

WMST JROTC places first in two key competitions



Cadet Major Ricardo Dupree (left) with Cadet 1st Lt Jeremy Lovell at the City-Wide Championship at the DC Armory

Just as championship sports teams peak during the playoffs, so Washington Math Science Technology Public Charter High School's Air Force Junior ROTC Cadet Corps has proven through two recent competitions that they are putting in their best performances in the weeks leading to graduation.

On May 2, 2012, the Panthers grabbed First Place among 13 cadet corps at the City-Wide Championship at DC National Guard Armory, sponsored by DC Public Schools.

The City-Wide Championship was no fluke. On April 21, WMST's Junior ROTC Cadet Corps

earned First Place in the Parkdale High School Cadet Corps Drill Competition in Riverdale, Md., the best among six schools.

In the Armed Exhibition Drill at the City-Wide Championship, the Color Guard Competition, Platoon Competition Drill, and the Unarmed Competition Drill, WMST earned first place. The WMST cadets earned the top place for all drill events and first place overall in the city, according to Lt. Col. (Ret.) Clyde Henderson, the senior instructor of JROTC at WMST Public Charter High School, who oversees the cadet corps, assisted by Chief Stephen Maynard. Sixty WMST PCHS cadets participated in the City-Wide Drill Competition, and there are 115 cadets in WMST's Air Force JROTC program.



The Knockout Drill at the City-Wide Championship at the DC Armory

Cadet Commander Ricardo Dupree '12 earned first place in the Solo Armed Exhibition Drill at the City-Wide Championship. "He put on quite a show for the crowd with his sharp rifle drill and cartwheels on the drill floor," Lt. Col. Henderson said. Jasmine Bunter, meanwhile, earned first place in the Knockout Drill, while Leaya Curry earned third place in the Knockout Drill.

The progress in the WMST Cadet Corps was underlined by the fact that WMST didn't compete in 2009 or 2010 in the City-Wide Drill Championship. There are 115 cadets in the WMST cadet corps, and 60 participated in the City-Wide Drill Championship.