

## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

This information has been prepared to summarize for you the Grady High School JROTC Program. It outlines the objectives of the program, offers a brief history, provides general information on subjects that will be taught, and explains what your child will be doing in the JROTC Program.

It should be clearly understood that the JROTC Program is not designed to prepare students for active military service or the reserves. Our prime interest in this subject area is to develop in your child self-discipline, a sense of responsibility, leadership ability, and an understanding and appreciation of good citizenship.

We believe that communication with parents is of vital importance to the success of our program. We solicit your participation in any of our activities as we find that the cadets are greatly encouraged when parents take an active interest in their development as leaders and responsible people. Your visit to the school JROTC department would be welcomed, and if you wish to telephone the school department or the JROTC Headquarters to discuss your child's progress or any other matter related to the program, your inquiry would be heartily received.

Becoming a JROTC cadet is an important step in your son or daughter's progress toward adulthood and maturity. As instructors, we intend to make the experience both meaningful and a lasting one by using the full range of our knowledge, extensive training and know-how. We want to assure you that we share your primary concern that your child's education must be placed at the top of the priority list and must remain there. JROTC subject matter may be learned and mastered only through the conscientious efforts of the students themselves. We ask that you allow us to share with you the effort to help them be all that they can be.

### BENEFITS OF THE JUNIOR ROTC PROGRAM

In this turbulent Twentieth Century where graduates of every American high school emerge into a world which possesses the power to destroy itself, the preservation of America depends more than ever upon the strength and character of those who come forth to lead her. History teaches that we have no permanent lease on freedom...it must be renewed by each generation.

The immense privilege to mature under our great educational system carries with it an obligation to share in the preservation of that system and all that is basic to it. America's potential, and the place of the United States in the world of tomorrow, depends upon the readiness of our young people to assume the mantle of leadership.

Junior ROTC offers a special opportunity to combine training in citizenship and leadership with academic preparation for the future. Your child, through close contact with retired officers and noncommissioned officers of the Army, will gain much worthwhile information: first, to learn the mission and the organization of the Army and

its all-important role in the defense of our great nation; second to learn basic leadership principles...knowledge of one's job, of one's cadets, and of one's self; third, to learn to take orders as well as give them – this is self-discipline and is one of the most important factors in building character and leadership; fourth, to learn to accept the responsibility not only for one's own actions but also the actions of those under one's guidance; and finally, to learn how to be dependable - to be where you are supposed to be when you are supposed to be there, and to do what you are required to do when you are required to do it. The development of the traits of a good citizen and leader are designed to assist the cadet at home, at school, in church, at work, or while participating in community activities.

The importance of Junior ROTC training in the development of leaders is meaningfully clarified when one accepts the idea that to become a conscientious and effective leader tomorrow, one must start planning today.

Please understand that we are not trying to make a soldier of your child. Junior ROTC training would indeed help should the cadet enter the service, either through recognized leadership talents and basic knowledge on active duty, or through immediate advancement in rank and pay in the active Army or the Reserve. However, that training will be of material benefit even if your child never has any further connection with the military. In the marketplace, your child may learn how to "manage" - which is good. But in Junior ROTC they learn how to lead, an ability that takes them several steps further than management.

Coordination with parents is of the utmost importance if we are to understand cadets' problems and help guide them. Please call the Junior ROTC Department at school, or Junior ROTC Headquarters, if the need arises, and drop by for a visit at your convenience.

## WHAT IS JUNIOR ROTC?

The Reserve Officer's Training Corps is mandated by Congress, and organized under the authority of the National Defense Act of 1916. The program is sponsored by the United States Army and consists of three levels or types of instruction: the Senior Division, the Military Schools Division, and the Junior Division.

Title 10, United States Code, Section 2031, provides for leadership instruction and training of physically fit male and female students at educational institutions meeting certain conditions mutually agreed to by the institution and the United States Army. The date of establishment of the Grady High School JROTC program is 1947, although Grady's JROTC lineage is actually much older, as Grady High School was the former Boys High School, where the first JROTC unit in Atlanta was established in 1918.

## VALUES OF JUNIOR ROTC

In addition to helping develop a set of values not oriented exclusively toward the individual, there are other tangible benefits to be derived from participation in the program.

- In the event of enlisting in the active military service or a reserve component, the cadet may enter with an advanced grade.
- In the event of entry into the Army Senior ROTC Program at college, credit for one or two years of college level ROTC may be given.
- In the event a cadet desires to obtain a Four-Year Army ROTC Scholarship, the record of a Junior ROTC cadet may enhance the chances of appointment.
- Three cadet graduates from each Honor JROTC Unit may be nominated as candidates for appointment to the United States Military Academy.

## DESIRED LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Appreciation of the ethical values and principles that underlie good citizenship which include integrity, responsibility and respect for constituted authority.
- Development of leadership potential with the abilities to live and work cooperatively with others.
- Ability to think logically and to communicate effectively both orally and in writing.
- Appreciation of the importance of physical fitness in maintaining good health.
- Knowledge of the effects and dangers of substance abuse, ways to resist pressures to try drugs and how to help others to avoid them.
- Development of mental management abilities including goal setting, visualization and positive self talk.
- Familiarity with the history, purpose and structure of the military services with emphasis on the accomplishments of the United States Army.
- Knowledge of educational and vocational opportunities and the development of basic skills necessary to work effectively as a member of a military or civilian team.
- Understanding of the importance of high school graduation to a successful future.

## WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

Enrollment in the Junior ROTC Program requires that certain conditions be met as in any other type of program. A student formally enrolled in the Junior ROTC Program must be:

- A citizen of the United States.
- In a grade above the 8th grade during the year of enrollment.
- Physically able to participate in the physical education program of the school.
- Acceptable to the institution as a regularly enrolled student of the ninth, tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade.

A student who has a record of conviction by a civil court or by any type of court-martial, for other than a minor traffic violation, is not eligible for enrollment in the JROTC

Program unless a waiver is granted. The student may submit a request for waiver of conviction by a civil or military court when the offense is nonrecurring, provided such request is accompanied by a recommendation from the Senior Army Instructor that a waiver is granted. Each request for waiver must contain an affidavit setting forth the circumstances surrounding the conviction(s) reported and must include a statement to the effect that the applicant has not been convicted of any violation other than those reported.

In regard to physical fitness, a "Statement of Health" is required to be on file in the JROTC Department. This form is given to the cadet at the beginning of the school year to be taken home for the parent/guardian signature. It must be signed and immediately returned to the JROTC Department. The statement is quoted for your information: "To the best of my knowledge, the cadet named on the reverse of this form is in good health mentally and physically, under no medication, and in good physical condition sufficient to enable him/her to participate in JROTC activities, such as those described above. Should illness or disability manifest itself, during his/her period of enrollment, I agree to notify JROTC officials at the school."

The cadet will also receive a Clothing and Individual Equipment Record form. This form is used to account and track items such as Uniform, Uniform accessories, textbooks, and other controllable items. It is important that the cadet maintain these items in proper condition and safe guard them from loss or theft. There is no cost for these items unless they are destroyed or lost.

Students failing to meet the enrollment prerequisites, as stated above, may participate in JROTC training under the following conditions:

- Non-citizens who intend to become citizens and present evidence of such intent to the SAI.
- Non-citizens, who do not intend to become citizens, whose governments are recognized by the United States and the national interests of which are compatible with those of the United States, and the non-citizen presents to the SAI a statement from the appropriate representative of his/her government stating there is no objection to the student receiving JROTC training.

JROTC Courses must be taken sequentially, that is a student must complete LET-1 prior to enrolling in LET-2, LET-2 prior to enrolling in LET-3, etc.

JROTC is an approved vocational course of study. Students must complete a minimum of three units. JROTC is also an approved elective for college bound and general studies students. One year of JROTC may be substituted for Computer technology, Fine Arts or Physical Education, at the discretion of the Board of Education.

LET-4 cadets in the JROTC Programs of conventional 4-Year Schedules and LET-7/8 cadets in 4X4 Block Schedule JROTC Programs are appointed to significant leadership positions within the unit. They must have demonstrated exemplary citizenship and

leadership abilities. The Senior Instructor and Principal must approve the enrollment of these cadets.

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We have major activities in which your student will have an opportunity to participate. These are the Drill Team, the Rifle Team, the Raiders and the Color Guard.

These teams are highly competitive. Since spaces are limited, all cadets who try out will not make the teams but may be kept as alternates and may prepare themselves for the next year's teams. All of our teams have won many trophies and individual honors in local and out-of-town competition.

Drill and marksmanship are excellent means of teaching teamwork and attention to orders and developing self-control, concentration, and a competitive spirit.

Our color guards perform at athletic events, school assemblies, and other occasions in support of government and patriotic activities.

## DISCIPLINE

In the training of the students, their leaders will insist on perfection in what may seem to be minor details (cleanliness, haircuts, shoeshine, marching, wearing of uniform). Performance will be expected to be of the highest standards, both on and off the school grounds, and they will be expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner which will reflect credit upon you, themselves, and the school.

When necessary, the following means will be employed to enforce discipline:

- Demerits.
- Reduction in rank and/or reassignment to a position involving less responsibility.
- Reduction in academic grade.
- Suspension or dismissal from the JROTC unit, school, or both (by the principal of the school concerned).

Types of offenses for which demerits may be given include:

- Serious misconduct, such as cheating, cutting class.
- Insubordination, direct disobedience.
- Unexcused absence from JROTC training.
- Uniform not worn when required.
- Uniform worn improperly.
- Deliberate or careless abuse of government or school property.
- Using profane or obscene language.
- Fail to observe military courtesy.
- Need of haircut or shave.
- Late to class, unexcused.

- Eating or chewing gum during instruction.
- Wearing of improper earrings.
- Inattention or indifference.
- Moving or talking in class or in ranks.
- Failure to follow instructions.
- Failure to read bulletin board.
- Hands in pockets.

When a cadet repeatedly commits one of the offenses listed above, additional demerits may be given for that offense at the discretion of the instructor or SAI.

The JROTC staff may award merits for outstanding efficiency, exceptional performance of duty or other noteworthy achievement. Merits are normally used to cancel demerits on a basis of one merit for one demerit.

## CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

Each cadet is issued U.S. Government-owned clothing, equipment and books varying in cost, according to the cadet's rank. All these items must be returned at the end of the school year or at any time a cadet, for whatever reason, is dropped from enrollment. Items not returned must be paid for in accordance with the current Department of the Army price guide.

JROTC uniforms, equipment and texts used by cadets in JROTC are the property of the United States Government loaned under bond to the Board of Education. All items issued to cadets must be returned. There is no cost for most items of equipment unless damages or losses occur.

Uniforms will require dry cleaning, laundering, or minor repair such as replacements of buttons. This is the cadet's responsibility. You can be of great assistance by helping to prepare the uniform for wear, or by supervising the preparation. Ordinarily, the uniform will be worn at least one day per week (normally on Monday), but the cadet will know the schedule. Please discuss this matter with your child, and please see that time is allowed for cleaning and repair so that the uniform is ready to wear at all times.

An effort will be made to select uniforms to fit the cadet. Minor alterations in the fitting of the uniform which may be required are the cadet's responsibility, such as shortening or lengthening trousers, slacks or coat sleeve, and these are the only alterations authorized to be made by the cadet. To reduce cost, this is usually done at home. If major alterations are required, an instructor will have it done, when possible.

Each cadet is required to wear black, plain toe shoes, with the uniform, which initially are furnished by the Army to first-year cadets or to cadets participating in certain other activities such as drill team or color guard. Boots and socks may also be issued. Some cadets don't like the uniform. They may not like any of several things about it... a necktie;

a hat; plain toe, black shoes; or sometimes they simply don't like being told what they must wear. Please encourage your child to wear the uniform when required to do so.

One condition, which is not a part of the uniform but which seriously affects appearance, is the state of the cadet's hair. We do not require a "crewcut," but we do expect that hair be "out of the eyes" and neatly trimmed around the sides and neck. The hairstyle or cut does not allow the hair to extend below the bottom edge of the collar when they are in uniform. It also must not interfere with the wearing of the headgear.

Members of drill teams and color guards are issued a demilitarized (no firing pin, bolt welded shut, and barrel plugged) M-1903 rifle that will remain in the arms room when not being used for drill. There is no firing pin in this rifle and no ammunition can be inserted in the weapon. We have no ammunition for this weapon. Cadets may fire an air rifle in their marksmanship training. All rifles are properly secured and controlled by the SAI/AI. When used by the cadets, they are closely supervised and monitored by the SAI/AI.

We ask you to help your child understand the importance of a neat appearance, the proper wearing of the JROTC uniform, and the importance of safeguarding items issued to him/her.

## AWARDS

Awards are given annually to individual cadets and units excelling in areas of JROTC achievement and extracurricular activities. These awards are in the form of medals, ribbons, sabers, trophies, plaques, streamers and certificates. They are awarded for excellence in patriotism, citizenship, drill, marksmanship, neatness and accomplishments over and above what is normally expected of a cadet of his or her age, rank and responsibility.

Some of the activities that cadets may compete and earn awards are:

- Academic achievements
- Scholastic achievements
- Merit achievements
- Extracurricular activities
- Drill competition
- Competitive marksmanship
- School and Community Services
- Empty Stocking Fund Drive
- Veterans Day Parade