



DELAWARE MILITARY ACADEMY

ANNUAL REPORT

Report Date: January 15, 2025

Delaware Department of Education

Charter School Office

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I. OVERVIEW

1.1 SCHOOL PROFILE

Delaware Military Academy 112 Middleboro Rd, Wilmington, DE 19804 http://www.demilacad.org/			
Year Opened	2003	District(s) of Residence	Red Clay Consolidated School District
2023-24 Enrollment	567	Approved Enrollment	715
Current Grade Span	9-12	Approved Grade Span	9-12
School Leader(s)	Dan Newcott	School Leader Phone & Email	(302) 998-0745 Dan.Newcott@DMA.k12.de.us
Board President	Heath Kahrs	Board President Email	hkahrs@santoracpagroup.com
Mission Statement: The mission of the Delaware Military Academy is to prepare young men and women for their next level of education and to provide them with a foundation that leads to good citizenship. In addition, we will furnish them with a healthy mental and physical environment with military training as a requisite for a better understanding of the obligations of citizenship and self-discipline and to afford them opportunities for proper social activities and exposure to moral ideas.			

1.2 STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Enter the number of students on your waiting list (if applicable).

	2023-2024
Total Enrollment	567
Students on Waiting List	158
% Male	56.26%
% Female	43.74%
% African American	9.70%
% American Indian	0.18%
% Asian	1.06%
% Hispanic/Latino	15.17%
% White	70.55%
% Multiracial	3.17%
% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.18%
%Special Education	4.76%
% English Language Learners	1.23%
% Low Income	11.29%

1.3 SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

	Approved Enrollment	30-Sep Enrollment Count	% of Actual Enrollment
9	179	154	86%
10	179	143	79.9%
11	179	140	78.2%
12	178	130	73%
Total	715	567	79.3%

1. Explain successes or challenges of implementing the school's recruitment plan.

School Comments:

Although our school enrollment and waitlist remain strong, DMA has launched two new partnerships in an effort to increase awareness to potential future DMA cadets about the truly unique high school experience Delaware Military Academy has to offer. The first is the LYTE scholarship program in Wilmington, DE. DMA attended the LYTE scholarship recruitment event in August, and it was a tremendous success. The LYTE scholarship group now frequently visits the DMA

campus and our cadets visit their location to help with their community. Also, DMA attended the Wilmington Education Building on a recruitment visit to talk to current 5th-8th graders about becoming potential cadets and why the Delaware Military Academy is a good fit for their high school experience. Delaware Military Academy continues to host an Open House event for the public in October. We advertise for this event by sending every 8th grade student in New Castle county an open invitation as well as through various social media platforms.

V. INNOVATIVE PRACTICES

25. Describe effective systems, structures, and/or processes that have led to significant school improvement that could be replicated at other schools. Please include the data that supports the success of these practices. Areas you may want to consider, as appropriate:

- Leadership
- Professional Learning
- Instructional Transformation
- Equity
- Culture and Climate Shift
- Collaboration/Partnerships

School Comments:

As a new leader of a military high school, our team has strived to bring a focus on the “M” and the “A” in Delaware Military Academy. Folding unique military events and traditions into our school community has been a staple at DMA since its inception. 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. Another tradition at DMA is the Military Dining-In ceremony which will be held in the spring this year. 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; 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, hence making it 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 also offer similar programs students would find in a Delaware comprehensive high school such as homecoming, spirit week, pep rallies, prom, dress down days and graduation.

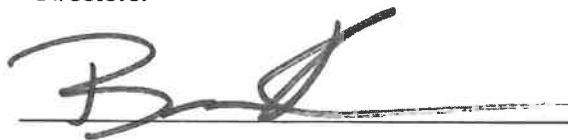
In addition to the many DMA military traditions that are the foundation of our high school, we have incorporated new learning experiences for our cadets as well as forged new partnerships with key community members starting summer of 2024. This fall our cadets had the opportunity to visit the Delaware Air National Guard base and learn about the different resources the National Guard can provide to our cadets in the future should they chose to take that route after graduation. Cadets were given the opportunity to meet with various members of the base and were able to take a short flight aboard a C-130 Hercules aircraft. Cadets learned about flight operations, base management and different parts of the Armed Forces and their roles on the base. Later in the fall cadets also took a trip to the Philadelphia Coast Guard base where cadets were able to take a brief trip on a Coast Guard Cutter on the Delaware River. During their time on base, cadets learned about base operations, ship roles and responsibilities, and what kind of resources the Coast Guard might offer in the future. In the spring, cadets will be taking a trip to the Naval base in Norfolk, VA to tour the air craft carrier George HW Bush.

The school has started planning for the 2025-26 school year, and the DMA team is looking at our current schedule and course offerings. We are looking at changing some of our courses to add additional, more accessible AP courses for our cadets. In addition, we are looking to alter the schedule in a way that we can offer more daily minutes to areas of ELA and Math. The “A” in DMA is important and our focus is to improve our academic offerings and rigor in the near future. We feel like continuing a focus on the “M” and “A” in Delaware Military Academy will ensure the fact that DMA will continue forward as a valuable and unique option for Delaware high school students and remain the flagship NJROTC program in the country.

VI. ANNUAL REPORT CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

Name of School:	Delaware Military Academy
Location:	112. Middleboro Rd, Wilmington DE 19804

I hereby certify that the information submitted in this annual report of a charter school is true to the best of my knowledge and belief; that this application has been approved by the school's Board of Directors.



1/14/2025

Signature: Chairperson of Board of Directors (or designated signatory authority)

Date

Print/Type Name:	Brian Rortocki
Title (if designated):	Board President
Date of approval by board of directors:	1/14/2025