



**NJROTC UNIT
ESCAMBIA HIGH SCHOOL
1310 N. 65TH AVENUE
PENSACOLA, FL 32506**

WWW.ESCAMBIAHIGHSCHOOL.NJROTC.COM

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I would like to extend a hardy WELCOME to the parents of both new and returning cadets. All three instructors, LCDR Eddie Thompson, SGTMAJ Andre Francis, and DCC Xavier King, are looking forward to another outstanding year with you and your cadet. Escambia NJROTC has been selected as the *number one unit in the nation, number one unit in Area Eight, "Distinguished Unit with Academic Honors" for the 18th year*, and we are planning to maintain outstanding standards during the 2020 - 2021 school term.

Sadly, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we will not be able to meet with you in person this year. However, we will be bringing Parent's Night to you. **On September 10th, 2020, we will be hosting NJROTC Parent's Night via GOOGLE MEET from 1700 to 1800, that's 5 P.M. TO 6 P.M. Parents, learn military time, so that you can have complete communication with your cadet. This will be important for the next 4-years, minimum. The code will be CADET.** We would like to take that opportunity to familiarize you with the Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) Program at Escambia High School. Here is a "sliver" of information that you will receive during Parent's Night.

Congress created the NJROTC Program in 1964 when they saw the need for better-informed young leaders who understand the duties and responsibilities of American Citizenship. ALL NJROTC programs seek out students who contains the following qualities to mold into Cadets:

- Respect for proper authority
- Patriotism
- A high degree of personal honor, self-reliance, individual discipline and leadership
- Pride, self-respect, confidence, and the desire to do one's best
- Better information on matters of national security
- An understanding of the U. S. military's role in the national defense

(There are NO active duty military obligations associated with or incurred by being in NJROTC; however, there are a lot of advantages and/or perks that Cadets receive after completing the program.)

The NJROTC program at Escambia is structured to encourage your young adult to do his or her best, to meet competition NOW and SUCCEED. **Academic achievement is given top priority** and is designed to provide a sound background in American military history, geography, first aid, leadership, oceanography, astronomy, and much more. In addition, after school activities such as academic teams, armed and unarmed drill teams, color guard, orienteering, athletic and air rifle teams further develop the cadet's self-confidence, which is essential for success in any adult endeavor. Participation on these teams is strictly voluntary as there are no after school requirements for NJROTC cadets.

Our drill teams, color guard, athletic and academic teams compete throughout the Southeast during the school year. This year we will compete in various drill meets and tournaments, including one at Southern University. Additionally, cadets participate throughout the year in community and school activities. We march in parades, participate in homecoming, graduation and at various open houses. One of our highlights is the annual Military Ball. This is a formal affair with male cadets wearing their service dress blue uniform and female cadets dressing in formal gowns.

Though participation in the parades and other community events are highly encouraged, only the Veteran's Day and Martin Luther King, Jr. Parades are MANDATORY.

Second and third year Cadets may attend Basic Leadership Training and the Leadership Academy during the summer months. These camps take place in June or July timeframes, normally. All applicants are vetted for attendance based on their performance, behavior, and willingness to become a leader. **This is NOT mandatory, unless a Cadet is seeking a prominent position of leadership within the program.**

ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS: Not all students has what it takes to be an NJROTC Cadet.

-Be of good moral character. Students with previous behavior problems will **NOT** be admitted without SNSI approval.

-Be physically fit enough to take part in the school's normal physical education program. We conduct physical fitness training **every Friday**. **ALL Cadets WILL wear their orange t-shirt on Friday for PT, unless told otherwise.**

******Physical Training (PT) is MANDATORY and DOES count towards the state required credits in physical education. (1003.42,F.S.)******

-Agree to comply daily with the grooming standards set forth in our Cadet Field Manual.

-Abide by the rules, regulations, instructions, and policies of the Escambia County School District and the NJROTC Program. **THEY WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS AT AND AWAY FROM CAMPUS (24hrs a day, 7-days a week, 365/366 days a year).**

BENEFITS:

-Cadets taking NJROTC get credit for Physical Education.

-Helps in obtaining Naval Academy and ROTC scholarships if the student is academically and physically qualified. Last year, three cadets received full ROTC scholarships worth \$180 thousand dollars.

-Qualification to enlist in the Navy or other military services at a higher paygrade.

-Community service hours for the unit can be used to meet Florida Scholarship and admission requirements.

-Leadership opportunities exist at all levels in the NJROTC program.

-Rewards for superior performance.

-TRAVEL AND EXCITEMENT ABOUND FOR THOSE ELIGIBLE! Each year we take cadets to college campuses outside the Pensacola area.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

Cadets will be given the following forms:

1. Cadet Data Sheet
2. Standard Release Form
3. Health Screening Questionnaire
4. Classroom Procedures
5. Training Time Out
6. Physical

These forms need to be completed in blue or black ink, signed by you and your cadet(s), and returned to the unit **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

It is extremely important that the medical information on the Standard Release Form be accurate and up-to-date. This is the first place we look if your cadet encounters any medical issues while with us. Health related problems, required medication, and insurance information must be on the form. On the Health Screening Questionnaire, the majority of the questions should be answered NO if your cadet is in good health. If any question related to health (such as numbers 10, 11, 12, etc.) is marked YES, the form must be signed by a physician, and must be addressed by their doctor during their physical. Cadets who desire to earn the Physical Fitness ribbon, participate on our drill teams and athletic teams at certain drill meets, or attend Leadership Academy or Basic Leadership Training must have a physical. We are required by the Navy to have a copy of the physical on file in NJROTC. This physical is the same one required for students to compete on high school sports teams. Some of the activities associated with NJROTC involve strenuous physical activity and I strongly recommend that your cadet get a physical examination. This is one additional step in safeguarding the health and well-being of your cadet.

SUPPLIED UNIFORM (NO COST):

New cadets will be issued the Navy Working Uniform (NWU), consisting of khaki shirts and black pants. Returning cadets already have their uniforms, and they should be reminded to try them on to be sure they still fit; if they don't fit, they will be exchanged for another size. Uniform Day is normally Wednesday. **Cadets must wear their uniform to school and for the entire school day.** Failure to do so will result in a grade of **ZERO**. Cadets who remove their uniform or parts of their uniform during the school day will also receive a grade of **ZERO**. Uniform grades count 40% of a cadet's overall grade. **Uniforms are issued free of charge; however, cadets are required to maintain them in the proper condition. Items lost must be replaced at the cadet's expense.**

Uniform pants and shirts may be ironed; however, with the black pants, please place a pressing cloth or other piece of material (a brown paper bag sprinkled with water will work) between the iron and the clothing. A hot iron placed directly on pants will create shiny marks that cannot be removed. We do our best to outfit your cadet in a uniform that looks good and fits properly. If you are not satisfied, please let us know the exact problem and we will try to accommodate your wishes. Pants will not be fitted to be worn on the hips; they are to be worn around the waist.

FINANCIAL NOTICE AND SUPPORT:

We will try not to burden you financially (last year we spent over \$40,000 on transportation, lodging and entry fee costs); however, like the other teams/clubs that travel and participate in outside school activities, it is necessary for us to raise money. We will minimize our fundraisers for the year, but ask for your support when they occur. We will collect \$30 at the beginning of the school year for insurance, uniform dry cleaning, nametag and a NJROTC T-shirt. Returning upperclassmen who already have an orange NJROTC T-shirt and nametag will pay \$20. The insurance is required for our cadets to participate in parades, athletic activities, and drill/field meets sponsored by university ROTC units. It also covers them on orientation trips. It is a supplement to your normal insurance.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic Gator Games, which is an annual event normally occurring during mid-September will be postponed until the pandemic subsides. We do acquire the all-clear, we will need parents to sign-up to work the food booth for the day. This event is a major fundraiser. All parent volunteers must complete a school volunteer form that is good for one year.

PARENTS OF JUNIORS AND SENIORS:

Encourage your cadet to take the ACT and SAT. Juniors can wait till second semester; seniors should have already taken these tests or should do so ASAP. We will work with cadets on their ROTC scholarship applications if they are interested in applying for this scholarship that provides up to \$180,000 in scholarship and fees. Cadets must meet the minimum requirement scores which are:

ACT/ Verbal and Math – 22

SAT/ Verbal – 1020

SAT/ Math – 1030

I encourage you to consider the Escambia NJROTC course in terms of what it will contribute to your son or daughter's present growth and potential and success in an adult environment after graduation. If your son or daughter enrolls in Naval Science, they will receive an elective credit for the course.

We hope this will be a year of fun and learning for your cadet. If you have any questions or comments concerning the program, please contact one of the individuals listed below at 453-3221 Extension 254.

EDDIE F. THOMPSON, LCDR, USN (ret): ethompson1@ecsdfl.us
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Naval Science Instructor

ANDRE FRANCIS, SGTMAJ, USMC (ret): afrancis@ecsdfl.us
Naval Science Instructor

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'E. F. Thompson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

E. F. THOMPSON