

West High AFJROTC students volunteer at food pantry



Ten West Aurora students celebrated Veterans Day Wednesday, Nov. 11, by volunteering at Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry in Aurora.

The students are members of West's Air Force Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps unit IL-20141. Msgt. Scott Hellinger, aerospace science instructor, led the delegation.

The Aurora-based pantry held a morning drive-thru food distribution for veterans and their families. The event opened with posting of the colors by West's AFJROTC color guard.

West's AFJROTC unit comprises 168 students, including 68 in a drill team. Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps is subdivision of Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, a junior military science elective class that is offered in many high schools.

West's unit won the Distinguished Unit Award with Merit for the 2019-20 school year. The award recognizes AFJROTC units that have performed above and beyond normal expectations and have distinguished themselves through outstanding service to their school and community, while meeting the AFJROTC citizenship development mission for America. This recognition placed West's program in the top 10 percent of units nationwide.

PHOTO: West Aurora High Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps students volunteer at Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry on Wednesday, Veterans Day. (Al Benson photo)