



Dream. Believe. Achieve.



ISSUE: 5503

THE BLUEGRASS BUGLE



One Step Closer to Success

Our cadets have reached an important point in their journey, with 14 weeks of hard work, commitment, and personal development behind them. What once may have felt like a long road is now moving quickly, and graduation is becoming a reality for many of them. They have grown in confidence, learned to overcome challenges, and gained valuable skills that will serve them well beyond their time at BCA. Although the end of the residential phase is getting closer, there is still plenty to accomplish. The cadets must stay focused, continue meeting expectations, and make the most of the opportunities ahead as they work toward completing this chapter of their journey.

MORE THAN A MAP



Several Cadets at the BCA have been learning the basic skills and tools of land navigation, an important activity that teaches them how to find their way using maps, compasses, and other navigation equipment. Through hands-on instruction taught by Deputy Director Mr. Jensen, cadets are learning how to read a map, identify landmarks, and use a compass to determine direction.

Land navigation requires patience, attention to detail, and critical thinking. Cadets must learn to follow directions, make decisions, and work through challenges along the way. These skills help them develop confidence and become better problem-solvers. In addition to learning practical navigation techniques, cadets are building teamwork and communication skills. Land navigation gives them an opportunity to put their training into practice while learning the importance of preparation, discipline, and staying focused on their goals.

STUDENT COUNCIL INITIATIVE

Student council is currently working on different ideas for fields trips such as a Sky's the Limit trampoline park or a trip to the movie theater in Elizabethtown for the cadets who have earned it. Another topic that is constantly being discussed, is we are working on our food choices in the DFAC for the dinner menu. Many of the cadets have enjoyed several of the different meal options that have been brought forth and we hope to continue to bring new meal options that have been enjoyable so far. Enforcing hygiene has been another hot topic that student council remains focused on, as we want to keep our area and ourselves clean. Many cadets have inquired about tutoring as well and once Mr. League has been informed on who needs the extra help, we can do cadet tutoring. It will have to be within your platoon and our tutoring times will be planned during any free time. Remember that we have so many fun events and activities planned for the month of October. Behavior drives the train, so do not get in trouble then get upset that you can't participate!

**Cadet Henderson
Class 55 President**



GETTING READY FOR COMPETITION



Cadets at the Bluegrass Challenge Academy have been working hard to prepare for a three-day competition against the Michigan Youth Challenge Academy. Everyone is practicing and getting ready to represent Bluegrass while showing off the skills they have been developing throughout the program.

The competition will include boys and girls basketball, track, chess, a spelling bee, volleyball, softball, flag football, cornhole, and a drill and ceremony demonstration. These events will give cadets a chance to show their teamwork, sportsmanship, and determination.

As the competition gets closer, cadets are focused on doing their best, supporting their teammates, and making the Academy proud. We are excited for the opportunity to compete and look forward to seeing all the hard work pay off!

Upcoming events

Oct. 19 - 20: Roberts Family Farm

Oct. 27: Black Hawk Ride

Oct. 28 - 30: Competition w/ Michigan Youth Challenge Academy

Oct. 31: Fall Festival / Virtual Family Day

Nov. 4: Red Cross Blood Drive

Nov. 25 - 29: Thanksgiving Pass

Dec. 1: Mock Trial

Dec. 12: Graduation



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Mr. Ben
Southern Foods

Mr. Ben plays an important role at Bluegrass Challenge Academy by preparing daily meals that help keep our cadets fueled, focused, and ready for the challenges of each day. Good meals help cadets maintain their energy throughout their busy schedules, from classroom learning to physical training. Mr. Ben takes pride in his work and is always willing to go the extra mile to make each meal as enjoyable and satisfying as possible. His hard work helps make sure our cadets are well-fed and ready to give their best, and is greatly appreciated by not only our cadets, but the entire Bluegrass Challenge Academy!

CHANGING LIVES ONE CHALLENGE AT A TIME

You have already taken important steps toward building a better future. In roughly 60 days, you will graduate from the Academy and transition back home. Your learning does not stop here. Keep moving forward—one challenge, one choice, and one day at a time. When times get hard, remember everyone makes mistakes. Everyone stumbles. No one is perfect, and difficult things can happen to good people. What matters is what you learn from your mistakes and what you choose to do next. You can grow into a stronger, wiser person. The first step is finding the courage to get back up. As you prepare to transition from the Academy back to life at home, remember what you've learned and keep these seven principles in mind:

1. Take responsibility and learn from your mistakes. Your past does not have to define your future.
2. Choose your circle carefully. Not everyone has your best interests at heart. It's okay to set boundaries and step away from relationships that hold you back.
3. Be a positive force in your community. Make choices you can be proud of and become the kind of example you would want others to follow.
4. Do what's right, even when no one is watching. Use your judgment, trust your values, and make choices that reflect the person you want to become.
5. Choose mentors who truly support you. Look for people who care about your well-being and want to see you succeed.
6. Let doubt fuel your determination—not define you. Some people may question your choices or doubt your potential. Keep moving forward and let your actions show what you're capable of.
7. Ask for help when you need it. Reaching out is a sign of strength. Let trusted people support you as you work toward your goals.

My 28-year military career allowed me to serve alongside and lead thousands of Soldiers through challenging times. You remind me of them every day. Your commitment to excellence, determination to succeed, and courage to keep trying will serve you well in the future. Although my time at the academy will now be limited, I will remain available to you, and I look forward to watching each of you conquer the challenges ahead and graduate in December. It has been an honor to serve with you, and I am proud of you. Keep climbing and moving toward your future.

"Be proud of yourself. Be proud that your heart and intentions are good. Be proud of the fact that you are trying." — Richelle E. Goodrich

MSG House
Cadre Supervisor
Bluegrass Challenge Academy

EDITOR'S NOTE: "On behalf of everyone at Bluegrass ChalleNGe, we want to extend a huge congratulations to LTC (Ret.) House on his induction into the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff's Hall of Fame. We have all benefited from your incredible leadership, and this accolade is truly well deserved!"



TEACHERS HIGHLIGHTS: GROWING TOGETHER IN THE WOLFPACK



Hello, my name is Carla Rasheed, and I am the Wolfpack teacher. I retired from Hardin County Schools in 2024 but decided to come out of retirement to work with these wonderful young ladies. My experience here has been positive and enjoyable, and the staff have been more than welcoming and helpful. My Wolfpack ladies are full of personality, and they definitely keep me on my toes!

Even though we have only spent a short time together, we have already started building strong connections. I have also been proud to see how hard the ladies have been working on their coursework. They are putting in the effort to get back on grade level and, for some, work toward earning their high school diploma. I know it takes dedication and determination, and I am happy to be part of their journey.

My hope is to help each of these young ladies grow into confident young women who respect themselves and others, understand their own worth, and believe in what they are capable of achieving. I want them to know that with hard work and a positive attitude, they can accomplish more than they may realize.

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

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

Parents and Guardians,

I want to take a few minutes to recognize the hard work our cadets have been putting in academically over the past several weeks. They have stayed focused in the classroom while also preparing for the ASVAB, which is an important step in helping them look ahead toward future career and educational opportunities. It has been great to see the effort and determination they are putting into their schoolwork, and I am proud of the progress they continue to make.

Progress reports were sent out on September 25th, giving families an opportunity to see how their cadet is doing in the classroom. If you have not had a chance to look over the report yet, I encourage you to take a few minutes to do so. It is a good way to see where your cadet is doing well and where they may need to put in a little extra effort moving forward.

We truly appreciate the support our families provide throughout the cadets' time at BCA. Having that support from home can make a big difference in a cadet's success. If you ever have a question or concern about your cadet's academics, progress, or overall experience here at the Academy, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at the email address listed above. We are all working toward the same goal—helping each cadet make the most of their time here and leave BCA better prepared for what comes next.

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!



"What I have learned at the BCA is not to let other people's words and the small things affect me. What I want to improve upon myself while at the BCA is my impulse control and self-confidence. My favorite activity at the BCA is basketball. The event I'm looking forward to the most is Chicago Ball." - Cadet Thompson

"I have learned which type of people I get along well with, and don't get along well with. I hope to improve upon my self-image and creating discipline that lasts forever. My favorite activity is probably is probably going outside and walking; I like fresh air. The event I am most looking forward to is when Michigan comes here to compete." - Cadet Adkinson



"What I have learned about myself is, if I put my mind to it I can do tough things! What I hope most to improve on is my attitude and not being rude 24/7. My favorite activity is Chicago Ball and the event I'm looking forward to most is the Black Hawk ride." - Cadet Humphries

"I've learned to understand, I wasn't the best at handling problems and I'd either ignore them or get frustrated with them, but while being at the BCA I've learned to handle any obstacle that comes my way with discipline, integrity, courage, and honor. Drill and Ceremony is very fun, Mr Major makes it absolutely hilarious with his jokes and comments and it gives me a good idea of what marching in the real military is going to be like. I cannot wait for the black hawk ride" - Cadet Gerald



"What I have learned about myself from the Academy is that I can achieve hard things even though I may think it could be hard. What I most want to improve myself upon during my time of the BCA is my self-confidence. My favorite activity to participate in at the BCA was the Road March. Even though it was hard, it showed me that I can achieve hard things. I am looking forward to when Michigan comes down and we compete against them." - Cadet Gross



"I have learned to have more personal courage, know more from what is right from wrong, and my own personal improvement, whether that be my goals or struggles. I am working and improving on myself here at the BCA and wanting to move forward throughout my life without being fixated on the negative things I have surrounded myself with nor past mistakes I have made. Track is my favorite activity here! Events I am looking forward to are the classes that the church will provide us with." - Cadet Vandermolen

"I enjoy the schooling. Mrs. Hale is an amazing teacher, and she has a good balance of letting us have fun and keeping us working. I've gotten a lot of work done and for the first time in my life, I feel like I have a bright future to look forward to." - Cadet Wall



"While at the BCA, I have learned that I can do most things that I would have never thought I could do. I have gotten better at public speaking and I don't think I would have gotten better at it had I not come here. I hope to get even better at public speaking while I am here, because even though I'm not as nervous I still need to work on not overthinking it. My favorite activity to participate in at the BCA are the details and the road marches. Some events I am looking forward to are our DNC competition and all our activities that we have planned for the month of October." - Cadet Henderson



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CENTER STAGE CADETS



Cadet Mahaffa, 1st Platoon Wolfpack

"While here at the BCA I have learned a lot about myself, I have learned that I don't need substances to make me happy in life. The BCA has brought structure to my life that I never thought I needed. While being at the BCA, I hope to improve upon my decision making skills and maintaining a positive attitude during negative situations. My favorite activity to participate in at the BCA is church! To others, church may not be a big deal but to me it is; I love how church brings all the girls together. When we are at church, we put all our differences aside and we come together for one another. I am looking forward to the classes the church provides, virtual family day on the 31st, and of course I'm looking forward to Thanksgiving break. Once I graduate from the Academy, I plan to go home and maintain sobriety. I'll be graduated from high school at 16 so I plan to get a job, and get my license. I also plan to apply to college and start as soon as possible. I want to go to college for psychology; I want to be a therapist for at-risk youth."



Cadet Nguyen, Director's Platoon Wolverines

"Something I learned about myself while being at the Academy is that I don't need to get mad or upset about everything and to ease off on jokes and have fun with people, another thing that I learned while being here at the Academy about myself is when I do something once I am told once and never getting it repeated everything runs smooth. Something I want to most improve on while being at the Bluegrass Challenge Academy is learning how to control my impulses. My favorite activity to participate in at the BCA is football, I love the sport and i've watched the sport pretty much my whole life growing up. There are three main upcoming events I am looking forward to: when Michigan's Academy comes to play us in sports, Nightmare Forest, and the Black Hawk ride. After I graduate the program, I want to finish out high-school and get a job and go to college and major in psychology and earn my Masters Degree to become a psychologist."

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS **Bluegrass Challenge Academy** **Says:**

"Over the last several weeks, our cadets have been eagerly anticipating and prepping for a friendly competition against Michigan's Youth Challenge Academy at the end of October. While the event itself will not be open to the public, we do plan on live-streaming as many of the events as possible on our Facebook page over those few days. Also, another big announcement, we will begin taking pre-orders for Class 55 yearbooks starting Monday, October 19. Please be on the lookout on our Facebook page for yearbook pre-order information!"



Mr. Black **Network Technician**

"The calendar has been filling up with events and opportunities for our cadets for the second half of October into November! Just a few of the events we have coming up include a trip to Roberts Family Farm in Guston for all of our cadets, a Black Hawk ride in Frankfort, our Fall Festival and Virtual Family Day on Halloween, another Red Cross blood drive the first week of November, and a trip to Kentucky Kingdom before they get their Thanksgiving Pass! We are continuously planning new events and seeking out new opportunities to make sure the cadets leave with plenty of memories after graduation!"



Ms. Jackie **Program Coordinator**

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