

FL-035 AFJROTC at Satellite High School - FACT SHEET

*To Develop Citizens of Character Dedicated
To Serving Our Nation and Community*



WHAT IS AFJROTC? The Air Force Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps, or AFJROTC program, includes full credit courses which provide interesting classroom instruction combined with the opportunity to serve the school and community, participate in extracurricular activities, enjoy active social programs, and have the opportunity for early leadership responsibilities. For students desiring to do so, AFJROTC may be substituted for PE courses..

WHAT EXACTLY IS TAUGHT IN CLASS? The material covered in AFJROTC varies throughout the year, with short segments in a variety of topics related to leadership, the armed forces and the nation. Each year is divided into two categories: academics and leadership. Academic studies include aviation history, aerospace science, global studies, astronomy, space, and optional studies. Leadership studies include Air Force customs and courtesies, cadet corps activities, life skills, communication skills, and leadership and management studies. Instruction also includes one day of drill and ceremonies and one day of physical training per week.

WILL I BE IN THE ARMED FORCES OR WILL I HAVE TO JOIN THE SERVICE? **Absolutely not.** There is no obligation of any kind. For those that are interested, there are some very real benefits.

WHAT ABOUT THE INSTRUCTORS? ARE THEY IN THE ARMED FORCES? No. AFJROTC instructors are retired military officers and non-commissioned officers. They are high school faculty members and employees of the Southside Independent School District like all other teachers. Instructors are certified by the U.S. Air Force to teach AFJROTC courses only.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE COST? Course materials, uniforms, supplies, equipment, and most other costs are covered by the Air Force or the school. A small fee is charged at the beginning of the school year which covers a uniform dry cleaning fee which is used at the end of the year when cadets turn in their uniforms. There are also fund raisers scheduled during the year to raise funds for projects and events to help defray the cost of such activities like the Military Ball and field trips to local military bases.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS I GAIN FROM THE COURSE? Aside from normal benefits of a good high school course, there are many advantages for those interested in a military career.

- (1) All the military services allow for up to two pay grades (two ranks) advanced standing for cadets who enlist after successfully completing AFJROTC courses and successfully completing military basic training.
- (2) Many colleges give advanced standing/credit for the AFJROTC program to cadets who enroll in college ROTC.
- (3) For cadets who are academically qualified, college ROTC scholarships may be awarded as well as an appointment to one of the service academies. Competition is keen, but participation in AFJROTC drastically enhances a cadet's standing with selection boards.

WHAT KIND OF CREDIT DO I GET FOR AFJROTC? The course allows full elective credit, just like all other academic courses. In addition, AFJROTC may be substituted for Physical Education.

ARE BOTH GIRLS AND BOYS ENROLLED? Yes. In most of our classes, there is approximately a 50/50% split. Leadership positions are equally available and both males and females participate on our extracurricular teams.

DO I WEAR A UNIFORM? Yes. A custom fitted uniform is provided free and is worn once a week on Wednesday, the unit's "Uniform Day." It is an honor to wear the uniform and that honor is not treated lightly.

DO BOYS HAVE TO GET A SHORT HAIRCUT? Male cadets' hair must be neat, trimmed and present a conservative groomed appearance in accordance with Air Force standards...a military style haircut.

DO GIRLS HAVE TO HAVE SHORT HAIR? Absolutely not. Female cadets' hair must be neatly arranged and styled to permit proper wear of Air Force headgear on "Uniform Day." It should also present a professional appearance.

CAN I STILL GO OUT FOR BAND AND VARSITY SPORTS? Certainly – AFJROTC cadets are active in many other school functions from sports to band, orchestra, chorus, and student government.

HOW MUCH TIME DOES AFJROTC TAKE? You can spend as much or as little time in AFJROTC as you like. You must go to class like your other courses. Activities like drill team, orienteering team, color guard and saber team, model rocketry team, and physical fitness team are there for your participation. The more involved you are, the more you'll benefit from the course. For AFJROTC extracurricular activities the state, No Pass – No Play rule is in effect.

TELL ME ABOUT SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE TO AFJROTC CADETS. Our program supports a wide range of activities, with the exact number depending on the cadets' interests. Some of our current teams include: drill team, saber team, color guard, orienteering team, and physical fitness teams. We offer field trips to military bases and museums, host an annual formal military ball and host guest speakers from many career fields.

WHAT WILL MY FRIENDS SAY OR THINK WHEN I WEAR THE UNIFORM IN SCHOOL? It is human nature to notice something different about a person you know and this certainly applies to AFJROTC students. AFJROTC is a popular and respected school organization, so the minor "self-consciousness" caused by wearing the uniform is seldom a problem for long. Your teachers will recognize you by your uniform and expect higher standards.

WHAT KIND OF RECOGNITION CAN I GET FOR MY PARTICIPATION IN AFJROTC? There are a large number of awards and ribbons which are given for participation and achievement in AFJROTC. Some are given by the unit and others are given by local civic and patriotic groups. All awards are available for everyone to seek. Involvement, effort, and being an active part of the corps are the main requirements.

WHAT ABOUT LEADERSHIP TRAINING? AFJROTC is the only course of instruction in the district which has formal instruction in leadership. The course encourages practical application by giving cadets the opportunity to manage many aspects of the corps as well as their extracurricular teams.

I'M GOING TO COLLEGE. IS THIS GOOD PREPARATION? AFJROTC course material is academically sound and enhances the college preparatory curriculum. AFJROTC students are well represented in the ranks of the National Honor Society and many other service organizations at Southside High School.

HOW CAN I ENROLL? If you are in the 8th grade and will be enrolling at Southside High School in the coming school year, making satisfactory progress in school, and have no serious medical problems, all you have to do is list AFJROTC on your course selection card. If all academic and other requirements are met, you will be enrolled. Ninth, tenth, and eleventh grade students desiring to enroll in AFJROTC should inform one of the AFJROTC instructors or a counselor for proper class placement.

WHAT IF I ENROLL AND DON'T LIKE IT? You shouldn't sign up for a course you do not want. However, it is sometimes difficult to know about something new. If you find that AFJROTC is not for you, your counselor and the AFJROTC instructors will work together to find you an alternative course. Please give careful consideration to the requirements of AFJROTC before you enroll. Generally, schedule changes will have to be made before the 2nd week of the semester in. You normally will remain in the course until the second semester.

I WANT MORE INFORMATION!!!!!! Your high school counselor or one of the AFJROTC will be glad to answer your questions. There is someone in the AFJROTC offices during school hours and before/after school throughout the week.