



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Secretary of the Navy approves Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps NDCC program at GCM

Goose Creek CISD recently received approval from the Secretary of the Navy to establish a Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps National Defense Cadet Corps (MCJROTC NDCC) unit at Goose Creek Memorial High School.

Master Sgt. Scott Anderson, a Baytown resident and experienced MCJROTC Senior Marine Instructor, will lead the program at GCM, and Col. P. J. Ferral, Senior Marine Instructor at Ross S. Sterling High School, will assist in the organization and building of the program. Students who are interested in joining the JROTC program should contact their counselor at GCM.

Both Ross S. Sterling High School and Robert E. Lee High School also have established MCJROTC programs, thus making Goose Creek CISD one of the few school districts in the nation with Marine Corps JROTC programs at each high school, according to Ferral.

Last year, Ferral, in accordance with the Career and Technical Education Visioning Committee's long-term goal to open a full MCJROTC unit at GCM, set up a meeting with Renea Dillon, director of Career and Technical Education, Michael Wahl, GCM principal, Dr. Melissa Duarte, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, and Lt. Col. Mark Stroman, director of Region 5 MCJROTC, who suggested working to gain approval for establishing a satellite unit to Ross S. Sterling at the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year and a standalone National Defense Cadet Corps (NDCC) unit in fall 2014.

Approval for the GCM satellite unit, which would have been under the RSS flag with close supervision from Ferral, came from Dr. William McHenry, National Director of Marine Corps JROTC, in February. On July 10, however, the Secretary of the Navy formally approved the NDCC program for GCM to open in the fall of 2013, bypassing the satellite program completely.

Plans for the MCJROTC program have been in the works since an application to form a unit was submitted to the Marine Corps when GCM was under construction five years ago, and the facilities were included in the original plans for Phase 2 of construction.

The 2013 Bond provides for MCJROTC facilities, including a marksmanship range and an obstacle and confidence course at GCM, along with updated facilities and obstacle and confidence courses at RSS and REL, but portable buildings will be moved to GCM for the 2013-2014 school year to house the class and the uniforms until the facilities are built, according to Dillon.

More than 40 students are now signed up to join the program at GCM. During the 2012-2013 school year, two GCM students participated in the MCJROTC program at Sterling, working around scheduling and transportation issues.

Nevertheless, they set the achievement bar high for future GCM MCJROTC members. According to Ferral, Cadet Maj. Nick Rojas served as company commander. He will attend Texas A & M University in the Corps of Cadets. Cadet 1st Sgt. Tyler Wheless, a senior enlisted cadet, joined the Marine Corps and will start as a private first class.



Cadets (l to r) Taylor Truitt, Karson Williams, Christopher Arabie, and Joshua Garza from Sterling High School proudly represent the MCJ ROTC at Sterling's graduation ceremony. The recent approval of the National Defense Cadet Corps unit at Goose Creek Memorial High School distinguishes Goose Creek CISD as one of the few school districts in the nation with Marine Corps JROTC programs at all high schools.

"I commend the individuals who have worked hard to establish the National Defense Cadet Corps at Goose Creek Memorial," said Dr. Salvador Cavazos, Superintendent of Schools. "GCCISD is committed to providing exemplary leadership opportunities for all students, and this will provide another venue where GCM students will demonstrate their excellence."

MCJROTC is a leadership program sponsored by the United States Marine Corps.

The Marine Corps JROTC Program seeks to fulfill the following objectives:

- Give students an appreciation for the origin, advantages and responsibilities of citizenship in our country.
- Develop in students an understanding of good leadership skills and the advantages of strong moral character.
- Promote in the students an understanding for the need and application of our national security.
- Develop in students a sense of pride and direction in their maturity and personal discipline.
- Teach students to understand and respect the need for constitutional authority as the foundation of a democratic society.

Share This!



© Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District

Physical Address:
Goose Creek Consolidated
Independent School District
4544 Interstate 10 East
Baytown, Texas 77521
281.420.4800

Mailing Address:
Goose Creek Consolidated
Independent School District
P.O. Box 30
Baytown, Texas 77522
281.420.4800

[Statement of Non-Discrimination](#)

[Contact the Webmaster](#)

[Required Internet Postings](#)

[Site Map](#)

[Google Translate](#)

