



LEADER

MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY
FORGING TOMORROW'S LEADERS



LEADER



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A Message from the President

Dear Friends of Marine Military Academy,

Sixty years ago, a small group of individuals led by Captain William Gary, USMCR, joined together with a single, unwavering belief: that an excellent education served in an environment of Marine Corps tradition and ethos shapes lives, strengthens communities, and lifts future generations. Today, at Marine Military Academy (MMA) we celebrate six decades of that belief made real — classrooms filled with bright young men full of curiosity, graduates who lead with integrity, and a legacy of service that continues to grow stronger each year.



Over the last 60 years the Academy has educated thousands of students who have gone on to serve their communities in medicine, teaching, business, ministry, the armed forces, and public service. We preserved a culture of academic excellence, compassion, and resilience that students carry beyond our campus. Because of your very generous and continued support, MMA has been able to adapt and grow by providing state of the art educational programs, modernization of our facilities and expanded scholarship assistance so that more families can access our mission. Adapted and grown through new programs, updated facilities, and expanded scholarships so that more families can access our mission. These accomplishments were only possible because parents trusted us, donors invested in our vision, and faculty poured their hearts into each Cadet's success.

What endures at MMA are the small, human moments that became the heart of our school: a drill instructor putting his arm around a cadet when he's having a bad day, a teacher staying late to help a struggling Cadet find confidence, alumni returning to mentor Cadets, a graduating senior who becomes the first in their family to attend college. These stories are the true measure of our 60-year legacy, and they remind us that every gift of time, talent, and treasure multiply across generations.

Thank you for being part of this milestone. Your presence at events, your encouragement at school events, and your financial support have all been essential. As we celebrate, we recognize that honoring our past also requires investing in our future.

We invite you to join the "60 for 60" campaign: 600 gifts that will each accelerate a piece of our future. A gift today will go directly to three priority areas: scholarships for families in need, classroom technology that prepares learners for tomorrow, and capital improvements to keep our campus safe and welcoming.

Suggested ways to participate:

- Legacy Builder — \$6,000: to help provide technology and upgrade facilities.
- Founders Circle — \$1,965: helps provide scholarships for families in need.
- Champion — \$600: equips our academic and military departments with essential learning tools.

Give one of the 60 gifts and become part of a public dedication recognizing supporters who ensure the Academy thrives for another 60 years. If you prefer to support an immediate student need, designate your gift to scholarships and we will match those dollars with existing funds to maximize impact.

To donate, please visit our donation page at www.mma-tx.org or contact our Development Office at (956) 421-9232 for a quick phone or mail option. Your gift today writes the next chapter of our story.

As we mark this 60th year we celebrate the people who made it possible and the promise of students yet to come. Please join us at any of our events this year so we can thank you in person and show you the difference your support makes.

With deep gratitude and hope for the future,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "C. S. Dowling".

Christopher S. Dowling

U.S.M.C. Ret.

President, Marine Military Academy

P.S. Become one of the 60 and leave a legacy: a small commitment now creates a lifetime of opportunities for our students.

HELP US SHAPE THE

Future

OF THE MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY



60 FOR
60

60th Anniversary Giving Campaign



Legacy Builder

A contribution of \$6,000 or more

The “Legacy Builder” recognizes those whose generosity lays the foundation for lasting change. These donors are visionaries whose contributions help ensure the long-term success and sustainability of our mission. By joining this tier, supporters become part of the organization’s enduring story — their legacy woven into the future they help build. Your support of \$6,000 or more will help fund technology for our cadets in the classroom and facilities to ensure the best learning environment.

Founder's Circle

A contribution of \$1,965

The “Founder’s Circle” recognizes those who are dedicated donors whose generosity provides critical support for building and strengthening our mission. Their contributions help fund scholarships for cadets so we can expand our reach and assist those cadets with dreams and aspirations of attending a service academy, a great college and one day possibly even serving their country.

Champion

A contribution of \$600

The “Champion” donors are the heart of our campaign — individuals who believe in our mission and want to be part of creating real change. Every contribution at this level helps fuel daily operations in the classroom and in the barracks. The small but powerful steps that lead to lasting impact for our cadets!.

Contact: Development Department, Ester Reyes reyes@mma-tx.org

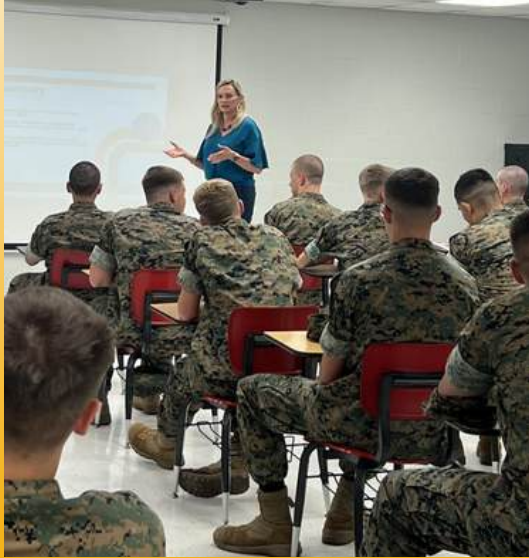
COLLEGE CORNER

WITH
MRS.
RODRIGUEZ

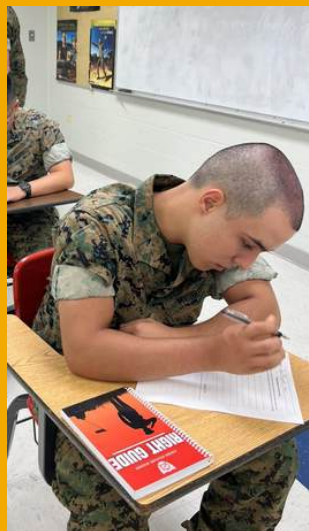


Mrs. Carmina Rodriguez
956-421-9216
crodriguez@mma-tx.org

JUNIORS AND SENIORS WASTE NO TIME, COLLEGE PLANNING UNDERWAY



Our juniors and seniors met with Mrs. Rodriguez, College Placement Counselor, to learn more about the options they have after graduating from MMA. The opportunities are endless for our boys here at Marine Military Academy Preparatory School, no doubt! Our cadets started their College Readiness portfolios before their first day of school by working diligently on their College Aspirations Questionnaires, listening, and taking notes about all the great things happening in their very own college room. Their toolboxes are ready to be filled with all they need to be successful when applying to their universities of choice.



Stop by and see your College Readiness Counselor for
important information and updates!

IMPORTANT DATES FOR SAT & ACT EXAMS

Nov 24 - Late Registration for the Dec 13 ACT Exam

Nov 25 - Late Registration for Dec 6 SAT

Dec 6 - SAT Exam

Dec 13 - ACT Exam

Jan 4 - ACT Registration Deadline for Feb 14

Jan 23 - Late Registration for the Feb 14 ACT Exam

Feb 14 - ACT Exam

Feb 27 - SAT Registration Deadline for Mar 14

Mar 3 - Late Registration for SAT Mar 14

Mar 6 - ACT Registration Deadline for Apr 11

Mar 14 - SAT Exam

Mar 24 - Late Registration for the Apr 11 ACT Exam

April 11 - ACT Exam

Apr 17 - SAT Registration Deadline for May 2

April 21 - Late Registration for SAT May 2

May 2 - SAT Exam

SUMMER CAMP 2025

MMA WELCOMES SUMMER CAMPERS FOR A SUMMER OF CHALLENGE AND GROWTH



MMA welcomed over 300 young men from across the country—and around the globe—as its highly anticipated summer camp kicked off in July.

Designed for boys ages 11 to 18, the four-week program promises a transformative experience grounded in discipline, leadership, and physical endurance.

From the moment campers arrive, the tone is set. Campers and families meet their drill instructors and camp instructors, give one last hug and say good-bye. Haircuts are issued, uniforms are donned, and days quickly take on a military-style rhythm filled with structure and intensity.

First day to the last, we enjoy every minute with our campers and look forward to seeing their growth!



CAMPERS WORK HARD,

CAMPERS MEET CHALLENGES STRAIGHT IN THE FACE;

MMA welcomed over 300 young men from across the country—and around the globe—as its highly anticipated summer camp kicked off in July. Designed for boys ages 11 to 18, the four-week program is a transformative process grounded in discipline, leadership, and physical endurance. The program is operated by retired U.S. Marines and seasoned athletic coaches, many of whom bring decades of experience in mentoring and leadership development.



Each day begins early with physical training and is filled with a variety of activities that test both body and mind. Campers participate in different challenges, including rappelling, obstacle courses, rifle range practice, team sports, paintball, and leadership exercises.

In addition to core programming, the academy also offers specialized flight training for aspiring aviators.

BREAK OWN BARRIERS

OVERCOME AND CONQUER PERSONAL OBSTACLES



The campers learn a variety of life skills and overcome some of their own individual fears, break their own barriers and raise their own bars. In addition, they learn how to work with one another, leadership, team work and the value your work brings to a group setting.



From the high ropes challenge course to high ropes, rifle range and skeet shooting, these campers experienced challenges like never before. Campers learn some amazing skills they will take with them for many of life's challenges. Camp activities are built to create strong young men - both mentally and physically!



SUN SETS ON SUMMER CAMP

FAMILIES CELEBRATE REUNITING AND GRADUATION

The summer camp experience culminates with a family day, family mixer and graduation parade. Attended by hundreds of family members and supporters, campers are delighted to reunite with their families and friends. Campers march in their well rehearsed formation, receive awards for achievement and improvement, and reflect on the personal growth they've experienced throughout the month.

While some campers come seeking adventure, others are drawn to the values MMA instills: accountability, structure, resilience, and integrity.

Many return summer after summer, and some even return to enroll for the school year.

As the 2025 summer camp concludes, one thing is clear: MMA is not just building stronger boys—it's shaping future leaders.



CAMP WEEK

LEADERSHIP, FOOTBALL AND BAND CADETS RETURN FOR CAMPS



With every successful school year comes preparation. This year is no different. We are on the track for success and our leadership, football and band cadets rose to the challenges to start their school year preparations early. These cadets joined us a week before the school year began to get ahead, learn and practice for their upcoming respective responsibilities and seasons. We look forward to seeing the amazing things these focused cadets will accomplish!



FALL REGISTRATION WELCOMES NEW FAMILIES

WELCOMING NEW YOUNG MEN AND THEIR FAMILIES TO THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR.

Every fall our doors open to a fresh new year. It is an exciting feeling to welcome our returning cadets, but it is most exhilarating to welcome new young men and their families to the Academy.

Registration day was a time for families to meet with directors, teachers, drill instructors and coaches. Meanwhile, our new young men were unpacking, getting haircuts and receiving their uniforms.

We look forward to seeing these fresh new faces join our battalion!



BACK TO SCHOOL

All lined up in their uniforms, proudly standing together as a battalion, listening to the encouraging words of our leadership. Our cadets are carrying one important tool today...their backpacks!

As we welcome a new school year, we give our greatest support to our young men in the classroom! As they dedicate themselves to their studies, we encourage all of our cadets to think about their futures. While some plan for service academies, others have plans of attending business school or medical school. From Advanced Placement courses to Dual Enrollment through Tarleton University our cadets have all the options to build and continue a successful path. Whatever the path they choose, they took the best first step right here in the classroom halls of MMA!

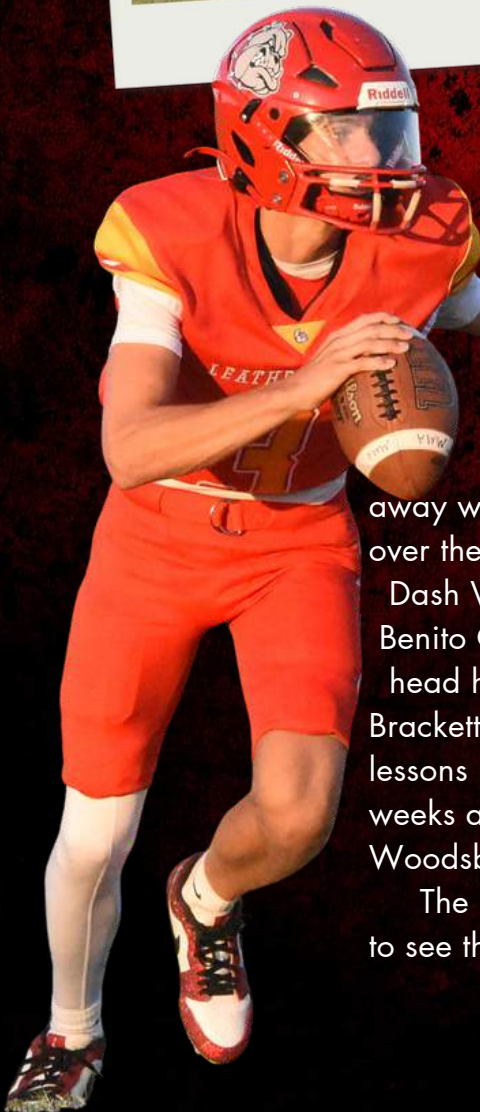




MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY

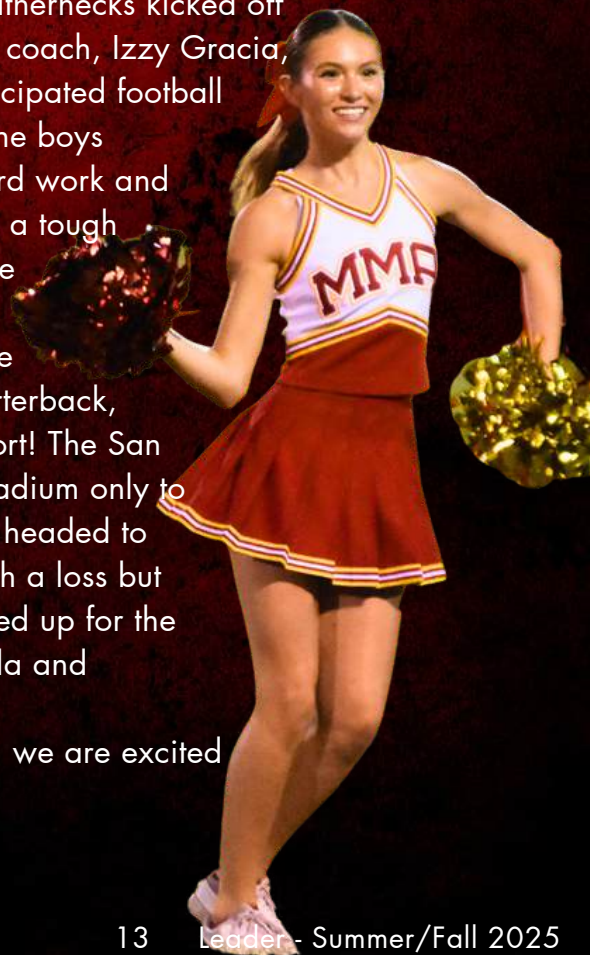
LEATHERNECKS *ATHLETICS*

THE LEATHERNECKS KICK OFF A NEW SEASON **TEAM WELCOMES NEW HEAD COACH, IZZY GRACIA, TO THE ACADEMY**



Friday nights just got better as the Leathernecks kicked off the 2025 football season! New head coach, Izzy Gracia, started the season with the much anticipated football camp before the start of school. The boys responded well putting in hard work and preparing themselves for a tough schedule ahead. The Leathernecks ran away with a convincing win in their first game over the Progreso Red Ants 33-0! Senior quarterback, Dash Varner led the team in a true team effort! The San Benito Greyhounds took a trip to Bowman stadium only to head home with a loss. As the Leathernecks headed to Brackettville for game three, they returned with a loss but lessons learned. They took that loss and geared up for the weeks ahead against San Antonio JFK, La Villa and Woodsboro.

The Leathernecks are off to a hot start and we are excited to see them make a playoff run!





MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY

LEATHERNECKS *ATHLETICS*

MIDDLE SCHOOL TAKES ON NEW SPORT IN 2025

FLAG FOOTBALL BEGINS TO TAKE SHAPE AT MMA



The Leathernecks middle school sports have a new gig...flag football!

Coach Sosa and the boys have been working hard to get ready for the season! The local league, consisting of Jubilee and IDEA middle schools, has a great showing and our boys are ready to compete!



TENNIS IS EAGER AND GEARING UP FOR A GREAT SEASON

A RETURN TO THE STATE TOURNAMENT IS ON THEIR MIND



The tennis team is back at work and ready to defend their state titles! With eyes on a return to state, this team has been on the courts, tuning up, perfecting their practice and getting ready for their first tournament. We wish them all the best this season!



CROSS COUNTRY GOING THE DISTANCE

RUNNERS MAKING A STATEMENT AT LOCAL MEETS, EYES ON STATE PRIZE



The Leathernecks are running wild in cross country! Their hard work and dedication in practice is showing its proof at local meets. Coach Williams has been helping prepare the boys, not only for local meets, but for the big prize...state! Best of luck, team!

PLEBE GRADUATION

Our newest cadets to join the Corps of Cadets graduated on September 4 from their plebe status and training. We could not be prouder of the hard work and dedication these young men have committed to and shown as they now join their battalion as new cadets. We wish them and their families all the best!



ALUMNI *Spotlight*



Our recent alumni are doing some amazing things! Patrick Omev, Class of 2024, is really thriving at the Naval Academy! Recent graduates, Scott Ford and Magnus Velez, find themselves at the Merchant Marine Academy this year and already excelling among their peers! We love to hear how our alumni thrive after life at MMA!



Unforgettable

PARENTS WEEKEND

FESTIVITIES KICK OFF WITH A SOUTH TEXAS BONFIRE, PARENTS DAY AND FOOTBALL GAME WRAP



The Homecoming bonfire is a long-standing tradition that unites cadets, families, and staff in a fun celebration of school spirit and camaraderie. Held each fall during Parents Weekend, the bonfire serves as both a rally for the big game and a symbolic event opening the anticipated Parents Weekend.

The next morning, parents and families are invited to tour the school, meet with teachers and drill instructors and even attend a college fair where plans for their future begin to take shape.

By nightfall, the much anticipated Homecoming football game is all the buzz! All the Leathernecks fan spirit fills the air and everyone enjoys a South Texas football game before the big Birthday Ball the next day.





60th Anniversary Birthday Ball

ACADEMY CELEBRATES THE SCHOOL'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY;
FAMILIES ENJOY ANNUAL BIRTHDAY BALL, GUEST SPEAKER



The Marine Military Academy Birthday Ball is one of the most cherished and formal traditions of the academy, this year celebrating the 60th anniversary of the academy and the 250th birthday of the United States Marine Corps. The event mirrors the customs of the official Marine Corps Birthday Ball, honoring the Corps' proud history, values, and legacy of service. The traditional cake cutting is always a proud moment sharing cake and smiles amongst the oldest and youngest cadets in the battalion.



Beyond its elegance, the Birthday Ball serves as a powerful reminder of the honor, courage, and commitment that define every Marine and cadet in the room. It strengthens spirit within the academy and instills pride in the Marine tradition that inspires the MMA's mission of developing tomorrow's leaders. Parents and families enjoy spectating the traditions and enjoy a dinner and dance with their cadet.



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you'd like to
advertise?**

**We know our MMA family is
filled with amazing people
who own some fantastic
businesses!**

*Email us today for more information
on how to get a paid advertisement
in the next edition of the Leader!*

*Julie Fonseca, Director of Marketing
fonseca@mma-tx.org*



**We would LOVE to
share your business
with other MMA
supporters!**



**WISHING OUR
MMA FAMILIES A**

Joyous

**HOLIDAY
SEASON!**



Save the Date
60TH Anniversary
ALUMNI
Weekend



APRIL 17-19, 2026
South Padre Island



*Scan to make your
reservations here*

Giving Donations

May 30, 2025 - October 21, 2025

Memorials

Maj John H. Austin, USMC (Ret)

Mary J. Austin

Brent Ervin

Sgt David Fuller, USMC (Ret) – 9th Marines RVN

Capt James H. Garbrick, USMC (Ret)

Col Donald Higginbotham, USMCR (Ret) "Don"

Maj Edward T. McGee, USMCR (Ret)

Thomas G. Ringer - MMA '92

Sgt John Haddock Stevenson, IV, USMC

SSgt Dennis Studenny – 5th Marines, RVN

SSgt Edward L. Walsh "Knobby",

USMC – 7th Marines, Korea

Ron Whitacre

In Honor of

LtCol Thomas J. Duff, USMC - MMA '00



LEADER

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MAGAZINE STAFF

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IMPORTANT DATES

NOVEMBER

08	SAT Exam (hosted by MMA).....	0800
11	Veterans Day Parade.....	1600
21	Begin Thanksgiving Break.....	depart after 1200
30	Cadets return from Thanksgiving Break.....	return by 1800

DECEMBER

01	All classes resume	
06	SAT Exam (hosted by MMA).....	0800
16-19	2nd Quarter Exams	
19	Begin Christmas Break.....	depart after 1200

JANUARY

15	Drill Instructors Return from Break.....	return by 1200
16	Cadet Instructors Return from Break.....	return by 1200
17	Registration / Check In for New Cadets.....	0800-1200
18	Check In for Returning Cadets.....	return by 1800
19-20	Teacher Inservice Days	
21	Spring Semester Classes Begin	

FEBRUARY

13	First Semester Awards/ NHS/NJHS Fall Induction.....	1330
14	ACT Exam (hosted by MMA).....	0800
14	Plebe Graduation.....	0830
19	Iwo Jima Parade.....	1600

MARCH

10-13	3rd Quarter Exams	
13	Spring Break Begins.....	depart after 1200
22	Return from Spring Break.....	return by 1800

APRIL

8	H.M. Smith Dinner.....	1800
10-11	Family Weekend	
17-18	Alumni Reunion	
17	Alumni Parade.....	0900
23	Financial Aid for Contracts Deadline	
30	Spring Skills Camp	

MAY

1-3	Spring Skills Camp cont.	
1	Deadline for Re-Enrollment 2026-27	
2	SAT Exam (hosted by MMA).....	0800
4-15	AP Exams Window	
16, 18-20	4th Quarter Exams	
20	Uniform Turn In	
21	Rehearsals	
22	Graduation Parade.....	0900
22	Spring Second Semester Awards.....	1330
22	Senior Reception	
23	Graduation.....	1000



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