



Dream. Believe. Achieve.



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THE BLUEGRASS BUGLE



Eyes on the Finish Line!

After 14 weeks of dedication, discipline, and personal growth, our cadets have successfully navigated the most demanding phase of the program. Each week seems to be going by quicker and quicker for many of the cadets. With graduation now in sight and many of them counting down the days, they stand on the brink of a major milestone, ready to carry forward the skills, confidence, and resilience they have built. While the finish line is near, there is still work to be done and important events ahead as they continue pushing forward toward graduation.

A DAY TO REMEMBER



Family Day at the Bluegrass Youth Challenge Academy is always a special and unforgettable event, uniting cadets and their families for an afternoon full of laughter, energy, and meaningful connection. The celebration offered something for everyone—from spirited games and quality time together to a variety of flavorful food trucks. The day began with an impressive highlight as the entire Academy demonstrated their discipline and unity through a polished drill and ceremony performance that set the tone for the day. Following the ceremony, cadets happily reunited with their families, many of whom arrived with their cadet's favorite meals. The excitement throughout the grounds at Roberts Family Farm was unmistakable, as families witnessed firsthand the confidence, teamwork, and personal growth their cadets have achieved. More than just a day of fun, Family Day stood as a powerful reminder of the dedication, progress, and strong support system that define the Bluegrass experience.

STUDENT COUNCIL INITIATIVE

The Bluegrass Challenge Academy student council is hard at work making the BCA mission more achievable and comfortable for every cadet. We are doing this by taking cadets ideas and listening, then fighting for them during our Tuesday meetings. Some changes we have already made are tweaks to the DFAC menu and getting more sports equipment now that the weather is warming up, as well as schedules of practice and events pasted in each platoon bay. Some things that we are still attempting to get are longer showers, more arts and humanities related events, and more community service opportunities for every cadet, such as road clean ups, taking donated food to Blessing Boxes, and recycling. I think student council is important in teaching cadets a chain of command, as a cadet will have a recommendation, they will bring it to a representative who then brings it up at student council. It teaches trust and team work. Student council is hard at work, bringing our A-game to make the BCA more impactful for every cadet, cadre, and supervisor.

Cadet Bland Class 54 President



HANDMADE WITH HEART



Cadets from the Wolfpack spent this Easter season spreading kindness and connection. Demonstrating both creativity and compassion, the cadets handcrafted more than 120 Easter cards, each one uniquely designed with heartfelt messages intended to brighten someone's day. On Easter Sunday, several cadets delivered the cards to residents at Signature Healthcare at North Hardin Rehabilitation. The visit brought smiles, laughter, and meaningful interaction, as many residents expressed appreciation for the thoughtful gesture. For some, the simple act of receiving a handmade card served as a powerful reminder that they are valued and remembered.

The initiative reflects the core values of the Academy, emphasizing service, leadership, and community engagement. Through projects like this, cadets not only develop practical skills but also gain a deeper understanding of empathy and the importance of giving back. By turning a traditional holiday into an opportunity for service, the Wolfpack cadets made a lasting impact—proving that even small acts of kindness can create meaningful connections and uplift an entire community.

Upcoming events

Apr. 25: Color Run

Apr. 29/30: The Bluegrass Games

May 4: Red Cross Blood Drive

May 5: Black Hawk Ride

May 13/14: Intra-State Competition w/ ACA

May 30: Kentucky Kingdom

June 13: Graduation
(Stitton Baptist Church in Radcliff, KY)



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Mrs. Ethel
Southern Foods (DFAC) Manager

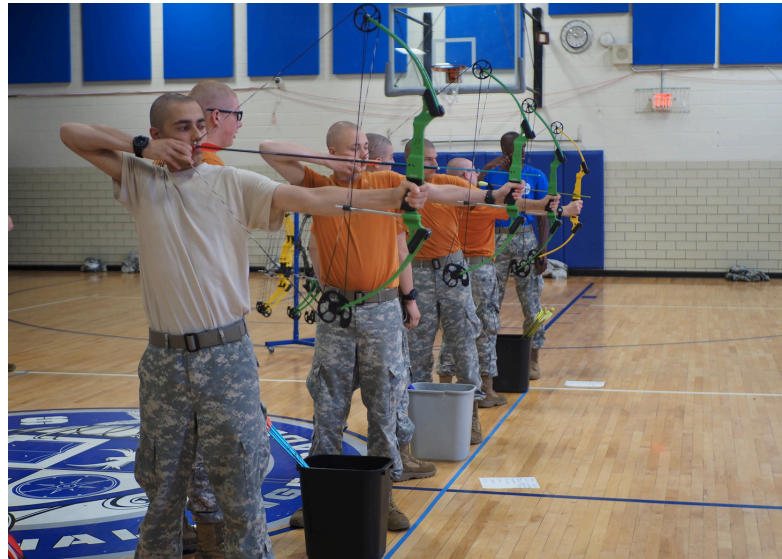
Mrs. Ethel plays a vital role in keeping cadets fueled and focused each day. With a commitment to their well-being, she consistently provides a wide variety of meals, taking time to listen to cadet feedback and thoughtfully adjust menus based on their requests and suggestions. While offering flexibility and creativity in the kitchen, Mrs. Ethel remains diligent in following the Kentucky Department of Education's school meal program guidelines, ensuring every meal is both nutritious and balanced. Her ability to blend structure with responsiveness not only supports cadets' health, but also creates a welcoming environment where they feel heard and cared for!



HITTING THEIR TARGET

Since the beginning of the cycle, each platoon at the Bluegrass Challenge Academy has taken part in a hands-on archery program led by Deputy Director Mr. Jensen, emphasizing patience, discipline, and safety every step of the way. Before ever picking up a bow to shoot at a target, cadets spent several weeks learning the fundamentals of archery. Instruction focused heavily on proper handling techniques, range safety rules, and the importance of focus and control. Mr. Jensen ensured that each cadet understood not only how to use the equipment, but also the responsibility that comes with it.

Through guided practice and careful instruction, cadets gradually built confidence in their skills. By the time they were ready to begin shooting, they had developed a strong foundation in both technique and safety awareness. The experience proved to be both educational and rewarding, giving cadets the opportunity to learn a new skill while reinforcing core values such as responsibility, perseverance, and respect for others.



BOOTS ON THE GROUND



The Cadets of the BCA tightened their boots and took on a demanding three-and-a-half-mile road march, putting their endurance, discipline, and resolve to the test. More than a physical task, the march represented their dedication to personal growth and their ability to face challenges side by side as a team. Physical training is a vital part of the Academy experience. It develops strength and stamina while reinforcing key values like discipline, perseverance, and resilience. Through exercises such as the road march, cadets discover the importance of goal setting, pushing beyond their comfort zones, and encouraging one another every step of the way.

The impact of this training reaches well beyond physical fitness. It enhances focus in the classroom, builds confidence, and equips cadets with the tools needed for success after the program. By completing the three-and-a-half-mile march, cadets demonstrated that with determination and teamwork, they are capable of achieving more than they once believed possible.

BUILDING KNOWLEDGE AND CONFIDENCE



Cadets of the BCA continue to demonstrate focus and determination in the classroom as they move through the academic phase of the program. Eligible cadets have completed key milestones such as the SAT and ASVAB, giving them valuable exposure to college readiness and potential career pathways while helping staff better guide their future plans.

A few weeks ago, progress reports were sent out to provide mid-semester awareness, offering cadets and their families a clear picture of current performance and areas for improvement. In the weeks ahead, cadets will begin preparing for the mandatory Kentucky state testing at the end of May, dedicating time to review core subjects, strengthen study habits, and build confidence in their academic abilities. With classroom instruction, continued support from teachers, and a strong emphasis on accountability, cadets will remain hard at work through week 22 as they strive to finish the program strong.

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Mr. Jody League
Principal, Eminence Independent Schools
E-Mail: jody.league@eminence.kyschools.us

Parents and Guardians,

I would like to take a moment to recognize the continued effort and discipline our cadets have demonstrated in their academic work. Over the past several weeks, they have remained focused in the classroom and have successfully completed both SAT and ASVAB testing. These assessments are important milestones, and I am proud of the professionalism and commitment shown throughout the process.

Additionally, progress reports were distributed a couple of weeks ago to provide families with an update on academic performance and standing. If you have not yet had an opportunity to review your cadet's progress report, I encourage you to do so, as it offers valuable insight into their current achievement and areas for continued growth.

As always, we value open communication between home and school. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your cadet's academic progress or overall school experience, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly at the email address listed above. I am committed to working together with you to ensure every cadet has the support they need to succeed.

Sincerely,
Mr. League



Cadet Q & A: We asked several of our cadets what have they learned about themselves and hope to improve upon, their favorite activity, and what they are most looking forward to!



“While at the BCA, I have learned that I am good at adjusting to different environments and making the best of whatever situation I’m in. While here, I hope to improve my confidence in myself, because I’ve never had confidence in things I enjoy like sports; I would always doubt how I would perform. My favorite activity is playing sports during free time with the people in my platoon because it gives us time to chill out and get better.” - Cadet Alexander

“I have learned loads of things about myself but the most important thing I’ve learned is self worth and value. I hope to continue focusing on myself and improving on letting the haters hate. My favorite activity to participate in has to be getting community service; going to the nursing home and putting a smile on the elders faces. I most look forward to graduation day where I can see my family and show them how much I’ve grown during my time at the BCA.” - Cadet Atchley



“I have learned that I can achieve amazing things regardless of how hard it may be. My favorite activity at the BCA is volleyball and I’m looking forward to the Intra-State competition.” - Cadet Murphy



“I learned that I can be a hard worker when it comes to my goals, and I hope to improve on my self love and self confidence. My favorite activities at the BCA are archery, drill and ceremony, and anime club.” - Cadet Winters



“One thing that I’ve learned about myself here at the Academy is that I seem to sometimes be quite rebellious towards systems I don’t agree with, I also don’t seem to work very well with others as I’m more of an independent person. I hope I can improve on overcoming both of these issues of mine as I go further into the program and maybe learn more about working as a team. I love doing community service. I’m looking forward to the Black Hawk ride and going to Kentucky Kingdom.” - Cadet Martin-Taylor

“Some things I’ve learned since I’ve been at the Academy is that I really love cleaning. I hope to improve my anger management and gain more discipline. My favorite activity to participate in at BCA is most definitely drill and ceremony. I’m really looking forward to the Intra-State competition.” - Cadet Pittman



“What I’ve learned about myself is that I would tend to lie and try to cover my lies up just for them to catch up with me and I would get a consequence. I hope I can stay on track and pick up the coping skills I learned like the 5 fives. I am ready for the Academy Games and to go to Kentucky Kingdom.” - Cadet Gamble



“One thing I’ve learned about myself at the BCA is that I can overcome anything I put my mind to as long as I keep a level head and keep trying. What I hope to improve on the most is my patience with peers, both younger and older, as well as my physical health by getting more sleep, water, healthier meals, and more exercise. I also wish to improve my walk with God. My favorite activity to participate in at the BCA is definitely volleyball practice and games. I’ve started the sport at BCA and found a new lifetime hobby.” - Cadet Bland



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CENTER STAGE CADETS



Cadet Rofkahr, Directors Platoon Wolverines

“Some things I’ve learned about myself are that I’m a strong, patient, and kind person. I’ve gotten through 94 whole days here, some rough, some easy. Most were rough but I realize just how strong I am for not running from those days. I would love to improve on my physical training, mostly cardio, and become as fit as possible. My favorite activity to participate in at BCA is the P.T. and group/team sports. I love seeing my battle buddies grow and also seeing the growth in myself. Day 1 with P.T., my mindset was ‘I just can’t do it’ but day 94 with P.T., my mindset is, ‘Let’s get this over with so I can help others who are struggling,’ and I believe that is growth. My plans for when I graduate are to succeed in school. I plan on going to Job Corps and taking nursing classes, as well as finishing up high school. Not only this, but I want to grow a stronger bond with my family and become my best self.”



Cadet White, 3rd Platoon Blackhawks

“While I’ve been in the BCA, I’ve learned that I am able to push myself harder than I ever thought. While I’m here, I hope to get stronger, have better impulse control, and more discipline with the rest of the time I have here. My favorite activity at the Academy is definitely playing basketball and being on the basketball team. I’m looking forward to playing against ACA in the Intra-State competition. Once I graduate from the program, I am going to continue my high school education and get a better job.”

Bluegrass Challenge Academy Leadership

“I want to extend my appreciation to all the families who joined us for Family Day. Your presence highlights the importance of connection, encouragement, and the support system that helps our cadets succeed. Time shared with loved ones carries lasting meaning, and we are thankful you chose to be part of that experience. As we move into the final eight weeks of the cycle, it is important that we stay motivated and committed to our goals. Let’s continue lifting each other up, maintaining our focus, and giving our best effort each day as we work toward a strong and successful finish.”



Mr. Timberlake **Director**

“Almost 100 days! That’s 2400 hours, or 144,000 minutes. Moments really. Life is a series of moments you will never get back. It’s what we do with these fleeting moments that matters. Your young adult made a decision that will affect their future for the best by volunteering to attend Youth Challenge. The Challenges continue for them, and we all need to support them through graduation and beyond. Take a moment and reach out to your Cadet to let them know how much they mean to you. Take a few moments these final few weeks and write to them, email them, or send a care package! That matters, because you matter to them, too.”



Mr. Jensen **Deputy Director**

"Discipline got you here - finish with the same standard. Cadets don't fade at the end - they lock in and finish stronger. The final stretch reveals your character to stand firm and finish proud. You've trained for the moment - now execute and complete the mission. Fatigued cadets are temporary, but the pride of finishing strong is permanent. Stand tall, stay sharp, and finish like cadets who refuse to quit. Your mission isn't complete until you finish with excellence."



SGM Mitchell **Assistant Commandant**

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