**AIR FORCE JROTC**

**Pottstown High School**

(610) 858-3173

Dear Parent/Guardian August 2018

 Please allow me to introduce the Air Force Junior ROTC program at Pottstown High School. During the school year, we receive many calls from parents, guardians, and friends, asking about JROTC and expressing an interest in the program. Allow me to make two things crystal clear: 1) We are happy to field those calls and answer any questions you may have, and 2) There is **no military obligation** associated with participation in this program.

 Basically, Air Force Junior ROTC is an elective course designed to acquaint high school students with the aerospace age in which they live, while helping to develop them into informed young people. We teach them to work together as a team toward common goals, while expecting them to take responsibility for their own actions. Most importantly, we try to help students find a feeling of self-worth, by teaching them not only how to follow directions as part of a group, but also how to lead that group. These skills, we hope, will benefit them for the rest of their lives.

 Our goals are to teach and foster proven principles of integrity, honesty, loyalty, teamwork and leadership, through the Air Force Core Values; Integrity First, Service before self, and Excellence in all we do.

 We treat each student as a young adult, addressing them as "mister" or "miss." We make it clear at the beginning of each year that individuals are responsible for everything they do, and will be held accountable for their actions both in and out of the classroom.

 We teach students everything from the ground up relating to aerospace, such as how aircraft were designed, built and perfected. We cover the history of mankind's efforts against unbelievable odds to succeed in flight, and discuss spin-off discoveries in medicine and technology developed as a result of those efforts.

 We touch on weather, astronomy, and even a little geography as it relates to this course. We recognize that knowledge is only as useful to a person as his or her ability to express it, and we attempt to influence student's speech toward proper American English usage. Our course fosters teamwork through the use of drill and ceremony. We promote a feeling of belonging by providing a uniform that students wear to school 1 day a week. We promote respect for authority by awarding promotions within the unit as rewards for initiative and accomplishment.

 As a student advances within the unit, he or she is given increased authority and responsibility. In turn, that student also has someone to whom he or she is ultimately responsible. We stress the importance of self-improvement and higher education and try to develop in students the desire to excel and want to be better than they ever thought they could be.

 We also sponsor class trips to places such as the Smithsonian Institute, Gettysburg National Military Park, and military bases to help students experience the world beyond their block or school. We plan orientation flights on Air Force and civilian aircraft, usually the highlights of the school year. Those flights provide a “bird’s eye view” at the world of aerospace.

 As mentioned above, AFJROTC cadets are issued an Air Force uniform to wear during the school year. Students must wear the uniform at least 1 day a week on the designated uniform day. With certain exceptions, the AFJROTC uniform is the same uniform worn by active duty personnel. The reputation of the USAF is known worldwide and has no equal. The uniform is a visible symbol of that reputation. Students should wear their uniform correctly and with pride! **Uniform wear and proper grooming (in accordance with the Cadet Guide) are required to receive a passing grade. Failure to comply will result in disenrollment.** Students must return their uniform cleaned and pressed at the end of the year. The cost to replace a uniform is approximately $300 if a student loses or damages it.

 So, this is a quick look at Air Force Junior ROTC. JROTC is a 1 through 4-year program with a multitude of follow-on scholarship programs available. Although your son/daughter doesn’t incur any military obligation by taking AFJROTC, there are several tangible benefits if a JROTC student chooses to enter military service after high school. We can ensure that he or she starts out with an increased grade/rank and more money because of what they've experienced and learned in Junior ROTC at Pottstown Senior High. We look forward to another very successful year.

 We ask that parents/guardians sign and return the Cadet Contract/Wellness Permission Form we give each student on entry into the program. This acknowledges that they are familiar with the requirements of the AFJROTC program. The Cadet Contract is a graded assignment, so it should be returned as soon as possible, but no later than the date stipulated on the contract.

 We look forward to a productive and fun-filled year.

Very Respectfully,

**James C. Porter**

JAMES C. PORTER, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)

Senior Aerospace Science Instructor