

Russell County High School Navy JROTC

By Dennis Shelton

The Russell County High School Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps has had a very successful year and is looking forward to an even bigger 2022-2023.

The Navy JROTC program teaches leadership, citizenship and responsibility to 58 young adults each semester.

As a student-led program, each class level has specific responsibilities that build year after year.

The cadet officers are all upper classmen; juniors and seniors that have proven themselves to be responsible and trustworthy.

These individuals are the ones who plan, organize and execute unit functions, trips and are in charge of the various teams.

The second year cadets are the ones who train those just starting in the unit.

They instruct and mentor their peers in the basics.

All the while, the unit's newest members work on being good followers, learning all that they can before their turn in a leadership role.

The cadets all give back to the community in one way or another.

This year the unit completed just over 500 hours of community and school support service.

Examples of these include the Lake Cumberland Cleanup project, picking up trash from around campus, and assisting with parking details.

Some of the larger behind the scenes service include assisting the school staff.

The cadets have volunteered to assist with the cleaning of the high school after-hours due to a staffing shortage.

Three days a week, NJROTC students are cleaning the bathrooms, taking out

trash, sweeping classrooms and cleaning windows.

Before the basketball season, the kids washed every seat and mopped the stands so that they were clean and ready for the public.

In the classroom, the cadets cover a variety of subjects through bookwork and through hands-on experiences.

The cadets take the information they are given and see it in practical use building model boats, planes and rockets.

Seniors receive additional classes on money management, credit cards, insurance as well as leadership, ethics and decision making.

JROTC is not always work.

There are a lot of fun events in which the cadets can get involved.

The program offers a number of teams for competition including military drill, air rifle and academics to name a few.

The military ball is a formal dinner and dance where the cadets not only have fun, but learn how to interact with adults and their peers in a formal setting.

This year's drill team was able to travel to Miami University for competition while the exhibition drill team took to the basketball court at halftime.

The academic team competed nationally where they scored in the top 35 percent of the nearly 600 teams participating.

The 2022-2023 school year is already shaping up to be even better.

As the country moves out of the pandemic, the unit is looking forward to more opportunities for travel, competition and community service.

There are already two summer leadership camps and one service event on the calendar as NJROTC is a year-round program.



JROTC Colorguard



JROTC Drill Competition



JROTC Drill Competition



JROTC Military Ball




We salute the students and staff of the RCHS NJROTC program!

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We are so proud of the young men and women in the NJROTC program!

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