JROTC FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
(June 9, 2016)

What is Army JROTC?
JROTC stands for Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps. The program is a cooperative effort between school districts and the US Army to teach high school students the value of good citizenship, leadership, service to the community, and personal responsibility, while instilling in them self-esteem, teamwork, self-discipline, and a sense of accomplishment. The mission of JROTC is to motivate young people to be better citizens.

Is there an obligation to go into the armed services after high school?
NO. **There is no obligation to join the armed services** and the course instructors make no effort to recruit students. Army JROTC is not a military organization; it is an educational citizenship and leadership development course taught in more than 1700 high schools across the US and overseas.

How does JROTC fit into a student's 4-year plan for high school?
JROTC is one of many full-credit elective courses which can be taken by students. Students schedule the course "Leadership Education and Training (LET)" with their guidance counselors as they would any other class.

Who can take JROTC and what courses are offered?
Students in all grades are allowed to participate in the program. There are four levels of JROTC courses (LET 1, 2, 3, 4) which are taken sequentially. Students can join the program at the start of any school year by enrolling in LET 1. Upon successful completion of each course, they can advance to the next higher level course the following year until they graduate. **LET 3 and LET 4 are Honors courses.**

What is the JROTC course like?
JROTC combines interesting classroom instruction with cadet leadership opportunities, extracurricular activities, service projects in the school and larger community, and social activities. Classroom instruction follows a 21st century learner-centered, performance-based model in which students: know performance objectives up-front, engage as active partners in the process, document accomplishments, and improve learning plans. Instruction is enhanced by state-of-the-art educational programs and equipment which leverage interactive multimedia, games, and simulations. Along the way, students not only learn specific skills, but how to learn.

What subjects are taught in the class?
The JROTC subject areas are: Leadership, Learning Skills, Wellness, American History, Geography, and Civics. The specific material covered in the program varies from year-to-year with the appropriate mix of the following topics.

Leadership	Citizenship	Organizational Skills
Self-Discipline	Lifetime Personal Fitness	Team Building Skills
Leadership Ethics	Respect/Courtesy	Managing Peer Pressure
Methods of Instruction	Physical Fitness	Computer Skills
Managing Peer Pressure	Stress Management	Map Reading
Orienteering	Marksmanship Safety	Overcoming Adversity
Punctuality/Grooming	Military History	Personal Finance
Character Values	Drug & Alcohol Abuse	Test Preparation
Self Esteem and Self Confidence	Economics	First Aid Skills/CPR and Healthy Lifestyles

Who are the JROTC instructors?
All JROTC instructors are retired military service members who have completed 20 or more years of honorable service. The Senior Army Instructor (SAI) in a retired officer who has primary responsibility for running the JROTC program. The Army Instructor is a retired noncommissioned officer (sergeant) who serves as the SAI's assistant. The instructors are certified by the Army and hired as teachers by the Cumberland Valley School District. They must meet all Pennsylvania Department of Education teaching certification requirements.

Is JROTC good preparation for going to college?
JROTC course material is academically sound and enhances the college preparatory curriculum. Students participating in JROTC are able to add unique leadership experiences and accomplishments to their college applications. JROTC students are always well-represented in the ranks of the National Honor Society, National Merit Scholarship, and other scholarship winners. There are also specific scholarships available for JROTC students.

How does JROTC benefit students who are interested in joining the military?
Individuals who enlist in the military after taking JROTC for at least one year begin their service one rank ahead of their peers and are paid accordingly. Many college ROTC programs give advance standing and credit for completion of the JROTC program. JROTC Senior Army Instructors can nominate well-qualified cadets to their military branch's service academy (in some cases, to any of the service academies), increasing the student's chances of receiving an appointment. JROTC instructors have been very successful in helping interested high school students obtain ROTC scholarships and service academy appointments. ROTC scholarships pay tuition, fees, books, and a monthly stipend; the service academies pay all costs for attending and provide a monthly stipend for personal expenses.

What is the cost for students joining the JROTC program?
There is no cost for students to join the program. The course materials, uniforms, supplies, and equipment are issued to the cadets free of charge by the US Army. Students are required to keep their uniforms cleaned and pressed (see next paragraph), and male cadets must meet haircut standards. The JROTC program will also fund the cost for most community events, competitions, and field trips. Students may be involved in fund raising efforts to help pay for other activities.

Do cadets wear a uniform in JROTC? What are their responsibilities?
Yes. Every JROTC student will wear the uniform once a week on the day designated by the instructors (usually Thursday). The JROTC program will pay for the uniform and all accessories. Students are responsible for properly cleaning and maintaining the uniform, which includes dry cleaning for some items. Cadets are required to pay for uniform replacement if items are lost or damaged beyond normal wear and tear. Cadets must return their uniforms at the end of the school year.

Are there special regulations cadets have to follow?
Yes, although they are relatively simple. There are standards for personal appearance, wearing of the uniform, and how to address military personnel and cadets. For example, male cadets must have a tapered hair cut with hair not touching the ears, and all cadets must have their hair off the collar (female cadets can pin their hair up). Another example is that when in uniform, male cadets are not permitted to wear an earring(s), and female cadets are only allowed one pair of stud earrings, which must be worn in the ear lobes. Other requirements are outlined in detail in class at the start of the year.

Is physical fitness training part of the program?
Yes. Each cadet will participate in physical fitness training once a week in class on a day designated by the instructors (usually Friday). Students do not need to be in good physical condition to begin the program, but they are expected to wear the proper uniform and to give their best effort every class.

Can cadets still participate in other activities outside JROTC?
Certainly. JROTC students are active in every phase of school from varsity sports to band to clubs and more. All course requirements are completed in class, except for an annual battalion meeting and three battalion awards ceremonies which occur after school. Whenever possible, JROTC extracurricular group activities are scheduled so that they do not conflict with other practices and meetings. However, cadets interested in joining JROTC competitive teams may need to decide between activities once in-season practice schedules begin. Also, cadets chosen for senior leadership positions must be able to commit a few hours a week to their duties after school. Standard course requirements will not keep cadets from participating in other activities.

What kind of recognition can cadets receive by participating in the program?
Cadets can earn a large number of awards for their participation and achievement in JROTC and other school activities. Some are given by the unit, some by the school, and others by local civic and patriotic groups. Awards are available to all cadets -- involvement, solid efforts, and being an active part of the group are the main requirements.

Where can I get more information about JROTC?
The JROTC instructors or the guidance counselor at school will be glad to meet with you to answer your questions. You can also visit the JROTC website at http://www.usarmyjrotc.com or the CV JROTC page on the district website.