

Registration at Camden Military Academy provides a unique sense of change for incoming cadets. They leave behind their old lives for a new one, trading long hair and loose blue jeans for pt sweats and dress uniforms. Parents are no longer there on a daily basis to encourage and push their children to excel. Instead, tactical officers, such as 1st Sergeant Collins, become their source for guidance. Teachers, faculty and coaches issue all of the new gear to cadets ushering in a new phase of their lives. Coach Beckham greets each cadet with pt sweats and a question, "Which sport do you play?"

While the initial realization of the military structure and expectations can be overwhelming, returning cadets offer guidance to new members by addressing the keys to success. Footlockers, boots, and dress shoes are hauled from the gymnasium to the barracks as cadets are introduced to their new home. Tactical officers wait in the barracks to welcome new cadets while explaining some basic expectations. In a few short hours, our newest members begin to realize the value of time. Members of the chain of command explain the elements of structure and a regimented schedule to new arrivals in each individual barracks. Once cadets arrive at their barracks, the reality of change becomes clear in their minds. They have made the choice to choose structure over chaos, individual attention over crowded classrooms and a bright future over an uncertain one. Many new cadets struggle initially with the change, missing family and friends and the comforts of their own bedroom. However, after a few weeks, they begin to embrace new friends, teachers, coaches, leaders and mentors, and cadets become part of a new family at Camden Military Academy.



Registration 7



1. LTC Hartley Yarborough welcomes cadet Patrick Brooks of Camden, South Carolina and his parents.
2. Cadet Trevor Thompson of Verona, Wisconsin getting fit for his dress coat.
3. Maj Beckham hands out PT gear.
4. Cadet Caleb Anderson of Monroe, North Carolina
5. LTC Ferjani welcomes cadet Darnell Rakestraw of Eastpoint, Michigan
6. LTC Melberg talks with Alex Woodfield of Steamboat Springs, Colorado and his parents.