



Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps
Gulf Shores High School
600 East 15th Avenue
Gulf Shores, AL 36542

GSHS NJROTC PARENT GUARDIAN WELCOME LETTER

1 Aug 2019

Dear Parents,

Congratulations! Your son or daughter has elected to take Naval Science in the 2019-20 school year. Naval Science is the academic component of the Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) program, sponsored by a collaborative effort between the U.S. Navy and Gulf Shores High School. The NJROTC program is a character education program that is offered to Freshman, Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors. The same credit toward graduation is earned in this course as in any other elective course; in fact, NJROTC may be used to meet physical education requirements for graduation.

The Naval Science curriculum is designed to benefit participating students by providing opportunities for academic character, physical growth, and development into better-informed, more responsible citizens. There is no military service obligation incurred by becoming a Cadet in this program. We are not recruiting for the U.S. Navy or any other military service.

A major benefit to NJROTC cadets is the opportunity to be exposed to the opportunities the military provides through ROTC scholarships at major colleges and universities and the Service Academies. We may also nominate highly qualified Cadets to the United States Naval Academy selection process. This process is extremely rigorous so if your Cadet is eligible, there will be a requirement for significant collaboration between the Cadet, Parent/Guardian and Instructors.

For those Cadets that would prefer to enlist in a military service, they can enlist in an Advanced Pay Grade (APG) as a result of their NJROTC participation. APG is a pretty big deal, as this will entitle your Cadet to increased military responsibility and additional pay from their first days on active duty. APG not only benefits them on the front-end of their career, but it benefits them at the end of their career as well if they stay for 20 or more years.

There are many participatory events associated with NJROTC. Please help us continue offering these events by having your Cadet return all the forms that we have sent home. The Alabama High School Physical Evaluation is only required for a Cadet that will be participating in any "traveling team," such as Drill, Orienteering and Athletics Teams. If you're unsure as to whether your Cadet will be on a traveling team, we recommend waiting on the physical until you are sure. We understand that there are other teachers in this building asking you for all sorts of things...and frankly, it can be overwhelming. We

get it - we're parents too. This is why we are giving a little more time this year to return everything to us; our deadline for returning forms is Monday August 26th.

Occasionally we will supplement the course material with video, especially those that illustrate leadership and positive decision making. The rating on these videos will be G/PG/PG13. If you prefer your cadet not view any particular ratings, please email or call us and we will provide an alternative to your Cadet.

Please note that while we don't charge for uniforms or most other items in NJROTC, there is a course fee of \$20 per semester. That course fee helps us replace our consumables which are not funded by the U.S. Navy. Your course fees are extremely important to the continued success of this program and we thank you for your help with this matter.

Finally, a little about us. NJROTC Instructors are certified by the U.S. Navy and the state of Alabama. Instructors must be retired from one of the three Sea Services: the U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard or U.S. Marine Corps. There is a requirement for one of the Instructors to represent the Enlisted component of the Sea Services, and one to represent the Officer component. This is intended to provide a broad spectrum of military wisdom to your Cadet and the best possible leadership instruction. Chief Herndon, commonly referred to as "Chief," retired after 20 years of service in the U.S. Navy and is in his 19th year as an NJROTC Instructor. Lieutenant Colonel Meehan, commonly referred to as "Colonel," retired after 23 years of service in the U.S. Marine Corps. Colonel was an NJROTC Instructor at Robertsdale High School for three years prior to coming to GSHS.

Our office phone is: (251) 968-4774 and our email addresses are: cherndon@gulfshorescityschools.org and smeehan@gulfshorescityschools.org. Additionally, we welcome you to join our "Remind" group. Remind is a free application available on iPhone and Android smart devices used to broadcast concise messages to our parents/cadets in a group format. Once you download Remind, please follow these steps:

Step #1 - Enter this number into the "to" line of a text message: **81010**

Step #2 - Text this to the number you entered: **@gshsnjr**

Step #3 - You may be prompted to create an account if this is your first time using Remind

Regarding communication, we know that phones, email and messaging aren't always the most effective way to address an issue. Face to face meetings are always available and we will be happy to meet with you on an appointment basis.

Thank you for your time and we very much look forward to working with you and your Cadet!

Sincerely,

SCOTT MEEHAN

SCOTT MEEHAN
LtCol USMC (Ret.)
Senior Naval Science Instructor

CHIP HERNDON

CHIP HERNDON
Chief USN (Ret.)
Naval Science Instructor



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GSHS NJROTC PARENT/GUARDIAN WELCOME LETTER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT

**PLEASE KEEP THE GSHS NJROTC PARENT/GUARDIAN WELCOME LETTER FOR REFERENCE
AND RETURN THIS PAGE**

I have received and reviewed the information contained in the GSHS NJROTC Parent/Guardian Welcome Letter for 2019-20.

Name of Child (Cadet)

Date (Month/Day/Year)

Name of Parent/Guardian

Parent/Guardian Signature