



ST. AUGUSTINE HIGH SCHOOL
Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps
3205 Varella Avenue
Saint Augustine, FL 32084



Dear Parent/Guardian,

We want to take this opportunity, whether you are a returning or new cadet, to welcome you all to the "Jacket Battalion." We are Chief Warrant Officer Five Christopher Braund and Sergeant Major Coy Wyche, your Senior Army Instructor and Army Instructor, respectively. We have a combined 40+ years of military experience in the Army and six years in teaching JROTC. We take this work very seriously and view this as an excellent opportunity to serve this community by coaching, teaching, and mentoring our nation's most valuable resource, your son or daughter.

The JROTC program is an elective course offering leadership, education, and physical training to high school students through four academic years. This program prepares high school cadets for responsible leadership roles while making them aware of their rights, responsibilities, privileges, and rewarding opportunities, which will benefit the cadet, the community, and the nation. Although the US Army sponsors the JROTC program, students are not in the Army and incur no obligation with any branch of service. The mission of the JROTC program is one of the Army's contributions to assisting America's youth in being better citizens. To accomplish this mission, the program of instruction provides education in citizenship, leadership, life success, geography, and wellness to help cadets succeed in high school and after graduation. Our JROTC program is progressive, with increasing responsibility and expectations as cadets move from one Leadership, Education, and Training (LET) level to another. Satisfactory program completion can lead to advanced placement credit in the Senior ROTC program or advanced rank in the Armed Forces. Additionally, our program has maintained its Honor Unit with Distinction, allowing us to nominate up to three qualified cadets to any of the military academies.

New this year is the Cadet's ability to receive college credit. Junior and Senior cadets (regardless of LET level) with a 3.0 or greater GPA can enroll in Dual Enrollment college classes through Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University free of charge. Upon completion, cadets will receive three elective credits per course toward their future college plans. The courses are taught by CW5 Braund (a credentialed ERAU instructor). The current offerings are Aviation History in American and United States Military History, 1900-Present Day. Only JROTC Cadets enrolled in the St. Johns County School District are offered this opportunity.

Also, new this year are certain uniform requirements. We are no longer wearing JROTC specific physical training uniforms. Starting this school year, 23-24, ALL JROTC cadets must have the St. Augustine High School physical education shirt and shorts. This uniform can be purchased through the physical education department. This will count as the JROTC physical fitness uniform to eliminate the requirement for multiple physical fitness uniform purchases.

This letter emphasizes some requirements a student must fulfill to succeed in JROTC. We ask you to review these requirements, discuss them with your student and agree to support him or her in meeting them. Foremost, students must have a robust and sincere desire to be part of the JROTC program. This is not simply a course for credit; it entails much more than classroom work. Yet, it is entirely voluntary, requiring more self-discipline, respect for authority, and personal accountability than any other program a student will encounter in high school. Cadets must

complete certain course requirements in addition to normal classroom standard curriculum instruction. Examples of these are:

- Parades
- Community Service Projects
- Weekly Uniform Inspections
- Weekly Physical Training
- JROTC Cadet Challenge Physical Fitness Test

The JROTC program is conducted militarily. Cadets are organized into units (squads, platoons, companies, and a battalion) and must follow military instructors' and cadet leaders' directions. Cadets are assigned to leadership positions where they must develop strong judgment and responsibility. Cadets must demonstrate that they are good followers before being chosen to be leaders. Self-control, discipline, and cooperation are central to advancement in our program.

JROTC's personal appearance standards are high and necessary for success in the program. In addition to uniform wear policies, the following standards must be met continually:

(Note: These are subject to change according to published Army and Cadet Command Regulations.)

- Male haircuts will be neat, evenly tapered, not touching the collar or extending over the headgear.
- Male cadets may not wear beards or earrings while in uniform
- Male cadets may not wear braids, cornrows, ties, or dreadlocks in uniform.
- Fad haircuts or hair coloring, which violates social norms, will not be permitted for males or females while in uniform
- When in uniform, female cadets may wear only simple, studded earrings. Additionally, female cadet fingernails will not exceed 1/8 inch in length nor be painted in colors or with designs that attract attention or can be interpreted as faddish
- No JROTC student will be permitted to wear nose rings, tongue rings, or jewelry objects which disfigure the cadet's appearance while in uniform.
- On designated uniform day (Wed), unless specified by the cadre. Cadets will wear the prescribed uniform the entire day except when individually excused by a military instructor.

We encourage parents/guardians to get involved for our program to succeed. The Army pays for our uniforms and most of our equipment; however, the Army does not cover the cost of extra-curricular programs, transportation, events, and many other activities that make JROTC a more rewarding experience for the cadets. For this, each cadet has fair share dues in the amount of \$50.00. This money helps to provide those items to our cadets. Additionally, the dues will cover the cost of a unit polo shirt and a ticket to the Cadet Ball. These due will be collected via School Pay.

We feel genuinely blessed to be working with the young men and women of St. Augustine High School. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns. Email addresses are listed below.

COY WYCHE
SGM (R)
Army Instructor

Sincerely,
CHRISTOPHER J. BRAUND
CW5 (R)
Senior Army Instructor

Email addresses:

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