



BRANDEIS HIGH SCHOOL AIR FORCE JROTC TX-20083rd



FAQs

WHAT IS THE AIR FORCE JROTC PROGRAM?

The AFJROTC Program is predicated on the Air Force Core Values of integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do. Students enrolling in JROTC in all NISD schools will receive elective PE credit. It is a four year program that builds upon itself. However, there is no commitment from one year to the next. The curriculum emphasizes the Air Force heritage and traditions, the development of flight, applied flight sciences, military aerospace policies, and space exploration. Other opportunities include:

- Health and Wellness education
- Character building
- Life skills education
- Public speaking skills
- Leadership opportunities
- Team building experiences
- Curriculum in action field trips
- Community Service projects
- Extracurricular activities/competitions

CAN MY CHILD PARTICIPATE IN OTHER PROGRAMS (EXTRACURRICULAR) WHILE IN JROTC?

Absolutely YES! JROTC is a class taken during the regular school class period and we have many cadets in extracurricular activities other than JROTC drill teams such as varsity and freshman football, Orchestra, Band, Choir, Theater and many more. We do have a few JROTC drill team cadets that participate and compete with orchestra, band, football, and other extracurricular activities. We work closely with other program sponsors and coaches to facilitate maximum participation for the cadets.

DOES JOINING THE AIR FORCE JROTC PROGRAM OBLIGATE MY CHILD TO JOIN THE MILITARY?

Absolutely NOT! The objectives of JROTC are to educate and train high school cadets in citizenship, promote community service, instill responsibility, character, and self discipline. Our mission statement is to "Develop citizens of character dedicated to serving their nation and community".

WILL MY CHILD BE SUBJECTED TO YELLING, BELITTLEMENT, INITIATIONS, HAZING, OR PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT?

Never; our goal is to produce positive, effective leaders. The instructor and cadet staff are committed to fostering an environment built on mutual respect and leadership by example; cadets are treated like young adults. There is absolutely NO harassing, hazing, physical or corporal punishment condoned in AFJROTC. Nonetheless, the program includes physical training as an essential part; this is why cadets receive PE credit.

IF MY CHILD IS INTERESTED IN A MILITARY CAREER, WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF JOINING AFJROTC?

Cadets who are interested in pursuing their education after high school may receive special consideration for AFJROTC scholarships. Many of these scholarships pay two, three, or four years of tuition, books and fees at numerous universities and colleges, and allow cadets to pursue studies in technical and non-technical majors. Cadets completing two years of AFJROTC may waive one term of the AFROTC program. Completing three years, cadets may receive credit for a full year of college level AFROTC.

In addition, cadets electing to enlist in the military after high school without attending college are eligible to enlist in the services at one to two pay grades higher than other enlistees based on the number of years in JROTC. Successfully completing two years, cadets receive a one pay grade promotion. Completing two or more years is a two pay grade promotion after the completion of basic training. The Marine Corps only offers one promotion for cadets regardless of two or three years of completion. This is the same for all JROTC programs in the nation.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH JOINING AFJROTC?

There is a onetime fee of \$75.00 that each cadet will be required to pay each school year by the second week of school. These funds are used to offset the costs associated with the purchase of a custom Brandeis AFJROTC Polo and T-shirt used as traveling uniforms. Cadets will also receive physical training shirt, shorts, and jersey to be worn on designated Wellness/PT days. A portion of the cadet fee will also be used to dry clean the cadet's uniforms at the final turn-in at the end of the school year or upon departure from the Corps.

Cadets receive JROTC uniforms at NO CHARGE. The cadet will be required to sign for uniforms issued and will be responsible for the upkeep and proper cleaning of them. The only time a cadet will be charged for uniform items is if they are lost, damaged (beyond normal wear and tear) or stolen. Uniforms that no longer fit are turned in at no cost for a replacement item. Cadets joining the drill and color guard teams will be issued special uniforms and ALL of the dry cleaning for performance uniforms is paid by the unit.

Most of our transportation and food costs are covered when we go on field trips, but there could be times we will need to cost share (tickets to enter an event, charter bus etc.), depending on the trip and funds available.

Cadets will be involved in two fundraising activities, selling Entertainment Books and concessions at all our Freshman/JV home football games. The more money we raise during these two events, the less amount of money parents will need to pay for activities, such as, Curriculum-in-Action (field trips), Military Ball, Cookouts, etc.

DOES AFJROTC HAVE DIFFERENT DRESS CODE STANDARDS THAN THE REST OF THE SCHOOL?

Typically our uniform wear and inspection day is conducted every Wednesday; otherwise cadets can exercise their individualism within the Brandeis high school dress code guidelines. Male cadets are required to get and maintain a military style haircut. They are also prohibited from wearing earrings in the AFJROTC area or while in uniform. Female cadets do not need to cut their hair, but they must also conform to hair and personal grooming standards while in uniform.

As stated before, we are an elective class and it is a privilege to be a part of AFJROTC. We expect our cadets to be open minded and to comply by the uniform standards and guidelines set forth. Our cadets come from varying backgrounds/interests; we have students in the top 10% of their class, National Honor cadets, athletes including varsity football, orchestra, special needs, band, etc. Wearing the uniform demonstrates the unit working together as a cohesive team.

IF MY STUDENT ENROLLS IN AFJROTC IS HE/SHE REQUIRED TO ATTEND ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE NORMAL SCHOOL DAY?

There will be some events that mandatory attendance will be required; log on to the AFJROTC website for the calendar of events. Otherwise, extracurricular activities such as drill and color guard teams are voluntary. Joining these teams means a lot of after school and weekend practices and requires full commitment from the cadet to be a member.

If transportation is an issue, in most cases it can be worked out by networking with other cadets and their parents. We are a close family and the cadets and parents help each other out with rides.

AS AN INVOLVED PARENT, HOW CAN I SUPPORT AFJROTC?

We have a very active and robust parent support group called Parents for Cadets (PfC). They are always looking for parents to become members and volunteer for JROTC events and activities throughout the school year. Log on to the Brandeis High School website, go to the AFJROTC web page, and click on PfC to find parent phone numbers and information.

WHAT IS MILITARY BALL?

The Military Ball is the Air Force's version of a high school prom. It is a time honored military tradition which enables members of a unit to invite an outside guest and gather for an evening of socializing and fun. Typically our Military Ball is scheduled in the spring. Our male cadets wear the semi-formal service dress uniform and our female cadets have the opportunity to wear gowns, prom dresses, or after six attire. Guests of the cadets are required to wear a suit and tie for the males and females a dress or gown as described. The Ball consists of sit down meal and dance to follow. Cadets and guests are expected to follow formal etiquette during this event.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS FOR MY CHILD IF THEY DO NOT WISH TO JOIN THE MILITARY AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?

Our program is designed to develop young men and women into productive citizens through character training, time management techniques, and leadership building. This type of training can be useful to anyone that is planning on attending college or a technical school. We provide training in public speaking, writing essays, keeping journals, decision-making, college admission standards and applications, etc. Each cadet is held accountable for meeting the standards of the program.

WHAT IS DRILL TEAM, COLOR GUARD, ETC.?

The drill and color guard teams are extracurricular activities within AFJROTC. The drill teams are comprised of armed and unarmed. The armed drill team is typically male cadets who learn and become very proficient with Springfield 1903 rifle (replica version). The unarmed team is typically female cadets who perform using their hands, arms and legs in a choreographed routine. Both competition teams compete in over 10-drill meets a year. They culminate the year by attending the National All Service Drill Meet at Daytona Beach, Florida. We also have male and female color guard teams that attend competitions and provide the colors at school and community events. To be a member of the competitive teams, cadets need to realize the high level of commitment needed to participate. Practices are after school Monday through Thursday until 4:20pm through 6pm and on most Saturdays from 8:00am to Noon. Cadets must abide by UIL rules, no pass no play.