



Leopard Ledger



LEOPARD BATTALION JROTC,
MATTIE T. BLOUNT HIGH SCHOOL

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

SHOW YOUR CLASS!

Citizen (of character) - duty & responsibility to our families, school, community, nation.

Leader - influencing others to accomplish a mission.

Athlete - we are all athletes; find your passion, get moving!

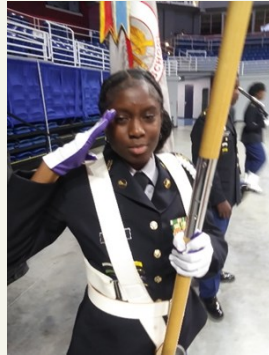
Scholar - academic excellence. 3.0 gpa or higher, ASVAB of 50 or higher, ACT score 24, SAT score 1100 or higher.

BLOUNT HS - LEOPARD BN COMMAND TEAM

Congrats, Command Team!

Support your leadership.

CDT Aaliyah Wright, the new Battalion Commander, is a Senior who has participated in JROTC for three years in various leadership roles. Additionally, she is part of many clubs including Color Guard & Hooah Team. CDT Wright is also a member of National Honor Society & Blount Softball.



Aaliyah Wright



Kaleah Holcombe

CDT Holcombe is the new Command Sergeant Major, Primary Advisor to the Commander. She is a Sophomore, a member of the Color Guard, Hooah Team, Tech Club & Event Planner.

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This year marks a brand new year of change. This includes going from A & B Period Schedule to Traditional 7-Period Schedule. Additionally, we welcome the new Cadet Leadership: **Aaliyah Wright**, Battalion Commander, **Kaleah Holcombe**, Command Sergeant Major, **Jason Davis**, Battalion Executive Officer and **Jackie Hill**, S3- Event Planner.

EMBRACE CHANGE

We bid farewell to Graduates: Blackmon, Dock, Edgeworth, Jackson, and Pompey. Change has/is occurring with Cadre, too . . .

We welcome **MAJ Mitchell** the newest member to the team, who brings a wealth of experiences as a Public Affairs Officer.

Finally, **MSG Boyer** is back! She is a Human Resources

Specialist who brings keen insights on leaderships and career prep to the team.

Both leaders will add to our JROTC Program consisting of JROTC Freshmen Academy (mandatory), JROTC Leadership & JROTC Tech (electives).

Embrace change with excitement and a positive attitude. Hooah!

SUPPORT YOUR BATTALION!

Blount HS JROTC Booster Club - LEOPARD'S LEGACY



Since you are part of the greatest program in high school, support your program. Be a member of the Blount High School JROTC Booster Club, LEOPARD'S LEGACY.

In Dec of 2018, the booster club became a non-profit, 501(c)(3), tax exempt, organization.

The mission is to fundraise in order to support the JROTC program.

All funds, donations, and membership dues go into a local bank account, Wells Fargo, with yearly financial disclosures of funds. What's the cost? Student-Cadet Membership is \$30. Adult basic membership is \$40.

All proceeds will support the program to include scholarship awards.

Establish your legacy now!

"MIGHTY OAK" INSPIRATIONAL POEM

Stand tall, oh mighty oak, for all the world to see.

Your strength and undying beauty forever amazes me.

Though storm clouds hover above you,
Your branches span the sky
In search of the radiant sunlight you
Count on to survive.

When the winds are high and restless
and You lose a limb or two,

It only makes you stronger.
We could learn so much from you.
Though generations have come and gone
And brought about such change,
Quietly you've watched them all,
Yet still remained the same.

I only pray God gives to me
The strength he's given you
To face each day with hope,
Whether skies are black or blue.

Life on earth is truly a gift.
Every moment we must treasure.
It's the simple things we take for granted
That become our ultimate pleasures.

~Kathy J. Parenteau



BLOUNT HS CADETS' SUMMER EXPERIENCE

Blount HS JROTC participated in summer enrichment program.

The [National Flight Academy](#), Pensacola Naval Air Station, FL trained CDTs **Davis, Holcombe & Wright**.

They were joined by all the MCPSS JROTC Programs and Independent City Schools. The graduates earned flight wings & a certificate.

Our Young-Leaders participated in the [MCPSS JROTC STEM Leadership Academy](#) at Spring Hill College. They

were part of 144 Young-leaders from the county. This year's theme was advanced manufacturing. Cadets attended workforce tours at AL Power, MAWSS, BASF, & SSAB. Cadets in attendance were: **Batista, Brown-Witherspoon, Dunnigan, Elekima, Fells, Hill, Moore, Rivers, Washington, Woods, & Wright**.

Young-leaders attended [Gen Cyber Computer Camp](#) at the Univ of Southern Miss. They learned about

computer sciences, computer engineering, programming and robotics. CDTs were **Batista, Brown-Witherspoon, Davis, Edwards, Hill, Holcombe, Russell, Smythe, & Stevenson**.

Finally, we had CDTs **Brown-Witherspoon, Hill, Washington, Williams** attend [leaderSTATE Camp](#) at Miss State Univ. They participated in STEM projects, teambuilding & workforce tours.

Leopards, lead the way!

JROTC LEADERSHIP CREDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

Must have min of 3 yrs in JROTC or 2.5 yrs w/ waiver from MCPSS DAI.

Must have actively participated in at least one required Service Learning/Community Service Project.

Must have earned a Cadet Good Conduct Ribbon.

Must have completed a minimum of 30 hours of Community Service within 3–4 yrs.

Must have an overall GPA of 2.5 (unweighted) in all subject areas.

Must have a minimum of 75% grade average in JROTC coursework.

Must have successfully completed the Alabama Physical Fitness Assessment (Cadet Challenge).

Must have participated as an active member in at least two extra-curricular, co-curricular, and/or leadership activities.

Must have consistently and properly worn the cadet uniform.

Must have successful leadership position assessment.

May not have any official misconduct involving weapons or drugs.

Note: Community Service, Service Learning, Leader Assessment, Fitness Assessment, Club involvement- yearly.

JROTC CO-CURRICULAR/CLUB ACTIVITIES

Co-Curricular Activities—Category II

Co-Curricular Activities—Category I

- Academic Enrichment Program (study hall)
- Community Service (once per quarter)
- Service Learning Project (once per year)
- Fitness (PE/PT weekly – must dress out)
- Workplace Readiness (Portfolio: Bio, Resume, Goals)
- Mandatory Wear of JROTC Uniform
- Staff Ride (Preliminary and Integration Phases)
- Support of Veteran’s Day Parade (plan, execute, review and/or essay)

Note: these activities are embedded within the curriculum, during class instruction.

Athletic Club

- Raider Adventure Race,
- Running Tm / Fitness Tm,
- Orienteering

Drill & Ceremony Club

- Color Guard/Saber Tm
- Drill Tm

Technology Club

- VEX Robotics,
- Drone Program,
- Khan Academy,
- Cybersecurity,
- Computer Programming / Coding - Robots & Drones

Support Club

- Public Affairs TM,
- Concessions,/Store,
- Parking Lot Detail

Specialty / Other Clubs

- Marksmanship,
- JROTC Leadership & Academic Bowls (JLAB)
- Archery,
- Hooah Tm & Field Crew

Other: Rappelling, Summer Camps, Social Formals, Staff Ride (Field Study Phase), Camping, Winter Sports - skiing, snow tubing, ice skating.

Note: Conducted after school or weekends.

Leopards, lead the way!



FALL SEMESTER 2022

REVIEW IN PICTURES . . .



REFLECT ON
THE PAST, PREP FOR THE FUTURE!





Blount Tech Stars Make History—Two Years in a Row!

Young-leaders, in the Blount JROTC Tech Initiative, took drones to another level. They have become among the best in high schools nationally. Aerial Drones Competitions are sanctioned by Robotics Education & Competition (REC) Foundation. Aerial Drone Competitions are Piloting Team Missions, Autonomous Flight Missions (coding/programming), & Communications Missions (documented flight plan and demonstrating knowledge through interviews). Last year’s competition was called Blackout. Each year, the challenge/competition changes.

Our Tech Club qualified & competed in the VEX Robotics World and Aerial Drones World Championships in Dallas, TX, 2-13 May in 2022. We were the only school in Alabama to compete in drones. SY22-23, the Blount Tech Club qualified for Drone Nationals, second year in a row. Personnel included **Kristen Cass, Jason Davis, Kaleah Holcombe, Toki Ingram & Christian Steele**. This year, drone teams from Chickasaw HS, Murphy HS, and Evergreen HS joined us as the only schools from the State of AL to compete at REC Foundation Aerial Drone Nationals.

Drone news.... Blount Drone Program consists of : (1) Academics, (2) Competitions, (3) Drone Ops, (4) Community Service. Under the direction of LTC Barrow, MCPSS DAI, and support of Mr. Woods, Principal, we have partnered with TCAVPRO. They currently provide 10 drone/aeronautical courses. Competitions, as stated above, are by REC Foundation Aerial Drone Competition. Last year, we expanded from 6 schools to 14 schools in the MCPSS JROTC Aerial Drone League. Drone Ops, referred to as “Leopard Drone Zone” are hands-on flight ops for events such as sporting events to other activities, indoors and outdoors. Community service using drones include surveillance of parking areas, instructing workshops and incorporating drones in service-learning and other community service projects. Future goals: continue to compete nationally while earning the FAA Drone Commercial License.



**REC Foundation - Inspiring students, one robot at a time!! Blount - Drones, taking STEAM to new heights!
MCPSS BDE—Leadership Excellence Unsurpassed! Leopards, lead the way!**



Mattie T. Blount High School
Army JROTC - Fall Semester 2023 Education Excursion
 (As of: 26 June subject to change)



Leopards, lead the way!

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Student Cost</u>	<u>Transpo Cost</u>
JROTC Uniform Issue	7-18 Aug	No cost	\$ 650-1,000 (actual cost)
Blount vs. LeFlore V-ball, home	24 Aug	No Cost	
Blount vs. Vigor, F-ball, away	26 Aug	No cost	
NO Saints Flag Unfurl / NFL Game	27 Aug	\$30	\$374
Blount JROTC Awards, Blount HS	30 Aug	\$20	\$30
Blount vs. Spanish Fort F-ball, away	1 Sep	Free	
VEX Robotics Competition #1, MCPSS HQ	7 Sep	No Cost	\$94
Blount vs. Robertsdale, F-ball, home	8 Sep	No Cost	
BDE Promotion Board (CDR & CSM - only)	13 Sep	Free	
CTE ACE Conf, Mobile (6 Cadets)	14 Sep	No Cost	\$25
Air Rifle Match #1, Theodore HS	21 Sep	No Cost	
Blount vs. Baldwin Cty, F-ball, home	22 Sep	No Cost	
Blount vs. Saraland V-ball, home	28 Sep	No Cost	
Blount vs. Williamson, F-ball, away	29 Sep	No Cost	
AL State JLDC, Mobile	3 Oct	No Cost	\$30
Land Nav/Orienteering Tng, Scoutshire	4 Oct	No Cost	\$126
Gulf Coast Challenge Career Fair	5 Oct	No Cost	\$98
Blount vs. Saraland F-ball, home	6 Oct	No Cost	
Gulf Coast Challenge Parade/Game	7 Oct	No Cost	\$136
Blount vs. Theodore F-ball, away	12 Oct	No Cost	
Air Rifle Match #2, Davidson HS	19 Oct	No Cost	\$116
Blount vs. St. Paul's, home	20 Oct	No Cost	
Rappelling, Museum Tour, USM Tour	21 Oct	No Cost	\$266
VEX Robotics Competition #2, MCPSS HQ	25 Oct	No Cost	\$94
LET 1 Drill Meet/Color Guard, Rain HS	27 Oct	No Cost	\$111
Blount vs. McGill, F-Ball, away	27 Oct	No Cost	
Fair Ground Community Service	28 Oct	No Cost	
RADC Drone League Workshop, Blount	1 Nov	No Cost	
Air Rifle Match #3, Murphy HS	2 Nov	No Cost	\$96
Blount vs. Murphy, F-ball, away	3 Nov	No Cost	
VEX Robotics Competition #3, MCPSS HQ	9 Nov	No Cost	\$94
Veterans Day Project & Parade	6-9 & 10 Nov	No Cost	Required
Bay Minette Career/College & Vet Home	11 Nov	\$20	\$142
Air Rifle Match #4, Blount HS	16 Nov	No Cost	\$137
International Festival	17 Nov	\$15	
Varsity Drill Meet/Color Guard, The Grounds	29 Nov	No Cost	\$91
MCPSS Drone Competition #1, MCPSS HQ	1 Dec	No Cost	\$94
Scholars Bowl, MCPSS Central Office	6 Dec	No Cost	\$94
VEX Robotics Competition #4, MCPSS HQ	7 Dec	No Cost	\$94
Blount HS Christmas Extravaganza	13 Dec (all day)	\$ 20	\$40
Air Rifle Match #5, Rain HS	14 Dec	No Cost	\$111
Blount HS Middle School Tech Camp	16 Dec	No Cost	

JROTC Special Activities



New Orleans Trip

- Universities
- Tours - Tulane, Dillard, & Xavier.
- NFL Game
- * on-field Flag Unfurl
- 27 Aug 2023



JROTC

- Leopard Battalion
- Awards Ceremony /
- Change of Command
- 30 Aug 2023



Gulf Coast Classic

- Free Concerts: Shai & Marvin Sapp
- > College/Career Fair
- > Downtown Parade
- > HBCU Game - AAMU vs. JSU
- > Lil Boosie - Game Concert
- > Color Guard / Flag Unfurl
- 4-7 Oct 2023



MCPSS Drone Workshop

- Blount Campus
- (indoor & outdoor)
- REC Foundation Aerial Drone Overview
- TACA VPRO Academics
- Hands-on Flying
- 1 Nov 2023



Veteran's Day

- > Veterans
- Essay Contest
- > Parade
- > Visit Vet Home
- > Coastal Alabama College Tour
- 30 Oct - 11 Nov

Service Learning Project—

Operation Tides Across Gulf

- ◆ Educate on the Gulf
- ◆ Main Effort: Observe tidal waves
- ◆ Supporting Effort: Environ. impacts
- ◆ Cleanup beach & Gulf Shoes State Park



Aug-Jan, completed on 27 Jan 2024

JROTC Program of Accreditation (JPA)

- > Formal Accreditation by MCPSS



Director of Army Instruction & Cadet Command

- > Interviews, Command Briefing, Service Learning Briefing, Portfolio Review

- > Demonstration of Leadership - Command & Staff, drill and ceremony, proper wear of uniform.

Feb 2024



2nd Invite to Calgary, Alberta Province, Canada

"Operation Northern Exposure"

- > Canada's Signature VEX Robotics Event
- > Intro to REC Foundation Aerial Drone Compet.
- > US Youth Ambassadors & Community Service

This is a Cadet Staff Ride:

- Phase I— Research paper (US-Canada Topics)
- Phase II—Compete, Workshop, tours in Canada
- Phase III—Integration/Dialogue w/ Canadian Youth

31 Jan—7 Feb 2024

**Awaiting Approval?

LEOPARD BATTALION JROTC

Mattie T. Blount High School
ATTN: JROTC
5450 Lott Road
Eight Mile, AL 36613
Phone: 251-221-3070
Fax:
Email: rcross@mcps.com



The JROTC mission is “to motivates young people to be better citizens”. The Leopard BN is unique, in that, classroom lectures are coupled with out of class activities. Student-Cadets are empowered to lead. Everyone has a role as a follower & leader.

Leopards, Lead the Way! Hooah!!

PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM

This newsletter will be produced by the Public Affairs Team capturing / highlighting JROTC and school news – live, link, and literary.



Mattie T. Blount High School Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps



Leopards, lead the way!

As of June 23

Interesting Facts (2016 – Present day) ...

- ❖ First Army JROTC Program nationally with an approved Technology Initiative - Elective w/ Drone Career Pathway (Drones, Robots, Cybersecurity, Programming, Tech Courses x5).
 - ❖ First Army JROTC Program with JROTC Leadership Credential plus 11 certifications, to include county, state & national recognized certifications.
 - ❖ First time in BN history, Leadership Bowl Team advanced to Level 2 of JROTC Leaders & Academic Bowl (JLAB) National Competition, Nov 22.
 - ❖ Only high school in Alabama to qualify/compete in VEX Robotics World & Aerial Drones World Championships '22. Nationally ranked in both.
 - ❖ Drone Crew competed at REC Foundation Aerial Drone Nationals, '23.
 - ❖ First Army JROTC Program to compete in Army Ten Miler, largest Ten Miler in U.S., third largest in the world in 2016.
 - ❖ First program in MCPSS to conduct Educational Excursion to Washington, DC.
 - ❖ First program in MCPSS to have Public Media Campaign – Storyboards/Newsletters.
 - ❖ First program in MCPSS to implement Cadet Staff Ride, Lessons from Past.
- Phase I - Preliminary Studies, Phase II - Field Studies, Phase III - Integration
- ❖ Average 300+ Student-leaders: mandatory - career prep & elective program, leadership and/or technology.
 - ❖ Most active JROTC Program in County, 25 – 30 Educational Excursions per semester.
 - ❖ Year-round program (minus holidays & 2-week summer period).
 - ❖ Student-Leaders average 20 Community Service Hours per year.
 - ❖ Average: 5 – 10 College Tours, Workforce Tours & Career Fairs per yr.
 - ❖ Partnering Universities: Troy Univ, Tuskegee Univ, UAB, Univ of Southern Miss.
 - ❖ Program offers 5 Co-Curricular Clubs with 16 Teams.

We Thought You Should Know!