

1. Welcome to the Dr. John D. Horn High School Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) Program. This letter will answer some frequently asked questions. **Please ensure that your parents read this letter.**
2. Service Obligation: There is **NO OBLIGATION FOR ANY MILITARY SERVICE** because of JROTC.
3. Costs: (Also see paragraphs 8 and 9 below)
4. Uniforms: There is no cost for the cadet uniform. Cadets are responsible for keeping the uniform clean, neat and pressed. The green (or gray) shirt is wash and wear; however the dress green (or blue) coat and the dress trousers or slacks MUST BE DRYCLEANED. In addition to the issued items, cadets must purchase a white t-shirt. Males will also need a white dress shirt (plain collar, NOT a button-down collar or stand-up tuxedo style collar) and a black bow tie for wear at formal social events. Females will need a ball gown for the Military Ball and a white blouse with a collar to wear with their uniform for the Dining Out.
5. If you lose your uniform, you are responsible for the lost items. This totals about $250.00.
6. If you are a member of a special team (Military Academic Team, Drill Team, Color Guard, Orienteering Team, PT Team) you will be responsible for the cost of lodging and meals for yourself when on the road to competitions. When we have overnight events we sleep 3-4 cadets to a room to keep these costs down to a minimum. The average cost to a cadet for an overnight competition is approximately $50.00. Each team participates in several overnight competitions each year. Trips not requiring overnight stays typically cost each cadet between $10 and $20 for fast food dining.
7. Cadets are expected to supply their own classroom items such as a binder with dividers for their portfolio, paper, and writing tools.
8. Homework: JROTC normally does not assign homework. Cadets are strongly encouraged to spend their homework time on their core subjects (Math, Science, English, History). Parents will be notified in the third week of each grading period if their cadet is failing.
9. Books: JROTC uses a classroom set of books and materials, provided to each cadet. Each cadet will maintain a portfolio.
10. Subject matter / grading policy:
11. JROTC is a Physical Education credit. Subject taught in JROTC are leadership, physical fitness, first aid, living drug free, the Constitution of the United States, technology awareness, public speaking, goal setting, team building, military history, military customs and courtesies, drill and ceremonies, and citizenship. Weekly grades for First Year Cadets are based on leadership, uniform inspection, oral quizzes, and tests/assignments. In addition, there are six-week, semester, and end of semester exams. These exams are a physical fitness test based on the Presidential Challenge Physical Fitness Program (see<https://www.presidentschallenge.org/challenge/pyfp.shtml>).
12. JROTC is committed to encouraging our cadets to maintain academic performance. **Cadets with failing grades in any subject will not be eligible for promotions or for participation in ungraded extra-curricular events. Graded co-curricular events remain mandatory events since they count for grades.**
13. Fund Drives: JROTC conducts two fund drives per year. This supports the Battalion Organization Day Picnic, the Military Ball, the Awards Ceremony, awards, and specialized uniform items. Incentives for cadets implementing successful fund raisers include free or reduced-price tickets to the Military Ball and the Awards Ceremony.
14. The military Ball: The Military Ball is a co-curricular Social Function and part of the U.S. Army Scoring System for JROTC units. The purpose of the ball is to teach proper etiquette, formal social skills and to foster camaraderie and fun. ALL CADETS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND. Cadets who have missed a “uniform” day for grades are ineligible to attend the Military Ball and are penalized as such. Cadets who do not attend must complete make-up assignments. The ball is chaperoned by JROTC instructors and volunteer parents. The cost of the ball normally does not exceed $42.00 per guest, depending on the success of fundraising activities. Male cadets attend the ball in their JROTC Dress Uniform with white shirt and bow tie. Female cadets will wear a ball gown that meets school standards. Cadets’ guests who are not themselves JROTC cadets must wear either a suit/coat and tie (males) or a ball gown (females) which conform to school standards.
15. The Awards Ceremony (Awards Dinner): The Dining Out is also a co-curricular Social Function and part of the ranking system for JROTC units. It is conducted at the end of the year to present local and national JROTC awards to our cadets for their outstanding performance. ALL CADETS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND. Cadets who have missed a “uniform” grade day are ineligible to attend the Ball. Cadets who do not attend must complete make-up assignments. The cost normally does not exceed $42.00 per person, depending on the success of our fundraising efforts. All qualified cadets are expected to attend in military dress uniform, and parents are encouraged to attend.
16. School and Community Support: The JROTC program is designed to promote good citizenship. We support a wide variety of school and community service and support activities. Cadet participation is voluntary but strongly encouraged. We support football games as ushers and ticket takers, and provide support details for many other activities. We support the City of Mesquite and veterans associations during patriotic celebrations; our Cavalry Color Guard is already renowned in this area. Cadets earn service ribbons and awards for their work. One of JROTC goal is for each cadet to have at least 100 community service hours this school year.
17. Wear of the Uniform and Cadet Conduct: Cadets are required to wear their Army uniform once each week on a designated “uniform” day (usually Wednesday or Thursday). Seventy percent of the cadet’s weekly grade is earned on this day as they are inspected and quizzed on classroom subject matter. Cadets are expected to properly wear the uniform AT ALL TIMES DURING THE SCHOOL DAY. Cadets also wear uniforms when representing the JROTC at school and community support activities. JROTC standards of grooming are much stricter than school standards, so cadets must present a neat, professional appearance when wearing the uniform, and even when they are not! Cadets wearing the uniform reflect on the U.S. Army and its Soldiers, so cadets are expected to maintain the highest standards of conduct and appearance to avoid disgracing themselves, the U.S. Army, and the Soldiers that the uniform represents.
18. Formal Inspection: The U.S. Army inspects every JROTC unit each year. Any unit that fails this inspection is placed on probation. If the unit fails a second time the JROTC program is removed from the school permanently. We are currently rated as an Honor Unit with Distinction, which places the school in the top ten percent of JROTC battalions in the nation. The key to success is the individual cadet, with 70% of the inspection score earned by cadets for attendance, uniform inspection, oral testing and demonstration. Obviously the formal inspection carries significant importance; therefore, any cadet who has an unexcused absence or fails to be in the proper uniform on the day of the inspection will automatically fail that semester.
19. The JHHS JROTC program is always looking for a few good parents to help support our cadet activities. This includes helping out at the battalion picnic, serving as chaperones and support crews for overnight trips and social events, and a host of other things that can help make this a better program for cadets. Please contact the Army Instructors if you are interested.
20. Senior ROTC Scholarships to any university or college with an ROTC Program from any of the services are available to cadets in their junior and senior years. Although JROTC can’t guarantee a scholarship, it provides leadership experience and a level of training and familiarity with basic military skills and knowledge that can help a cadet compete successfully for a scholarship.
21. Cadets who choose to enlist in any branch of the armed services following high school graduation may receive advanced promotions upon enlistment based on their JROTC enrollment. Normally completion of two years of JROTC earns initial advancement to Private E-2 upon enlistment, and three years of JROTC earns promotion to Private First Class E-3).
22. If you have questions or comments, I can be reached at eburton@mesquiteisd.org or (972) 882-5254. Our website is at <http://hornhsjrotc.weebly.com/>.

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