

# ***Cadet Academy Magnet Program at Myers Middle School***

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## **Rationale for the Cadet Academy at Myers Middle School**

In 2012-2013, there were 763 students enrolled at Myers Middle School. Of these students, 69.2 percent were minority, 18 percent had Individual Education Plans (IEPs), 17 percent were English Language Learners (ELL), and 81 percent received a free- or reduced-price lunch.

According to a study done by our Research and Evaluation Department of JCPS high school JROTC, JROTC participants showed an increase in school success across several indicators when compared to students with similar demographics who did not participate in JROTC. The study's findings indicated that the JROTC students had a higher percentage of Proficient and Distinguished (69% vs. 66%) and a lower percentage of Novices (4% vs. 6%) on the state assessment than students in the comparison group. The findings also showed that JROTC participants had better attendance (93.6% vs. 92.7%) and fewer suspensions (6.1 vs. 6.9 days) than the comparison group. Because the Cadet Academy offers similar coursework and will serve as a preparatory program for high school participation in JROTC, Myers Middle School can expect to see similar success from Cadet Academy participants as their high school counterparts.

## **Change Structure**

The Cadet Academy offers a sequence of courses during students' Related Arts time that prepares them for secondary and post-secondary career pathways for successful participation in JROTC in high school, if they so choose. Through intensive leadership development, students will gain confidence and learn teamwork and critical thinking skills. Cadets will also improve their communication skills, learn personal responsibility and positive character development, and develop an appreciation for physical fitness and personal wellness. Before and/or after-school activities will allow for additional drill and practice of skills learned during the regular school day. The sequence of courses and activities will prepare students.

The Cadet Academy is a magnet program designed to prepare middle school students for responsible leadership roles within the school and community while making them aware of their rights, responsibilities, and privileges as American citizens. With the focus on leadership and responsibility, the program establishes a framework to improve student behavior and academic performance, instill personal discipline, promote character development, establish positive peer role models, and advance teamwork among Cadets and the entire student body. Cadets in the program will represent the school at local functions, support the school with service projects, and learn how to be a part of something greater than themselves. The Cadet Academy is non-branch specific and it is not a military recruiting tool. However, the skills students learn will prepare them for a career in whatever field they choose.

The Cadet Academy will assist students who would not otherwise have the resources to participate in such programs. Activities will be offered during students' regular school day, thus allowing them to participate fully. The Cadet Academy will give **all** students viable options for post-secondary careers and/or college completion.

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### **Timeline**

**Planning Phase 2012-13-** Myers staff and SBDM Advisory Council, which includes a PTSA member, were briefed about the proposal by Principal Baldwin, and worked closely with him to develop and support the full implementation of the Cadet Academy. Parents at Myers were informed of the Cadet Academy at PTSA meetings. Newsletters and informational brochures were sent to each household in the school's reside area informing parents and students how they can get involved. Parents were also encouraged at Registration to sign students up for the program.

**PHASE I – School Year 2013 -2014-** Currently an elective in the Related Arts with existing students in reside areas.

**PHASE II – School Year 2014- 2015-** Magnet status with participation open to all students residing HS Network II.

**PHASE III - School Year 2015 and Beyond-** Program participation greater than half of the student population.

### **Cost Projection**

<u>Phase</u>	<u>To Student</u>	<u>To School</u>	<u>To District</u>
I (SY 13/14)	\$37.00*	\$72,000	N/A
II (SY 14/15)		\$73,771	\$144,500
III (Beyond SY 14/15)		\$71,000	\$90,000

\*Commitments from civic organizations and several individuals will provide uniform scholarships for most students. The students will likely only be responsible for items (boots/shoes) that cannot be collected and reissued in subsequent years.