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Contact: Whei Wong
Communications
303.853.1049
wongw@mapleton.us

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Mapleton Public Schools Air Force JROTC earns fitness accolades

(Thornton/Denver) – Countless numbers of sit-ups, push-ups and laps around the track paid off for Mapleton Public School’s Air Force Junior ROTC cadets when they took home the second place trophy at the 2011 Sand Creek High School Physical Fitness Challenge in Colorado Springs.

Six of Mapleton’s cadets participated in the annual fitness competition sponsored by the Colorado Springs Air Force JROTC on Saturday, Nov. 12, 2011. The cadets competed against five other Air Force JROTC Units from around the state and one Army JROTC unit.

“For a second-year program this is huge,” said Aerospace Science Instructor, Senior Master Sgt. Jerry Archuleta. “Some of the schools we were competing against have very well established programs. It’s done so much for the morale of our cadets.” With only six cadets in the competition, Mapleton’s unit was also the smallest. SMSgt Archuleta remarked that it teaches not only the competing students, but all of Mapleton’s cadets and the entire student body about the importance of physical training for both physical and mental health.

Mapleton introduced the Air Force JROTC program in the 2010-11 school year, attracting more than 70 students to the program each semester. Students learn about aerospace education, leadership education and physical training.

To train for the competition, several cadets, including Cadet Airman Navil Perez and Cadet Airman Oscar Juarez, both sophomores at York International School started jogging to their Air Force JROTC meetings at the Skyview Campus instead of taking the bus. Juarez had the fastest shuttle run at 8.96 seconds, and Cadet Staff Sergeant Emilio Perez logged a 6-minute mile.

“It was exciting,” said Perez. “We went in as the underdog and came out successful. It’s so cool to know that we brought the first trophy home to our new JROTC program. That moment is going to stay with us for a long time.”

About Mapleton Public Schools

Mapleton Public Schools covers 25 square miles in North Denver/Adams County. We serve nearly 8,000 students in suburban, rural, and light industrial communities. We are committed to raising expectations by providing choices for learning and removing obstacles for all students so that we can guarantee that each student "achieves his or her dreams and enthusiastically contributes to his or her community and world." Visit www.mapleton.us to learn more about Mapleton Public Schools.

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