

April is the Month of the Military Child, and we join school districts across the globe in celebrating the contributions of our military students!

Fortunately, there's a very easy way you can join us as well. All you have to do is wear purple on April 14th as we #PurpleUp and show our support. We hope you'll encourage your friends, family, employees, coworkers and neighbors to join us in this celebration because it would be FANTASTIC for our military students to be surrounded by purple all day on April 14th. Purple was the color selected for this celebration on the national level because it's the color you get when you blend all of the colors from all branches of the military ... just in case you're curious about the genesis of this celebration.

While we have Military Family Life Counselors at many of our schools to help students transition into our schools, we know that our military students do face extra challenges as their parents deploy for extended periods of time. We also know it can be tough to keep starting over at new schools, with new friends, and we understand that our military children serve too, just like their parents!

Military children often experience frequent moves, long separations from their parents, and the stress and uncertainty of deployment. They may have to say goodbye to close friends and familiar places, and adjust to new schools and communities. These experiences can be difficult and disruptive, but military children learn to adapt quickly and develop a sense of independence and self-reliance that can serve them well throughout their lives.

Despite the challenges they face, military children are a source of inspiration and pride for their families and their country. They embody the spirit of service and sacrifice that is at the heart of the military community, and they remind us of the importance of supporting and honoring our military families.

This is also an appropriate time to mention how grateful we are for our wonderful relationship with our local military community. We sincerely appreciate the partnership we have with both local bases, and we're grateful for those who sacrifice so much to serve our country.

So, it's a lot of fun to celebrate them throughout the month, and here are just a few of the recognitions we have planned:

1. You'll notice purple flags flying out front of our main office, 1311 Balboa Ave., throughout the month in honor of our military children.
2. Each school has nominated one very special military student for recognition, with his/her parents, on the morning announcements. We think it's important for ALL students to realize that we have military children in our schools who may face different and unique challenges.
3. Each school-based recognition includes an awesome "swag bag" from our generous sponsors. Gulf Coast State College, Panhandle Pediatric Dentistry and Sweet Frogs on

23rd Street have sponsored these bags, which include custom purple tumblers, candy, gift cards from Sweet Frogs and other goodies.

4. On April 11, members of the leadership teams from Tyndall Air Force Base and Naval Support Activity-Panama City will gather at our School Board meeting for the annual reading of the Month of the Military Child resolution and some special presentations.
5. On April 14th, we're all things purple in our schools as we #PurpleUp. Our FB page will be open for the community to post photos of support on that day, and we can't wait to see all of your families sporting purple and supporting our military.

We are a very military-friendly community, and we appreciate your continued support of all of our initiatives and particularly this one.

Stay safe and God Bless!



Purple Up Day is April 14th!

A day to honor military
children from all branches
of the military.

