

NJROTC



Photo by: Wade Spees

Major John Dunmyer, US Army, guides juniors (L to R) Shatteria Mays, Alexis Basler, and Kaeleigh Wilson in the Massing of the Colors in The Citadel's Sumerall Chapel. The cadets described it as "really stressful, but we had to represent."

CCHS's NJROTC branch celebrates their 25th anniversary this year, and 2018 comes with many changes. With adult staff leaving and the hiatus of exhibition teams, an outsider might conclude that spirits are down in the corps. Sophomore Chief Petty Officer James Jennings (11th) says nothing could be less true. Cadets are excited for the revamp of the program, he says. Platoon Commander Ifrain Reyes (12th) says a big part of that is the peer-mentorship element. The program has grown significantly since 1993, now staffing over 150 cadets. Faced with that responsibility, interim director PR-1 Christopher Hutchens says the program continually strives to balance between different subject areas and roles.



Cadets have learned to march in-step even when they can't see their ranks, such as on this dark night of the city's Christmas parade.



Cadets are expected to be well-rounded and independent citizens. As such, classroom lessons cover many topics. From naval strategy to US government and from personal finance to business leadership, cadets are sometimes overwhelmed with the scope.



TRADITION (L): Paulina Sanjuan (11), Colyn (12) and Kaeleigh Wilson (10), and Alexis Basler (11), carry out the long-time duty of presenting the flags for the school events.

THIRD GENERAL ORDER (R, facing): Inspection is one of the most stressful times for a cadet, but Ashuntai McBride (9) remains strong.

CHANGES (R): Master Sergeant Eric Russels left the program this year, the fifth in a cycle of staff leaves for NJROTC over the past four years.

