



# Delaware Military Academy

2019 National Blue Ribbon School



## V. INNOVATION

***Describe the school's innovative practice(s) that could be replicated at other schools in Delaware. Please include the data that supports the success of these practice(s).***

As a military high school, we have incorporated some very unique military events and traditions into our school community. These traditions/events are based on the traditions of the United States Navy as well as the United States Naval Academy. Some of our key traditions are: In September, we hold our annual September 11th remembrance ceremony. This ceremony occurs on or near the 9-11 date and ensures that the State of Delaware, and our cadets, never forget those who gave their lives on September 11, 2001. In November, DMA holds an annual veteran's breakfast at the local fire hall. This is an opportunity for us to give back to those that gave so much. DMA cadets have the opportunity to invite a friend, family member or alumni who has served in one of the branches of service for a full, hot breakfast buffet. There is a formal ceremony and a POW/MIA ceremony as part of the event as well. Over 300 veterans attend the breakfast each year. A very unique tradition at DMA is the Military Dining-In ceremony that is held in late November or early December. This is a formal event for cadets and staff which is based on Navy tradition. The intent of a dining in is to foster morale or esprit de corps. In February, DMA dedicates an entire school day to serving in our community. Our cadets will fan out across the county and volunteer at local schools, hospitals, military programs or other activities. We are committed to helping the community in which we belong.

Our biggest event occurs in the early spring and is our annual inspection by the Navy. In a regular NJROTC school, the inspection is small and takes just a few hours. As the only public school in the country where EVERY cadet is a member of the Navy JROTC unit, and the "flagship" program of NJROTC, our annual inspection is a two-day event. Each cadet in our unit is inspected, the records for each NJROTC department are reviewed and inspected and the entire school participates in a Pass and Review parade. It is a wonderful event that showcases the school and our cadets. Our last tradition is a very special one - our bell ringing ceremony. The bell ringing ceremony occurs on the last day for our seniors. In the Navy, when a sailor leaves a ship for the last time, their name is announced, and a bell is rung as they depart the ship. DMA does the same thing with every senior as they leave the school for the last time. One by one, the seniors are announced as they walk through two lines formed by the DMA teachers and staff and into the waiting arms of parents and the rest of the cadets. It is a wonderful way to honor all the hard work they have put in while attending DMA. While DMA has many military based traditions, we have the typical high school experiences as well including homecoming, spirit week, pep rallies, prom, dress down days and graduation.

**CITIZENSHIP • LEADERSHIP • SCHOLARSHIP**

112 Middleboro Road • Wilmington, DE 19804 • 302-998-0745 • 302-998-3521 Fax • [www.demilacad.org](http://www.demilacad.org)

THE DELAWARE MILITARY ACADEMY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. IT DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, MARITAL STATUS, DISABILITY, AGE, GENETIC INFORMATION, HOUSING/HOMELESS STATUS OR VETERAN STATUS IN EMPLOYMENT, OR ITS PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.



# Delaware Military Academy

## 2019 National Blue Ribbon School



Since its inception, the mission of the Delaware Military Academy has been the driving force behind the development of our graduates. The goal of the Academy is to educate the whole cadet, and to develop graduates who have a strong academic foundation, are adept leaders, and responsible citizens no matter which path they ultimately choose to pursue—college, career, or the military. Each cadet is challenged to be better than they were when they first entered the Academy, and to leave a positive, lasting mark for future cadets. What is more, cadets learn what it means to be a part of something bigger than themselves. They are a part of a team whether it is in their academic classes, Naval Science, sports teams, clubs, or out in the community. They are exposed to the reality that teamwork is crucial for success and that within any community, each member has value.

### **CITIZENSHIP • LEADERSHIP • SCHOLARSHIP**

112 Middleboro Road • Wilmington, DE 19804 • 302-998-0745 • 302-998-3521 Fax • [www.demilacad.org](http://www.demilacad.org)

THE DELAWARE MILITARY ACADEMY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. IT DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, MARITAL STATUS, DISABILITY, AGE, GENETIC INFORMATION, HOUSING/HOMELESS STATUS OR VETERAN STATUS IN EMPLOYMENT, OR ITS PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.