



NEWS RELEASE

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Army JROTC comes to Norcross High, Middle schoolers benefit from Junior Leadership Corps

In January of 2011, Norcross High will become the first Gwinnett County high school to offer the Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program. This is exciting news for Norcross High, but also will bring about benefits for the entire Norcross Cluster as both Pinckneyville Middle and Summerour Middle will participate in a pilot of the Junior Leadership Corps program (JLC).

The mission of the Junior Leadership Corps is to inspire young people to set a course for success by teaching students to be self-reliant and motivated to complete their education, and to be successful, productive citizens. Similar to the JROTC program offered at the high school level, the JLC curriculum focuses on developing young people's leadership skills, while also teaching self-management, health, and problem-solving skills.

"The addition of the JROTC and JLC programs in the Norcross Cluster is a boon to our cluster," says **Norcross High Principal Jonathan Patterson**. "Our cluster already offers the International Baccalaureate Program. The addition of JROTC and JLC will open additional doors for students and will help enhance the culture of success that permeates our schools."

Middle school principals **Wanda Yeargin** and **Dorothy Jarrett** agree that their schools are a good fit for this pilot. As the principal of Pinckneyville Middle, Ms. Yeargin feels JLC will be a tremendous complement to the school's Middle Years IB Program. She explains, "Through the IB program, our students are becoming aware of the importance of giving back to the community. Teams of students complete a community service project each year which makes our students more aware of how they can help others, how they can contribute to the community, and how they want to live in relation to others. Likewise, enhancing leadership skills and engaging students in community service are key aspects to the Junior Leadership Corps."

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Ms. Jarrett adds that student cadets also will experience a vast array of extracurricular activities not otherwise available to middle school students as they participate in drill, academics, physical fitness, leadership, orienteering, honorary student boards, and field trips. “These types of activities will add to our students’ middle school experience, laying a foundation that will help ensure their success in high school and in life.”

The JROTC program at Norcross High and the JLC programs at Pinckneyville Middle and Summerour Middle will roll out in January. Information about JLC and how students can apply is currently available to students and families at the two schools and both schools are holding information meetings on the program. Each school’s JLC will consist of approximately 25 7th graders and 25 8th grade students. As there are limited opportunities for participation during this rollout year, interested students and their parents should return their applications as soon as possible. Applications are due December 7. Based on the number of interested students, each school will hold a lottery to randomly select participants.

FAQs: Junior Leadership Corps at Pinckneyville Middle and Summerour Middle

- Norcross Cluster middle schools will launch JLC in January 2011.
- The program focuses on improving academic success, and providing leadership and character development.
- Student cadets will wear a uniform on one particular day each week.
- Students who participate in the Junior Leadership Corps are not required to enroll in JROTC at Norcross High.
- There is no obligation to join the military for students who participate in the Junior Leadership Corps or JROTC.

Currently, Gwinnett County Public Schools offers five JROTC programs— Air Force units at North Gwinnett HS and Shiloh HS, Navy units at Duluth HS and Peachtree Ridge HS, and a Marine unit at Parkview HS.

For more about the Junior Leadership Corps program in the Norcross Cluster middle schools, contact principals Wanda Yeargin at Pinckneyville Middle at (770) 263-0860 or Dorothy Jarrett at Summerour Middle at (770) 448-3045.

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