



# John Marshall Mid-High Enterprise School

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12201 N. Portland, Oklahoma City, OK 73120 | P: 405-587-7200

Date: April 11, 2017

To: Parents/Guardians & AFJROTC Students

From: Aspasia Carlson, Principal

RE: **Program Closure due to Budget Cuts**

Dear Parent or Guardian of John Marshall AFJROTC Student:

It is with a heavy heart that I must inform you that we are forced to make additional staffing cuts for 2017-18, which will force us to close the John Marshall AFJROTC program. With the state's budget shortfall, we are again put in a very difficult position: last year, we lost 9 teachers, 1 administrator and 3 support staff for 2016-17. Unfortunately, as you may have heard, we are once again facing more cuts due to a lack of funding for education in our state and district. After losing 9 teachers, we are very limited as to where the 2 cuts can be made this year. Of course, we have to offer the courses required by the state for graduation, so all this left is electives.

In looking at the course requests for 2017-18, we only had 35 students requesting JROTC for all of the high school. I asked Sgt. Trim to visit classrooms and recruit for the program, which he did, but it is still not enough to justify keeping the JROTC program, when other electives have 150 students or more. It breaks my heart to lose this program, but I, like our Superintendent, am faced with some impossible choices. Please know that this is absolutely not what we want to do. We simply do not have the funds to keep the number of teachers we have, so we have to look at the least number of students affected when making these no-win decisions.

My husband was in the Navy for 6 years, and we are big supporters of the self-discipline and opportunities that the program gives to our students, both now and in the future. In the past, I advocated for the program in 2012, when we had been told the program was possibly going to be closed, and we are able to continue to have it available at John Marshall. Last year, I did everything possible not to cut JROTC, which resulted in bigger classes for other programs. If our budget situation changes, rest assured, I will do everything in my power to renew the program.

Aspasia Carlson, M. Ed.

Principal

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