Parents, Guardians and Students,

My name is CDR Eggleston, and I am one of the NJROTC teachers at Annapolis High School. I am writing to you today to make sure you are aware of this unique and exciting opportunity that AACPS offers its students. Students at high schools other than AHS can take this course as well. At the end of this letter I include information specific to these “commuting” students.

NJROTC stands for Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps. You might ask yourself what NJROTC can do for me. It can give you a head start. People who are successful in life, who succeed in business, industry, and education have developed a strong sense of self discipline, a sound character, and an ability to lead and motivate others. NJROTC teaches you these and other skills that can help you meet life’s challenges. The NJROTC curriculum, instruction, and activities are designed to develop your leadership ability regardless of your career path.

Before I discuss the program and answer some of the most common questions, I would like to highlight an exciting change in the way the county and the state recognize the program. STARTING THIS SCHOOL YEAR, all NJROTC courses receive honors credit on your transcript and when calculating GPA! Additionally, NJROTC is now a COMPLETER PROGRAM and is therefore another path to graduation. In order to use NJROTC as a completer program a student must complete three years of NJROTC, the 4th year is optional. Having said that, a student enrolling in NJROTC is not required to stay in the course for three years, if the student develops other interests and has another path to complete graduation requirements they are not “locked-in” to NJROTC.

Many parents and students want to know if by joining the NJROTC program, they are required to join the military. NO. This is not a recruiting program to encourage students to join the military. In fact, the opposite is true. NJROTC cadets are encouraged to continue with their education at a four-year university or two-year community college or a trade school. NROTC college scholarships (covering full tuition) and Naval Academy (250k free education) nominations are available for those cadets who have completed the program and are interested in becoming officers. For cadets who do not want to go to college but who are thinking about the military, NJROTC allows entry into the armed forces at up to two pay grades higher.

So, what do you learn during your time in NJROTC? The Naval Science curriculum consists of a combination of formal academic instruction, military skill development, and physical fitness training. Class time is also supplemented by ship visits, orientation visits, and field trips to various military bases to enhance classroom studies. The NJROTC curriculum includes twenty-four different subject areas from naval orientation and seamanship to astronomy and oceanography, naval history from early western civilization to the present. Throughout, strong emphasis is placed on leadership, good conduct, personal honor, self-reliance, self-discipline, responsibility, accountability, and leading by example.

Who gains from NJROTC? YOU do! Like most young adults, cadets strive to prepare themselves for the future. All cadets are encouraged to participate in community/school programs and projects. We encourage civic responsibility and help to develop strong and informed leaders for the future. You will also learn to take great pride in your country, your Navy, your uniform, your school, and most of all – YOURSELF.
Want to know what you will do in NJROTC? Being a Naval Junior ROTC cadet is not all work. You will attend a formal military ball; you will be encouraged to take part in one or more extracurricular school activities such as color guard, drill team, marksmanship team, athletic team, orienteering team, or academic team. You can also earn ribbons, medals, and other awards. You will also have an opportunity to attend Basic Leadership Training Camp and other summer programs.

What does it all cost? Dedication…Determination…Motivation. A strong desire to be a young American of high character. The Navy provides all books, drill equipment and uniforms, at no cost to the cadet. There is a small activity fee for new cadets that covers the cost of a unit t-shirt and a nametag.

Please look at the attached flier and our website for some more information. If all this sounds interesting to you, please e-mail or call me at the address and phone number in the letterhead. I will work your guidance counselor to add the course to your schedule. NJROTC is for all students, it does not matter what grade you are in.

I hope to talk to you soon and see you in class.

John B. Eggleston, CDR USN (ret)
Senior Naval Science Instructor

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS/FAMILIES THAT ATTEND SCHOOLS OTHER THAN ANNAPOLIS:

This is the way we manage “COMMUTING” student schedules (obviously, there is not currently an issue with this, as we are all “virtual”, but once we start back with “in person” class...):

a. For schools that have the “one lunch for all” (such as SRHS) they leave their home school after 2nd period and transit to Annapolis and then have NJROTC and one other course – perhaps PE or tech ed or art or business or nutrition etc. (this would happen on either A-day or B-day, but not both)
b. We occasionally have a few minutes overlap issues – for example on a day with an advisory schedule– this is not a problem.
c. When students need to leave early for a sporting event, we understand.
d. The big thing to make clear to parents is that there is no county transportation to get here. But if you have 2 or more interested families, they can carpool. The counselors should try to get them to all come on the same day. STUDENTS ARE ALLOWED TO USE THE IB BUS TO GET HOME.
e. Usually the carpool thing works itself out – obviously, if you can work on also getting some of your friends interested in signing up for the course, you can make it easier for yourself. BUT, during the week before school starts in the fall, and the first week of school, we work on getting all the students from the same school to share contact information to facilitate working out carpools, so even if you do not have a concrete plan, if you are interested in the course – sign up. Just be patient for the first week and we will work with you to sort out the carpool.
NJROTC FACTS

did you know?

fact 1
NJROTC stands for Navy Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps.

fact 2
NJROTC is sponsored by the U.S. Navy as a high school citizenship and leadership program.

fact 3
Annapolis High School has the only NJROTC program in Anne Arundel County. Students from 6 other county high schools commute to Annapolis for NJROTC.

fact 4
Annapolis NJROTC was established in 1993, and has been designated a Distinguished Unit with Academic Honors for the past seventeen years, placing it in the top 10% of NJROTC programs nationwide. And, Annapolis was selected as the Top Unit in the nation in 2008.

fact 5
NJROTC is not a military recruiting program, nor is it a “boot camp.” The program was established by Congress to develop citizenship, and to instill a sense of service, personal responsibility and accomplishment in high school students. There is no obligation whatsoever to the Navy.

fact 6
NJROTC offers nominations to the U.S. Naval Academy. It can also be a big assist for qualified students interested in a full tuition ROTC college scholarship, and can mean higher pay for those enlisting in the service. Over the past 20 years, many Annapolis graduates have gone on to service academies (34 to USNA, 3 to USMA, 3 to USAFA) and over 60 have received ROTC scholarships.

fact 7
NJROTC sponsors a variety of competitive teams. Annapolis NJROTC has a Drill Team, a Color Guard, an Air Rifle Team, an Orienteering Team, an Academic Team, and an Athletic Team, and has been awarded over 325 trophies and plaques for excellence.

fact 8
JROTC Air Rifle Teams are the only shooting sports teams in AACPS. Most years, Annapolis cadets advance to & compete in the Regional and National Competitions in Anniston, Alabama and Port Clinton, Ohio.

fact 9
A tradition of learning to serve others is integral to the personal growth of unit members. Annapolis cadets contributed over 2200 hours of community service last year alone.

fact 10
NJROTC is the only high school course which has formal instruction in leadership. Cadets practice what they learn by running their extracurricular groups and being in charge of many aspects of the NJROTC program.

fact 11
NJROTC teaches self-discipline, self-confidence, and helps develop interpersonal and leadership skills to help you successfully meet life’s challenges.

fact 12
NJROTC is fun….ask any cadet! You may have the opportunity to take part in ship training cruises, orientation visits, and a variety of field trips. You might spend time in a flight simulator, fly in a Navy helicopter, rappel down a mountainside, or go white-water rafting.

fact 13
But, Naval Science is a regular course, not a club or just an after school activity, so you must have it on your schedule – and, by the way, you earn academic credit!

fact 14
The following are actual quotes from recent first year Annapolis cadets:

“I would have never guessed a high school class would teach me so much….”

“…I have a better understanding of the world around me…”

“…it has kept me out of trouble and it’s essentially like a separate home.”

“…I was told it was like a family and it really is.”

“It certainly is not like any other class I have ever taken…it’s a great class and fun program.”

Want to know more?

Call the Senior Naval Science Instructor at (410) 224-2606, email annapolis.njrotc@gmail.com, or see your guidance counselor.

Check out our website: www.tinyurl.com/annapolisnjrotc