

Oasis Middle School activates Civil Air Patrol unit

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A special ceremony was held at Oasis Middle School Thursday afternoon in the cafeteria to activate their United States Civil Air Patrol unit, which is the second military education program offered for middle and high school students.

Civil Air Patrol's Florida Wing Group 5 Commander, Lt. Col. Fran Gleockler gave a presentation during the ceremony Thursday afternoon for 68 cadets.

She shared the Civil Air Patrol's four core values with the students as they stood in formation before her.

The first core value she explained was "integrity first, integrity always."

"It is doing what's right even if no one is doing it," she said. "It is your most valuable asset...no one can take that away from you."

The next core value she introduced to

the cadets was about service. She told them that they should provide "service before yourself" to their community, school and country.

"Excellence in all we do" was the next core value Gleockler shared with the cadets. She said that excellence should not be applied in just what we have to do, but rather in everything we do.

"Do the best you can in everything," Gleockler said, adding that is all anyone can ask for.

Respect was the last core value she shared with the cadets during the ceremony.

"You follow that," she said about the four core values "and I don't see how you can go wrong."

Gleockler went on to encourage the cadets to try their hardest in reaching higher ranks.

"We will encourage you and assist you in meeting your next achievement," she said.

The program, which is directed towards men and women who are between the ages of 12 and 21 years old, was introduced to the students at Oasis Middle School and Oasis High School on Nov. 15, 2010 after Lt. Col James Speith and Chief Master Sgt. Johnnie Royal decided to start the new cadet squadron.

Royal is the squadron's commander.

"I am happy," Royal said about the ceremony that activated the cadet program at Oasis. "I wanted to teach kids...I am living a dream. I am living through them."

Royal was a part of the Air Force for 22 years before he retired eight years ago.

The cadets will be exposed to leadership skills through Leadership laboratory and moral leadership that will introduce them to contemporary issues. Basic emergency services will also be introduced through training of ground search, radio operations, incident man-

agement and many more.

They are also introduced to the basics of flying an aircraft with opportunities to fly the Civil Air Patrol aircraft and the Experimental Aircraft Association's aircraft as Eagles.

Sophomore Emily Schwarck, who is the cadet commander, said she became interested in Civil Air Patrol because of her future plans of attending the United States Air Force Academy.

When asked what Schwarck was most excited about she said she is "looking forward to getting my pilot license."

It is all about starting "those classes and getting up in the air" that encouraged Schwarck to become a cadet of the Civil Air Patrol at Oasis High School.

"Civil Air Patrol is a great program," she said. "I can see the future and it's looking great."

In 1948, Civil Air Patrol was made into the volunteer civilian auxiliary of the US Air Force.