The Dante Mattioni Division (DMD-043) U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps (USNSCC) program is sponsored by the Maritime Academy Charter High School. The unprecedented success of the program at the Maritime High School has led to the creation of the Naval League Cadet Corps program at the Maritime Middle School. We currently have 12 students now participating as cadets in our high school. The USNSCC is a national youth leadership development organization that promotes interest and skill in naval disciplines while instilling strong moral character and life skills through leadership and technical programs modeled after the Navy’s professional development system. Students are also taught self-discipline, patriotism, physical training, with an emphasis on academic excellence, high self-esteem, and personal achievement.

Cadets meet four hours a week, two hours on Tuesday and two hours on Thursday from 3pm to 5pm. Cadets complete courses in Basic Military Requirements (BMR) and training that is similar to what recruits learn in US Navy boot camp. High school Sea Cadets are eligible for a boating certificate which allows them to legally operate a watercraft in Pennsylvania. The Naval Sea Cadets help with school-wide blood drives, and maintain a neighborhood veteran’s park throughout the year, because community service is a priority for these young men and women; the concept of giving back is ingrained early in their upbringing. The Sea Cadet Honor Guard is often deployed to special school and community events, such as school graduation ceremonies and other maritime functions. All Sea Cadets must attend a two-week Naval Sea Cadet Boot Camp within their first year in the program where they will learn more about Navy life, culture, history, survival swimming, close order drill, and military etiquette. Cadets frequently train with our local Coast Guard units.
The Sea Cadets of the Dante Mattioni Division are looking forward to an excellent year! They will begin the year with a trip to the Coast Guard Cutter “William Tate” in Philadelphia. They will conduct an overnight joint drill weekend in October with the USS NJ Sea Cadet Division on board the Battleship NJ. There will be more trips, guest speakers and events on our schedule soon.

MACS and the USCG signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement on October 8, 2019. We are the first school in the country offered this extraordinary opportunity. They will mentor our students and our Sea Cadets can enter the USCG with an automatic upgrade, in addition to a $5,000 signing bonus. Captains Walsh and Anderson were both present for the MOU signing ceremony. We also had our Sea Shanty chorus present to sing the “Semper Paratus” theme song of the USCG. We are very hopeful that our students take advantage of this opportunity.
One of our graduated seniors, Lucas Santos, who became our first chief, will be attending Coast Guard boot camp in October! Cadet Skylar Hazelwood is attending the Valley Forge Military Academy. Our top cadets are also honored each quarter as one is selected for the sailor of the quarter.
We were able to hold our annual bench-a-thon fundraiser this past May after waiting two years! It was a great success as we raised over five thousand dollars for our Sea Cadets and other school functions.
Our program is run by Dave Hentnick, a retired Coast Guard Chief and the maritime studies teacher at the high school. His staff consists of school staff and include Mrs. Gayot as the executive officer. Mr. Wilson is the assistant training officer and the principal, Mrs. Karnes is the attendance coordinator and operations officer. Chief Peitsinovski is our training officer and civics teacher and we are proud to have Mr. James Washington back in the program as our primary operations officer.