

## JLAB 2019 JROTC UNIT BEST PRACTICE

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| <u>Date:</u> 5/6/19  | <u>School:</u><br>Mariner High School          | <u>School Address:</u><br>701 Chiquita Blvd N, Cape Coral, FL 33993 |
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JROTC Unit Best Practice (one per form only): Freshmen Success

Discussion:

Each year at Mariner High School, more than 300 freshmen are added to the Leadership Academy (JROTC). For the first two weeks of the school year, those freshmen have their JROTC classes in the auditorium to help easily transition them from middle school to high school.

On the first day of school, the freshmen are put to the task of finding their purpose in the high school setting. They'll meet the principal, other students, and the five instructors. Students will learn about and create goals for the year, receive paperwork, get informed of the curriculum and agenda throughout the year, and find out where they fit in as a first-year cadet.

The second day of school, the freshmen meet the Assistant Principals, who discuss Mariner's Code of Conduct and Dress Code. This is important so that they understand the rules from the beginning and know who the school administration are. Using upperclassmen as guides, the freshmen also get a school tour. The LET 3's and 4's walk the freshmen all over the campus, not only showing them classrooms but also key places, such as the front office, student affairs, media center, cafeteria and even outside facilities like the football stadium.

The third day, the school counselors brief the freshmen on graduation requirements. Students learn the five graduation requirements: 2.0 GPA or higher, 24 required credits, pass the Florida State Reading Assessment, pass the Algebra EOC and pass an online course. They also learn about scholarships, volunteer hours, who their assigned counselor is and how to contact them.

The fourth day, instructors brief the freshmen on the available academies, clubs, activities and sports. Sponsors send information that is incorporated into a slide show and are also invited to present if they wish. Students are encouraged to get involved not only to meet people, but because colleges look strongly at extra-curricular activities as part of the application process. A list of all known sports, club and activities, when they meet and their sponsors is posted on the students' Google Classroom.

On the last day, freshmen learn about all of the JROTC teams and what they have to offer. Mariner JROTC has the following teams: Drill, Raiders, Marksmanship, Cyberpatriot, JLAB, Robotics, and the Scabbard and Blade National Honor Society. A team video is shown, then team members give demonstrations and talk about the benefits of joining each team. Time is allowed at the end for freshmen to ask questions and sign up for a team.

The Freshmen Success requires few physical resources other than instructors, administration and LET 2-4s. The timeline begins at the end of the school year and is finalized during the five planning days before school starts. The auditorium is booked before the end of the prior school year. The two LET 1 instructors update the existing slides before the school year starts. School administrators, counselors and sponsors are notified of the schedule during pre-school planning and have the opportunity to update their slides before presenting. The biggest physical resource is using LET 2-4s for school tours and for the JROTC team demonstrations. Student leadership selects cadets for tour guides, and team leadership work out the demonstrations and recruiting new team members.

Overall, Freshmen Success is an important tool to introduce freshmen not only to high school, but also to JROTC. LET 1s have a better sense of what to expect and how to get involved so that they can have a successful first year in high school.