



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps
Tupelo High School
4125 GOLDEN WAVE DRIVE
Tupelo, Mississippi 38801



THS-JROTC

24 April 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR JROTC CADETS AND PARENTS

SUBJECT: Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp Welcome Letter

1. I would like to welcome you to the Tupelo High School Army Junior Reserve Officer Corps (JROTC). Welcome to the “WAVE BATTALION”!
2. We’re excited to launch the new school session with our 3d year of JROTC at THS. We are motivated about student cadets working hard and diligently seeking character development, while ensuring cadets enjoy an atmosphere of learning, citizenship, leadership, and safety.
3. In this program we pride ourselves in achieving a high standard of excellence. The Tupelo High School Wave Battalion will be one of the most successful JROTC units in the State of Mississippi. The high standards, combined with the outstanding performances expected of our cadets, will consistently earn us the highest honor that a JROTC unit can earn- “Honor Unit with Distinction.” Our mission is “to motivate young people to be better citizens.” We do this by using sound teaching techniques, skills, and leadership experience to teach self-discipline, confidence, teamwork, responsibility, accountability and pride in a job well done.
4. Patriotism. We believe that it's very important for all participating cadets, and their parents, to understand that we are a patriotic program. We do not consider it our place to become involved in issues of political or social strife. We lead cadets to value and appreciate the freedom that comes with being a citizen of the United States of America. We will respect all Cadets’ rights! We perform the Pledge of Allegiance (ref CCR 145-2) before every class. Cadets will also learn proper courtesy and customs of U.S. flag care, and other patriotic traditions. Cadets who are a part of our program will be required to participate in these activities. Students who choose to protest the American flag or other social issues have the option to do so, but not as a member of this program. JROTC is a voluntary elective, therefore if a student’s values will not allow participation in patriotic venues, or if they will be offended by them, this is clearly not the best program for you. I urge all readers to know this is delivered with a spirit of grace, and not to be argumentative. I will not engage in debate with any student or parent regarding this subject. These are the pillars of this program that will continue. We simply want everyone to understand these guidelines before making a further commitment to this program.
5. UNIFORM: In the future, every cadet will be issued a full military cadet uniform. Our goal is to have a uniform for every cadet issued to them as soon as possible. We will do our best to outfit every cadet in a timely manner, but there will be rare occasions where we do not have the proper size stocked or available for supply. On those rare occasions, we will attempt to offer alternatives for cadets that will be communicated individually.
 - a. In the program, each cadet is responsible for keeping the uniform clean, neat, and pressed. The proper wear and care of the uniform is taught by the instructor team. They must also keep up with every item they receive; this responsibility is part of the learning process.
 - b. Most items are wash and wear, however the **dress blue coat and slacks must be dry cleaned.** **If uniform items are lost or damaged due to neglect, the cadet/parent will be held liable for replacement.** This could cost up to \$700.00 for all the uniforms. Uniform days will be announced well in advance; therefore, allowing cadets ample time to prepare (normally Wednesday). Students are required to return all (unless otherwise specified) pieces of the uniform if they leave the program. They will be charged for any pieces they cannot provide to turn in.

c. If needed, we may use an alternate uniform for the first several weeks of the school year. The alternate uniform may consist of a dri-fit type collared shirt (determined by Instructors), khaki pants with belt, and closed-toed shoes. Wear of this uniform incorporates the same grooming standards that are upheld with the military uniform to include haircuts and shaving for boys, and bunned hair with conservative earrings for girls. Fingernails will be clean and neatly trimmed, not longer (above ¼ inch from tip of the finger is a safe length) or faddish natural or fake nails. Standard Uniform and Appearance will be IAW U.S. Army Cadet Command, CCR 145-2 and 670-1.

d. All cadets are required to wear a belt with the shirt neatly tucked into the khaki pants. **The cost of the program shirt is approximately \$25-50,** which may be collected during the first two weeks of school so we may order the shirts as soon as possible. We will be spending a great deal of time during the first few weeks of school teaching cadets the proper standards of professional grooming, and a business casual presentation.

Inspections are a vital part of our program to promote personal pride, self-confidence, responsibility, and teamwork.

NOTE: Parents, please understand that preparation of the uniform (including planning to wear on the correct day) is a vital support pillar to the overall curriculum of this program. It teaches cadets a wide variety of skills ranging from attention to detail, responsibility, self-awareness, and accountability. I ask parents to be supportive of this ideal and know that failure to be in proper uniform and wear it correctly is a “non-negotiable” aspect of this program. Failure of students to comply with uniform and military appearance standards is graded comparable to what one might expect from a bi-weekly exam in a chemistry or other fundamental course. Though we are an elective course, our mission to enhance citizenship values hinges on students being held responsible for actions both good or bad.

6. APPEARANCE: One of the highest standards we uphold is appearance, not only in our classes but also outside the JROTC class. All cadets will adhere to the THS dress code when not in JROTC uniform and will adhere to the JROTC Regulation when in uniform. In accordance with our regulatory guidance set by the U.S. Army Cadet Command, CCR 145-2, Chapter 11.

a. Hair standards: Hair Styles. Many hairstyles are acceptable if they are neat and conservative. Hair will be neatly groomed. The length and bulk of hair will not be excessive or present a ragged, unkempt, or extreme appearance. Hair will not fall over the eyebrows or extend below the bottom edge of the collar. Lines or designs will not be cut into the hair or scalp. If dyes, tints, or bleach are used, colors used must be natural to human hair and not present an extreme appearance. Applied hair colors which are prohibited include, but are not limited to, purple, blue, pink, green, orange, bright (fire-engine) red, and fluorescent or neon colors. It is the responsibility of instructors to use good judgment in determining if applied colors are acceptable, based upon the overall effect on Cadets’ appearance. (Ref CCR 145-2). If you have any questions regarding these standards please call or E-mail an instructor.

(1) Males. The sideburns will be neatly trimmed. The base will not be flared and will be a clean-shaven, horizontal line. Sideburns will not extend below the lowest part of the exterior ear opening. The face will be clean-shaven, except for permitted mustaches. Males are not authorized to wear braids, cornrows, or dreadlocks (unkempt, twisted, matted, individual parts of hair) while in uniform. Hair that is clipped closely or shaved to the scalp is authorized.

c. Female cadets must wear their hair neatly in a tight bun on uniform wear days. Hairstyles will not interfere with proper wearing of military headgear. Hair holding ornaments (barrettes, pins, clips), if used, must be transparent or similar in color to hair, and will be inconspicuously placed. Beads or similar ornamental items are not authorized. Females may wear braids and cornrows as long as the braided style is conservative, and the braids and cornrows lie snugly on the head. Hair will not fall over the eyebrows or extend below the bottom edge of the collar at any time during normal activity or when standing in formation. Long hair that falls naturally below the bottom edge of the collar, to include braids, will be neatly and inconspicuously fastened or pinned, so that no free-hanging hair is visible.

d. Fingernails. Cadets will keep their fingernails clean and neatly trimmed so as not to interfere with performance of duty. Females may wear polish that is not exaggerated, faddish, or of extreme coloring (such as purple, gold, blue or white) while in uniform. (¼ length from the end of the finger is a safe length)

7. JROTC Teams: In addition to classroom time, JROTC also offers various teams that cadets may strive to be a part of. Our various teams compete against JROTC cadets from other locations just like any you might see in another sport or activity team format. While we encourage all cadets to join our teams, we require cadets to earn their spot on our teams.

In other words, cadets must demonstrate commitment and skills necessary to be a contributing member of the team. Below is a list of team opportunities that will be available in the future:

a. Precision Drill Team – This team represents the Battalion by competing at precision drill meets throughout the State. The drill teams are graded at each competition for precision, synchronization and accuracy of movement during drill and ceremonies. Every cadet will have the opportunity to earn a spot on the drill team, but it is not guaranteed. The precision drill season primarily covers the fall semester and into the early spring with a state championship event.

b. Raider Team - The team builds expertise in orienteering, map reading, first aid, and physical fitness excellence. The main challenge is individual achievements when cadets participate in a very rigorous training program demonstrating mental, physical, and emotional toughness toward earning the coveted title of JROTC “Raider”. This team practices very strenuous physical fitness and mental toughness tasks. Although any cadet is welcome to try, this team activity does require a very high level of physical fitness excellence, mental toughness, and a detail-oriented aptitude. Cadets who are interested in joining the raider program will undergo a “Raider Candidate” program until earning their spot as a qualified “Raider”. Questions regarding the Raider program may be directed to COL Johnson.

c. Physical Training Team – The physical training team focuses entirely on achieving an advanced degree of physical fitness. Cadets participating with this team must prepare themselves to be pushed well beyond their comfort level of fitness. All cadets are invited, welcomed, and encouraged to try out for the Physical Training Team. However, not everyone will become a member of the Team.

(1). The PT team then competes in periodic competitions across the state throughout the school year. The PT Team season will begin practice late in the Fall semester preparing for competition season in the spring.

d. Cross Country Team-- The battalion may offer a JROTC cross country team. The entire focus of this team will be to build cardiovascular endurance through distance running. In order for members to make the cross-country team, they must demonstrate the ability to safely run a distance of 2+ miles under the supervision of an instructor without stopping to walk.

e. As a rule, our extracurricular activities meet at least once a week immediately following school and last until approximately 4:00 p.m. on the scheduled day/s. Most weeks will involve two after school practices; Tuesday and Thursday. Parents please make arrangements to pick up their student after the practice and/or and competition is complete. The afternoon practice will be seasonal and not for all cadets.

(1). As the program grows, another competitive activity such as the Air Rifle will be added.

8. FEES and FUNDRAISERS: While we intend to minimize fee collection, there are some inherent costs associated with the various activities within JROTC. With Administration approval we will attempt an annual fundraiser. Funds raised from these events go towards the Military Ball, an annual Field Day, special equipment, and event fees for the Drill, PT, Cross County, Marksmanship, and Raider teams. Cadets who actively and successfully participate in fundraising activities will also earn a fundraiser ribbon for their uniform. Specific details will be sent out once fundraising begins.

a. We try our best to keep fees to a minimum, however, we do have a few expenses that must be met during the first month of the school year. We ask for the following fee from all participating cadets:

(1). \$25-50 (estimated cost) = program dri-fit shirt (Note: If a cadet still has their shirt from the previous year, and if it fits well and is in good condition, it is not necessary to purchase a new one). This will be good for 2 years, if in good condition.

9. PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH CREDIT: Students are allowed to use JROTC as a PE & Health Credit. If a student is not able to participate in any strenuous activities, a written note from a Physician must be provided.

a. Each cadet is required to conduct a form of Physical Training (PT) one-two days most every week. Initially PT will be led by instructors/guest then led by cadet leadership and supervised by the instructor staff. ALL JROTC cadets are required to have a set of exercise clothing that is in compliance with school dress code (Army Physical Fitness Uniform) is preferred. Students will not be graded on how physically fit they are. However it is our goal to help improve the physical health of all cadets. Rather, they will receive physical training grades based on their level of participation, and

their being prepared with exercise clothing. Our physical fitness program is designed to teach cadets the value of keeping their bodies healthy, as well as giving their best at anything they do, and being prepared for tasks they face. This rule is not set for the purpose of being “hard” on cadets; this is yet another means for instilling responsibility for actions in all cadets.

10. PARENT INVOLVEMENT: Over the course of the school year there will be competitive events with other schools. We highly encourage parents to attend these events in support of your cadet. As essentially stated earlier, parents are responsible for picking up/providing transportation home after practices and/or competitions.

a. We plan to host a parent night each year. We will work to keep parents informed as to what is taking place within the program with the student cadet. In addition, due to all the physical activities involved, Please ensure your student/cadet is covered by medical insurance in case of an accident. Also each cadet must fill out the Tupelo High School Tupelo Middle School Athletic Try-out waiver and return to their instructor

11. COVID-19 past experience: As a parent myself, I understand the concerns that many parents have with regards to the COVID-19 pandemic and variants. Rest assured that the top priority of our instructor team is to create a safe learning environment for every student. Our team is committed to upholding the standards and risk mitigation activities set forth by THS and the School district. Our instruction delivery, and extra curricular activities will be conducted with the safety of students and instructors alike as a top priority.

a. Keeping that idea in mind, we ask for the support of parents and cadets alike; along with flexibility to change in all circumstances. We are confident that this is going to be a great year and that all cadets will grow as citizen leaders!

12. Finally, a great myth to our program is that students are placed on some sort of pathway to serve in the military. Service recruiters are afforded by law specific contact information for Juniors and Seniors unless the parent or student elects to not share that specific contact information. All JROTC programs are led by retired service members devoted to teaching values of citizenship. The mission statement of JROTC is “To motivate young people to be better citizens.” I urge all parents and cadets to embrace that mission statement.

13. There is NO military obligation for any JROTC Cadet, nor is there any cost for books or uniforms, within a fully funded program. On behalf of the JROTC Instruction team we look forward to a great year for the THS Army JROTC program and we thank you in advance for your cooperation and great support. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at the email address below:

Colonel(Ret) Roger D. Johnson: rdjohnson@tupeloschools.com. Or SFC (Ret) MacArthur Hilbert: mhilbert@tupeloschools.com

ROGER D. JOHNSON
COLONEL, (RET)
Senior Army Instructor, THS

Enrollment Requirements

a. Cadet/student administration in JROTC must be consistent with the principles contained in AR 145-2.

To be eligible for enrollment and continuance as a member of the JROTC unit, each Cadet/student must meet the following requirements:

(1) Education: The Cadet/student must be enrolled in:

(a) Full-time regular course at an institution offering JROTC instruction, or

(b) Cadet Distance Learning Program. The number of Cadets enrolled in the Cadet Distance Learning Program will not exceed 2% of the unit. For additional information, refer to the following website: <https://www.usarmyjrotc.com/library>.

(2) Grade: The student must be in eighth grade or above during the school year of enrollment.

(3) Academic standing: The student must maintain an acceptable standard of academic achievement and standing as required by JROTC and the school.

(4) Conduct and character: Cadets must maintain an acceptable standard of conduct. Cadets in leadership positions are expected to demonstrate high personal standards to set the example. Instructors may remove Cadets who fail to meet standards from leadership positions.

(5) Physical condition: The student must be able to participate in the physical education program in the school. Students enrolled in an adaptive physical education program may participate. However, the school will provide any special equipment or additional instructors that may be needed to instruct these students at no cost to the government. The school must also work with the instructor to ensure these students do not disrupt the presentation of the JROTC curriculum.

(6) JROTC Uniform: The Cadet must agree to wear the Army JROTC uniform IAW school/district policy.

(7) Automated record: The unit will maintain an automated record for each Cadet in the JROTC Unit Management System (JUMS) and archive it for a period of five years after leaving the program.

(8) Instructors may enroll students previously denied enrollment or disenrolled from JROTC, if the student corrected the problems or deficiencies that previously caused non-acceptance or disenrollment, as long as they otherwise qualify.

Disenrollment

a. All Cadet disenrollments require school administration approval. SAIs will consider disenrollment in the following situations when a Cadet:

(1) Withdraws from school.

(2) Demonstrates a lack of desire for citizenship and leadership training indicated by an unwillingness to participate in instruction or follow procedures.

Examples include:

(a) Frequent absences or persistent tardiness from class or drill.

(b) Accumulation of a large number of demerits or other documented measurements.

(c) An established pattern of shirking responsibility or other similar acts.

(d) Refuses to wear the required uniform IAW school/district policy.

(3) Fails to keep an acceptable standard of academic achievement, conduct, appearance, or attendance.

(4) Exhibits undesirable character traits, such as:

(a) Lying, cheating, stealing or hazing.

(b) Unauthorized possession or use of illegal drugs or substances.

(c) Conviction or adjudication as a juvenile offender for committing an offense that could lead to imprisonment.

(d) Frequent incidents of a discreditable nature with civil or school authorities or other similar acts.

(5) Fails to maintain the requirement for enrollment IAW paragraph 7-2.

(6) Exhibits continued disruptive behavior.

b. The SAI or AI must document any offenses via written counseling. Written documentation is essential prior to disenrolling a Cadet from the JROTC Program.

JROTC BASE-LINE OPERATING PROCEDURES

EXPECTATIONS AND CONDUCT IN AND OUT OF CLASSROOM:

- Cadets will follow all rules and regulations set forth by Cadet Command and Tupelo Public School District.
- Cadets will be on time for all classes and events.
- Cadets will address instructors by rank and last name.
- Cadets will adhere to all uniform wear and grooming standards and maintain appearance and bearing standards.
- Cadets are respectful to other Cadets, Instructors and Teachers, with yes or no Ma'am/sir.
- Cadets will adhere to & respect the Cadet Chain of Command within the program and Cadet Company/Battalion.
- Cadets will start each class standing behind their desk and in accordance with Instructor directives.
- Cadets will raise their hand to be addressed by the Instructor.
- Cadets' cell phones are not allowed in the classroom, unless approved by the instructor. (Place in box)
- Cadets will be responsible and accountable for their actions.
- Cadets will participate in all activities assigned! This includes classroom, practice, and competition.
- Classroom is a professional space and not a basketball court; you will quietly take your trash to the trash can.
- Cadets are not allowed food, drinks or to chew gum in class without instructor permission.
- LEAD, FOLLOW OR GET OUT OF THE WAY (Others want to learn!)

UNIFORM WEAR:

- **UNIFORM INSPECTION DAY IS WEDNESDAY OF EACH WEEK. (subject to change)**
- The uniform is always worn to show your pride in yourself and the Wave Battalion; to wear the uniform inappropriately is disrespect to all who have ever worn the uniform.
- Uniform wear is a requirement for JROTC, wear it correctly all day.
- Do not wear rank or awards that have not been awarded to you by an instructor.
- Cadets will coordinate with the Instructor for Make-Up day if Uniform Day is missed for any reason.

Cadets will have a "0" in gradebook until made up!

- Male hair will not touch the collar or ears; Male/Female hair must be natural color; female hair can touch the shoulders or be worn in a bun at the back of the head. (see photos in initial information briefing)
- Earrings are not permitted when wearing the Army Combat Uniform (Raider/Drill/Color Guard Teams) and Fitness Uniform or fitness days due to SAFETY Reasons.
- Only females may wear earrings with the Army Service Uniform (ASU); only Stud earrings will be worn no bigger than a ¼ inch; only one earring per ear may be worn; cartilage, facial or tongue piercings are not permitted at all under any circumstances; Males will not wear earrings while in ANY uniform.

**** In accordance with Cadet Command Regulation, students that fail to wear the uniform during the semester, cannot take JROTC Courses for a specified period by the school Senior Army Instructor.**

WEAR AND CARE FOR UNIFORM:

- **DO NOT PUT DRESS BLACK JACKET OR BLUE DRESS PANTS IN THE WASHING MACHINE.**
- Above items may be dry cleaned. Once issued, JROTC will not pay for alterations of any kind.
- Once issued and accepted the uniform and accessories become the responsibility of the cadet for wear, security and cleaning. We expect Cadets to be responsible!

PHYSICAL TRAINING:

- All Cadets are required to participate in Physical Training (PT). Students with medical conditions which preclude them from physical activity should not take this course.

Cadet Name (Print)

Parent/Guardian Name (Print)

Signature

Signature

We have read and understand the contents of the TUPELO HIGH SCHOOL- JROTC Welcome letter that explains the base requirements of the THS JROTC program. By signing this, I am acknowledging my student will adhere to all the JROTC program guidelines and requirements. (Please sign appropriate blanks below and return to the instructors NLT 15 May 24).

Parent Signature

Cadet(Student) Signature

Print Name

Print Name

Date

Date