

## 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).

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### School Comments:

First State Military Academy, in partnership with the New Tech Network, has built a strong foundation in a young school that will enable it to grow and prosper in years to come.

Since its inception in 2015, we built First State Military Academy on using technology to enhance cadet learning. Cadets are issued Chromebooks upon enrollment for their use 24/7 during their duration of attendance. Cadets are entrusted with showing responsibility and being respectful to show proper care and the appropriate use of the devices. We have always monitored and filtered cadets' online activity 24/7 to help guide our cadets to use technology appropriately and protect. This service allows parent controls so we can cover our cadets at school and home.

First State Military Academy's method of instruction is project-based learning. The teaching staff builds their lessons and projects using the web and drives the cadets to want/need to master the content while developing the 21st-century skills related to the content's various applications to some real problem. Knowledge and thinking are not the only things we aim to become proficient. Teachers assess five different learning outcomes to build well-rounded cadets ready for life after graduation.

Cadets are introduced to our Learning Management System (LMS), ECHO, upon entering the school. The LMS encompasses all areas of the course from the daily agenda and assigned tasks, tracks performance, allows the online submission of work, and facilitates time management through the calendar and to-do-list. The communication between teacher and cadet is thorough and allows for immediate feedback and redo options. Cadets can complete their work wherever they have internet access.

Our school buses are equipped with cradle routers to allow WiFi. The cadet's Chromebooks connect directly to the internet. Cadets continue their work on the ride to and from school, which expands the school day.

All cadets at First State Military Academy are apart of our MCJROTC program. The goal is to develop leadership, character, and citizenship skills and enhance self-discipline through a tough and challenging four-year leadership education program. Cadets will learn about Marine Corps leadership and character development and apply those skills in challenging assignments/jobs during their time in MCJROTC.

When the schools closed on March 13, 2020, the foundation we built allowed us to quickly convert to remote learning and continue the learning process to the end of the year. The structures we built in our use of technology and the attributes we teach set our cadets up for success even when everything else was coming to a halt. We are transforming teaching and learning with our vision for student success. College and career readiness for all students has a very specific meaning to our school. We want every graduate of a First State Military Academy leaves aware, eligible, and prepared to pursue postsecondary education or training.

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