



The sports combine was fun and cadets were introduced to new sports that they had never played. I hope they keep having combines each year. – Darnell Rakestraw of EastPoint, Michigan



Sports Combine

On Tuesday, May 6th, this all-day event started after months of preparation. Ten teachers were selected as team coaches. We held a draft where each teacher took turns “drafting” students for their teams. The sports were football, baseball, basketball, lacrosse, soccer, wrestling, golf, tennis, track & field, and cross country. The head coaches of each of these sports ran their drills at their specific sports stations. The fifty or so seniors did a great job helping the coaches run their stations. Each team came up with their own team name, team colors, designed their own T-shirts and team flags. We have some pretty creative, artistic, and gifted students here at CMA. At 9:30 am the teams gathered at the Parade Field all dressed for the all-day sports competition. What a sight it was to see all ten teams gathered around (some teams made quite the entrance) in their different colored T-shirts, waving their team flags, wearing their team’s head gear, some had body paint, etc. as they chanted and talked a little “trash” to one another. Their excitement was electric! Our Commandant, LTC Armstrong, welcomed the cadets while our Headmaster, Col Boland, addressed the teams. Mr. Kendall went over the “game rules”, said a quick prayer, and “officially started” the event. Each team would proceed from one event to the next, spending thirty minutes at each sports station. The cadets competed in 4 events in the morning, had a cook-out for lunch, and then six more sports events in the afternoon....and what a hot afternoon it was as temperatures reached almost 90 degrees. Chaplain Walker, along with 4 hard-working seniors, did a great job keeping water coolers filled with water for our competitors. At 4:45 pm, the Spartan Sports Combine was finished...and the cadets (and teachers and coaches and faculty) were all worn out and exhausted! Everyone was rewarded with an all-you-can-eat ribs dinner in the Dining Hall. The hungry cadets had worked up quite an appetite and put away pounds and pounds of ribs! After the Spartan Supper, LTC Armstrong and Col. Boland gave their closing remarks and announced the first, second, and third place winners. In third place was Coach Speedy Johnson’s “Dynamic Diabetics”. In second place was Major Ararat’s “Black Lions”. In first place and the winner of the first ever Spartan Sports Combine was Mrs. Boland and her “Mrs. Boland’s Beach Babes”! The competition was fierce, very competitive, and extremely close. Only four points separated third place from first place. Major Ararat’s “Black Lions” finished only two points short of “Mrs. Boland’s Beach Babes”. All and all CMA’s first ever Spartan Sports Combine was a huge success. A BIG thanks to all the teachers, coaches, TAC Officers, faculty, and staff members who gave up their time, effort, energy, and SWEAT (remember it was almost 90 degrees and they were out there from 9:00am-4:45pm) to help make this event a success! Most of all, I would like to thank the cadets who competed valiantly and with good sportsmanship. CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYONE!!!

When I first heard of the sports combine I didn’t know exactly how I felt about it. I thought for the next few days, and gradually realized what it was. It was a way to show every cadet a new sport that they could play at Camden. When I found out I was on Coach Johnson’s team I was very excited (especially when I saw the team was most of my friends.) I liked the way everything was set out too. All the teams were evenly set up. Every sport had a new specific challenge that the cadets had to meet. I also liked that they let us choose names such as our team being called The Johnson’s Diabetics and then there was also The Alford Swamp Donkeys. They did a great job setting everything up. –Nick Paolillo of Tewksbury, Massachusetts

This year I was able to participate in the 2014 sports combine. This was where the entire school was able to come out and have a fun day participating in all sorts of sporting events.- Brandon Sammons of Ashburn, Virginia

