



**PA771 AFJROTC**  
Coatesville Area Senior High School  
1425 E. Lincoln Highway  
Coatesville, PA 19320  
(610) 383-3735 ext 61114

April 9, 2024

Dear Representative Houlahan,

Here are my thoughts on the positives of having a high school JROTC program. JROTC is more than a citizen development program. It's a diverse and inclusive program that saves lives. JROTC provides students with a sense of belonging. It develops leaders, enhances communication skills, builds teamwork, improves physical fitness, and instills the importance of personal responsibility and community service through structured activities inside and outside the classroom. Cadets graduate with a solid resume.

Much of the AFJROTC curriculum is STEM based. In addition to lessons in Aerospace Science, there are numerous STEM related extracurricular activities such as Robotics, Drones, Model Rocketry, Flight Simulators, Cyber Patriot, and Academic Bowls to name a few. Other extracurricular activities include Drill Teams, Archery and Marksmanship Programs, Athletic Teams, Orienteering, and Drug Awareness/Bullying Prevention Teams.

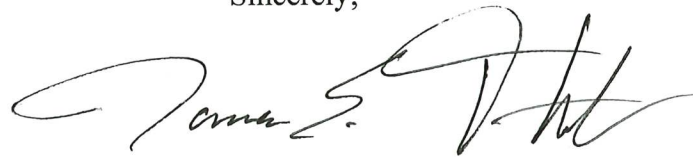
AFJROTC cadets become school and community ambassadors. Collectively they participate in hundreds of school district and community events per year and accumulate thousands of community service hours. These range from cleaning local parks to helping at the Special Olympics and Foodbanks to presenting our Nation's Colors at various events and marching in local parades.

Cadets are afforded many unique opportunities. They can fly on military and Civil Air Patrol aircraft, compete for Private Pilot Certificate scholarships and ROTC scholarships, and attend leadership conferences. JROTC offers field trips to many different sites including government organizations, service academies, museums, military bases, and various industries to learn about different career paths.

Since you were able to save our JROTC program back in 2020, we have seen steady growth in our enrollment due to the addition of crosstown agreements with the Oxford Area School District and Downingtown Area School district. The number of students increased from 63 in 2020 to 111 last year. The program's expansion provides more students in the area the opportunity to reap the benefits of JROTC. In the last few years, we've been able to reach more students, impact more lives, and do more good for our community. We are the good news story here in Chester County.

We are forever grateful for your efforts in working with HQ AFJROTC to keep our JROTC open and thriving. If you have additional questions, please email me at [turnbullj@casdschools.org](mailto:turnbullj@casdschools.org)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James E. Turnbull". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "T".

JAMES E. TURNBULL, LT COL, USAF (RET)  
Senior Aerospace Science Instructor