last semester!

- Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Eric Atherton (eric_s_atherton@mcpsmd.org)

Camp Eagle

Camp Eagle 2019, held on August 27th and August 28th, was a huge success, with a majority of our incoming Cadets attending. The senior Cadet staff and other volunteer Cadets did an amazing job at creating a fun and challenging learning environment for the new Cadets of the program! Though all of our Cadets performed well in our various physical, team-building, and drill activities, we recognized LET1s **John Bonsby** (Sherwood HS) and **Lilly Lieberman** as the outstanding Cadet in their respective platoons.



JCLC

The week after school ended in June, Magruder AJROTC Cadets **Ivania Mejia, Freddy Aguilar, Jose Benitez, Melina Columba, Quazi Mustafa, Venus Tang, Jessica Williams (Sherwood HS), and Lucas Noguera** (Rockville HS) went to Fort A.P. Hill, VA to participate in JROTC Cadet Leadership Camp from 17-22 June. While there, Cadets experienced a variety of activities to include a Confidence/obstacle course, rappelling, drill and ceremony, and athletic competitions, concluding with a day at Kings Dominion and graduation ceremony. According to **Brandon Grubb**, who was selected and also attended JCLC as Cadet Company Commander, the week at JCLC transforms a Cadet

into the type of leader who is quick thinking and develops Cadets to be better people and leaders. **Ivania Mejia** commented that JCLC pulls you out of your comfort zone and the experience is a great way to grow and push yourself to new limits. The opportunity to attend JCLC is open to all LET1,2&3s, but we are allocated a limited number of slots.

9-11 Ceremony

Thank you to all the cadets who showed up in uniform and ready to go for the ceremony. According to several teachers and administrators at Magruder, this year's 9-11 ceremony was by far the most compelling remembrance we've had at Magruder! Thanks to the staff, Color Guard, and our guest speaker Colonel Alvarez for participating in the ceremony.



SSL events (Wear Blue Run to Remember at USMC Marathon on 27 October)

During the 2019-2020 school year our cadets will participate in Student Service Learning events to earn many of the 75 Student Service Learning (SSL) hours they need to graduate high school. Cadets will select, plan, brief, conduct and assess a program-wide SSL Project during the year. The focus SSL event that we will support again this quarter is the Wear Blue Run to Remember at the USMC Marathon on 27 October at Haines Point in Washington DC (parking at 1100 Ohio Drive, SW DC). Cadets will hold American flags in honor of fallen service members as runners pass by, recognizing sacrifices of the fallen, the still-fighting, and their families while motivating runners.



Eagle Battalion Booster Club Blue Mash Golf Fundraiser (9 October)

Our Booster Club coordinated a phenomenal Golf fundraising event at the Blue Mash Golf course on 9 October. 37 golfers participated as did 6 members of our Booster Club, and they were supported by 32 Cadets during an off day from school. Booster Club President **Dana Noga** and Cadets **Gabby Munson**, **Freddy Aguilar**, and **Mikayla Ralston** were interviewed about the event and the JROTC program:

<https://www.mymcmedia.org/cadets-attend-magruders-jrotcs-eagle-battalion-golf-event/>

Fundraisers

Over the course of this year, and in partnership with our Eagle Battalion Booster Club, our JROTC program will participate in several fund-raising programs in order to raise money for the program this school year, specifically for the JROTC Ball, team competitions, JCLC fees, uniform supplements, and a field trip during the spring semester. We kicked off our **Claire's Gourmet** fundraiser in early October, with orders and money due by 21 October, and delivery of food items to Magruder scheduled during the week of 21 November. Please see a Cadet to order and support this effort if you can,

as several dollars from each item sold goes back to the JROTC program. Finally, we have a **Chipotle** fundraiser on 22 October at the 865 Rockville Pike location, where between 5-9pm, 33% of all sales will be donated to our program!

In and out of the Classroom

LET1s are learning about military traditions and leadership; learning styles and study skills are next. LET2s are learning about first aid; map reading is next. LET3s are learning about effective communication and college and career readiness; personal finance is next. LET4s are learning about staff planning and operations; effective teaching is next. Most classes will take the JROTC Leadership and Academic practice test on 22-23 October in preparation for selecting our JROTC Leadership and Academic Bowl (JLAB) teams, which start competing in November. We will also take the Cadet Challenge physical assessment during the week of 4-8 NOV. The quarter marking period ends on 8 November, with LET 1 and 2 promotion boards to follow.

Team Corner!!!!

Our Raider team began practicing the second week of school and we currently have 26 Cadets on our team. We had our first competition at TC Williams High School on 12 October and finished 8th of 18 teams, taking 3d in Rope Bridge and 4th in the team 5Km run, improving from an 11th place finish overall last year. Cadet Battalion Commander **Gabby Munson** and **Freddy Aguilar** are our Raider Co-Captains this year and they were joined on our competitive Varsity team by Cadets **Will Ramos, Damian Munson, Gio Cook, Jose Benitez, Michael Kelly, Sasha Magnum, and Jennifer Espinoza**; we have another competition at Century HS on 19 October.



Cadet First Sergeant **Brandon Grubb** is our Color Guard Commander this year and the Color Guard has already presented the colors at 3 football games and several other events. They will tentatively compete in 2 competitions this semester at Century HS on 2 November and Atholton HS on 7 December.



Cadet Command Sergeant Major **Collin Froelich** as our Drill Team Captain this year. Though we are still building our numbers of Cadets on the team, Collin plans on molding the drill team into a strong, crisp team of Cadets.

Upcoming Events

19 OCT: Raider meet at Century HS	27 OCT: Wear Blue USMC Marathon support
21 OCT: Claire's Gourmet money due	2 NOV: Color Guard competition (Century HS)
22 OCT (5-9pm): Chipotle fundraiser	4-8 NOV: Cadet Challenge (physical fitness)
22-23 OCT: JLAB practice tests	9 NOV: Self-defense fundraiser (tentative)
7 DEC (6pm): Color Guard Competition (Atholton HS) and JROTC potluck social	