

Living. Learning. Becoming.

Students joined JROTC and learned many valuable skills

"JROTC is a great program. I used to be very shy before I got into the program. Now I'm more outgoing and I love talking to people," senior Tina Brown said. Cadets joined Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps for a variety of reasons. "I was curious to see what it was about. I knew it was different from other classes, and I wanted to see what it was like," junior Colin Tredway said.

While some students joined just because it looked interesting, they didn't realize exactly how much they would learn in the class. Cadets learned everything from land navigation, to financial management, to counseling, and even general health. "The best part of JROTC is the opportunity to exercise your leadership abilities. It is an invaluable experience which allows you to make decisions and take accountability for them," senior Cullen MacDonald said.

JROTC was not just a class, it offered opportunities outside classroom walls. The program allowed students to participate in four different groups. Raiders was the oldest group, alongside color guard. In Raiders students did physical training (PT)

competitions and obstacle courses. In Color Guard, they did flag ceremonies at football games or other events. The Drill Team went to marching and drill ceremony competitions. The newest team was the Rifle Team, which started this year. In the Rifle Team, they test precision shooting with standard air rifles.

Furthermore, the program went on field trips throughout the year. They had a field day where the staff set up events and the cadets competed in them to see which squad was the best. They also went up to Camp Frank D. Merrill and went repelling with the Rangers. "The repelling was the best part. Every time I got strapped up and started walking or bounding off a wall, I felt awesome inside," junior Woody Perry said. They attended the Hawks game with the Color Guard, and presented the colors at the game.

Whether they wanted to pursue a career in the military, were curious about the course, or just joined because they could, students learned valuable life lessons that would never leave them.

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Sophomore Brooklynn Siens and senior Micheal Ingram work as a team to get over a wall at a raider meet. "As long as you're in great shape, you'll have no trouble getting over that wall," Siens said. *Photo submitted by Colin Tredway*



Senior Tina Brown stands in formation getting ready for uniform inspection that is held every Thursday. "I like wearing uniforms. I feel like it sets us apart from the rest of the school. We stand out," Brown said. *Photo by Allison Gilbert*



Freshmen Owen Jordan and Andrew Burns make a presentation about leadership skills. "The presentation went well. Each member of the group presented a specific part and Sergeant added in the details we missed and explained it more in depth," Jordan said. *Photo submitted by Colin Tredway*



Senior AJ Hicks holds a standard air rifle in one of the first practices for the JROTC Rifle Team. "I absolutely love being a part of the rifle team. It's fun and structured," Hicks said. *Photo submitted by Colin Tredway*



Senior Cullen MacDonald leads Tiger Battalion in the Veterans Day parade. "It was tiring but worth it. It gives you a sense of pride," MacDonald said. *Photo submitted by Colin Tredway*

