



## AIR FORCE JROTC, PA-20101

Pine-Richland High School  
700 Warrendale Rd  
Gibsonia, PA 15044  
724-625-4444



Dear Parents/Guardians,

We welcome your child to the high school next school year and would like to introduce you to Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC), listed in your child's Program of Studies. Mars, in an agreement with Pine Richland, will collaborate JROTC classes— we are a world-class program designed for character development, discipline, integrity, service before self, and excellence in all we do. It is all about life skills.

Designed to help students become better citizens, we offer opportunities for community service and leadership. **JROTC does not recruit for the services and students do not incur any military service obligation.** Actually, less than 4% of the 125,000 AF JROTC cadets, world-wide, enter the military upon graduation. AF JROTC offers opportunities such as:

- 1) Leadership skills providing students an edge as they enter college and/or career experiences beyond high school. Universities and employers seek students with the ability to be independent thinkers and have strong leadership proficiencies.
- 2) For those students that may have an interest in joining the military, enrolling in AFJROTC offers them an opportunity for higher rank, once they enlist, or if continuing on to college, there are ROTC scholarships and/or service academy nominations, if they qualify.

AFJROTC cadets will engage in the course; *Exploring Space: The High Frontier and Life Skills & Career Opportunities* during the 2019-2020 school year. After-school activities consist of drill, volleyball, rocketry, color guard, and orienteering. Cadets travel to other schools to compete in sports and drill competitions. There are opportunities for field trips to the Pentagon, Cedar Point, Jamestown, and Yorktown. Monthly socials include bon fires, holiday parties, ice skating, movies, and more. Cadets have additional *voluntary* opportunities to participate in local color guard events (Steelers, University of Pittsburgh and Penguins games and Veterans' events), community service events, world famous Air Force C-130 aircraft flight, and an 14-day summer trip to England, France, Belgium, and Germany planned for June/July. We also offer a 1-week premiere leadership camp in the summer at Concord University in West Virginia.

If you would like more information, please contact Major Morrison or Chief Gasparetto at 724-625-4444 Ext 1543, stop by Room 55 in the PR high school, or email us at the addresses included below. Guidance Counselors can also offer direction. Thank you and given the opportunity, it would be an honor to be involved in your child's high school education.

Air Force has evaluated JROTC at Pine Richland and have awarded the highest rating possible: Exceeds Standards both times. Come be a part of an outstanding group of cadets!

Sincerely,

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# Why Enroll in JROTC?

- ✓ To appreciate the ethical values and principles that underlie good citizenship.
- ✓ To develop leadership potential, while working cooperatively with others.
- ✓ To be able to think logically and to communicate effectively with others, both orally and in writing.
- ✓ To appreciate the importance of physical fitness in maintaining good health.
- ✓ To understand the importance of high school graduation for a successful future, and learn about college and other advanced educational and employment opportunities.
- ✓ To develop mental management abilities.

PINE-RICHLAND



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## Busting JROTC Myths

The Truth about JROTC

# MYTHBUSTERS

### **What does JROTC stand for?**

JROTC stands for Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps. It is a military regulated high school program whose purpose is to educate high school students in leadership roles while making them aware of the benefits of citizenship. The mission of JROTC is to motivate young people to become better American citizens.

**By enrolling in JROTC, are you joining the military?** No. Students who enroll in JROTC don't join the military. They take a JROTC class for which they receive credit.

**Will my son/daughter have to serve in the military if they join high school JROTC?** No. There is no commitment to serve in the armed forces if a student goes through the high school JROTC program.

**Does the JROTC program recruit for the Armed Forces?** NO! We do not recruit for the Armed Forces. Less than 4% of the 121,000+ High School JROTC students enlist in the military after graduation; most enroll in college. However, some of our students do elect to join one of the military services. If they do join, they enter the service with an accelerated promotion which means an immediate pay raise.

### **Who teaches the students?**

JROTC instructors are retired from active military service. They are certified to teach JROTC in accordance with published standards from each of the military services (Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force).

### **Is JROTC like boot camp?**

No. The JROTC course is a leadership and character education program that does not rely on harsh discipline techniques like a boot camp.

### **If the mission of JROTC is to "motivate young people to be better citizens," how do you accomplish this mission?**

By instilling discipline, respect for self and authority, accepting responsibility, being accountable for their actions, and learning to work as part of a team.

**What can students expect to learn by taking JROTC?** Leadership, Citizenship, Organizational Skills, Self Discipline, Drug & Alcohol Abuse, Team Building Skills, Leadership Ethics, Respect/Courtesy, Punctuality/Grooming, Methods of Instruction, Physical Fitness, Computer Skills, Managing Peer Pressure, Stress Management, Map Reading, Orienteering, Service Learning, Economics, Overcoming Adversity, Military

History, Personal Finance, Character Values, Personal Fitness, Test Preparation, CPR & First Aid, Self Confidence, Self Esteem.

### **What do I get out of taking JROTC?**

*Life skills!* The development of your personal potential, the enhanced ability to communicate with others, the knowledge and ability to coordinate varied activities, the focused skills to plan, organize and lead group activities and the knowledge and skills to motivate and bring a team together will give the student a distinct advantage in college and beyond. Every student is capable of doing well in this program if they simply cooperate, follow instructions, pay attention in class, read the material, and study a little.

### **What Academic Credit do you get for being in JROTC?**

For every year in the program, students will receive 1 full elective credit towards meeting graduation requirements.

**What makes JROTC different from other classes?** Students in JROTC learn through a unique program that involves both classroom and "live" situations. For instance, a JROTC cadet might be found leading classmates in and outside the classroom.

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# MYTHBUSTERS

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**How much does JROTC cost?** Uniforms and training materials are provided by the program, as are the buses that transport cadets to competitions or trips. Cadets are expected to pay for dry cleaning their uniforms. Cadets are expected to pay for their own meals at competitions or on trips. Summer camp is voluntary, selection is limited, and cadets pay to attend. An annual JROTC Ball is held with family members paying to attend; costs vary from year to year for this event.

**Why do the students conduct drill or march?** JROTC uses drill and ceremonies as a well defined, relatively easy to master training tool. This tool is used to teach and develop teamwork, leadership, instructional skills, attention to detail, bearing, respect for authority and for others, responsibility, and endurance.

**Are students required to wear a uniform?** Yes. After earning a uniform in the beginning of their first year, cadets are required to wear the JROTC uniform once a week on uniform day. The uniform is provided by the Air Force and is custom-fitted to each cadet. The uniform consists of a pair of trousers, shoes (must be shined), black socks, shirt, lightweight jacket, service coat, blue belt and buckle, a flight cap, and a number of other uniform pieces that make the uniform complete. Cadets earn their rank and awards to put on their uniforms. It is considered an honor to wear the uniform and cadets wear it with pride. Members of JROTC teams may wear the uniform more often for events and competitions. Second year and above cadets are allowed to wear the ABU (Airman Battle Uniform) uniform as a reward for remaining in the program.

**Why do the students wear the uniform?** Students wear the uniform to put all cadets on the same level. Any additions to the uniform are ranks and awards that are earned by the individual cadet. They are earned for application of positive traits and principles that will serve you and your community well in the future. These are not given on the basis of wealth or any such issue. Remember, many citizens wear uniforms: McDonalds, Post Office, Police Officers, UPS, etc.

**Are both girls and boys enrolled in JROTC?** Yes. All leadership positions are available to both equally.

**Are there special rules students are required to follow?** Yes, although not to the extreme. There are, however, regulations about the personal appearance of cadets, wearing of the uniform, and even how to address the other military personnel and cadets. For example, males are not permitted to wear an earring(s) in the classroom, and females are only allowed one pair of earrings, one earring in each ear. On uniform day, males must have their hair not exceed past the ears, lengthwise, and female cadets must have their hair no longer than the bottom of the collar.

**What kind of recognition can I get by participating in the program?** There are many awards that cadets can earn for participation and achievement in the program. The school gives some, but others can be awarded by local military organizations such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Military Order of Purple Heart, and the Daughters of the American Revolution. These are just a few of the organizations that give awards. All awards have certain criteria, but are open to all who achieve those criteria. Involvement, good leadership traits, and being an active participant of the program are the main requirements.

**What about the leadership training?** In JROTC, being a leader means first being a follower. The curriculum teaches all aspects of being a good follower and being a good leader. Cadets must learn and understand the leadership traits of a good leader. The program encourages practical application in other school activities as well as in JROTC.

**How can I enroll in the program?** If you want to be in the program, it is as simple as letting your counselor know you want to be in the program. Any student can start JROTC in high school. Eighth grade students are able to sign up when scheduling their ninth grade high school classes. Current high school students are able to sign up when scheduling their sophomore, junior, and/or senior year classes.

## Bonus Opportunities

- Drill Team
- Color Guard
- Fall Bonfire
- C130 Flight
- Dodge Ball
- Veterans Day Activities
- Flight Simulators
- Holiday Party
- Drill Competitions
- Cedar Point Trip
- Senior Pentagon Trip
- JROTC Awards Banquet/Ball
- Pool Party
- Memorial Day Activities
- MCOLS Summer Session

