



## Yorktown/Wakefield HS Winter 2022 Colorguard Introduction & Paperwork

Thank you for your interest in the Yorktown/Wakefield HS Winter Colorguard (i.e. winterguard) and our winter 2022 season. This season's program will be directed by Christopher Roland and staffed by Shannon Lewandowski, Doria Smith, and Ashley Sanchez. We hope that the information provided in this document will help you make an informed decision concerning your participation in this program. If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail me at [christopher.roland@apsva.us](mailto:christopher.roland@apsva.us). Thank you again for your continued support.

### **WHAT IS COLORGUARD:**

The Yorktown/Wakefield HS Colorguard is a performing arts ensemble affiliated with the Yorktown HS and Wakefield HS Bands. We incorporate dance along with spinning flags and other equipment in staged choreography. We offer an outdoor fall season that runs from June-October as part of the marching band, and an indoor winter season that runs from November-March as a separate ensemble. Examples of our most recent productions may be viewed below:

Winter 2020 (Winterguard show): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hoXgwdV14Dc>

Fall 2019 (Marching Band show): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXwsOBZ-bhY>

Spring 2021 (Informal, non-competitive, COVID-restricted season):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGCd-Wnnb-c>

### **GOALS:**

Our primary goal is to offer a positive, rewarding experience to the students within the context of this activity.

Our secondary goal is to train and develop the students as performers within a competitive colorguard program.

We want the students to feel successful. We want the students to see their own growth and improvements individually, and to see progress as a team. We want the students to have a good time.

The students can expect to learn fundamentals of equipment and dance technique that they will showcase as part of the winterguard's indoor production. Moreover, we hope

that the students develop greater personal responsibility, show improved self-confidence, and foster lifelong friendships.

For the winter season, the winterguard will produce an ~4-minute production choreographed to a pre-recorded soundtrack that will be performed in competitions at our local winterguard circuit. We will also perform in exhibition at the Arlington Indoor Showcase alongside other APS winterguards and indoor drumlines.

### **HOW ARE WE ORGANIZED:**

The Yorktown/Wakefield High School Colorguard represents Yorktown and Wakefield High Schools, is managed by the Yorktown (<http://www.yorktownband.org/>) and Wakefield (<http://wakefieldband.org>) High Schools' music departments under the supervision of Mr. Joe Witkowski and Mr. Henry Jessup, Directors of Bands, respectively, and is sponsored by the Yorktown High School Band Boosters and the Wakefield Band Patrons. We compete locally in the Atlantic Indoor Association (AIA), an affiliate of the national winterguard circuit WGI. At every rehearsal will be at least the head colorguard instructor, and usually there will also be at least one assistant colorguard instructor. Oftentimes, guest choreographers are brought in to supplement the students' routines. If there are any issues that need to be addressed at a level above the colorguard director, you may contact my supervisors Mr. Joe Witkowski, director of bands at Yorktown HS, at [joseph.witkowski@apsva.us](mailto:joseph.witkowski@apsva.us) or Mr. Henry Jessup, director of bands at Wakefield HS, at [henry.jessup@apsva.us](mailto:henry.jessup@apsva.us).

### **FEES AND OTHER COSTS:**

Colorguard has fees associated with the activity. Members' fees are handled entirely by the band boosters and the high schools, and not by the instructional staff. The Boosters and the staff do everything in their power to keep fees to an absolute minimum. Exact, finalized fee amounts will be announced once the total membership of the ensemble is determined and a final budget is drafted. For purposes of budgeting, last season's fees were \$400/student for the season. The staff expects this season's fees to be similar.

The fees cover the costs of instruction, show design, equipment and equipment maintenance, props, uniforms, floor covering, competition fees, transportation, etc. The booster organizations provide multiple fundraising programs and scholarships for students requiring financial assistance. **Inability to pay will never be a reason for a student to be unable to participate in the program.** If there are any financial hardships that preclude the ability to pay fees, please notify the band directors or the

colorguard staff and we will take the necessary steps to ensure the student's full participation.

The fees cover almost everything. There are a few personal items students will be asked to purchase outside of the fee structure. Guard gloves (\$16) and personal equipment bags (\$23) will be ordered at the start of the season. Students may use these items for as long as they participate in the activity. We have a small number of guard gloves and equipment bags donated back to the program by generous alumni that are available for free on an as-needed basis. Students will also be expected to purchase their own makeup and hair supplies prior to the first performance.

### **WHO CAN JOIN:**

Any student in grades 8-12 who resides within the boundaries of Yorktown HS or Wakefield HS and is willing to commit to the rehearsal schedule may participate in the program. No experience is necessary.

### **THE SEASON:**

Winter is a high-commitment activity that usually requires 10 hours of rehearsal a week. This is on par with other varsity sports offered at Yorktown and Wakefield High Schools. The season can be broken down as follows:

November – December:

The focus of these rehearsals is to develop our movement and equipment training, and to work on our physical conditioning. What we accomplish in these two months will determine the demands of our production.

January – February:

At this point in the season, we will now apply our training as we begin to stage and choreograph our show.

February – March:

We continue to develop and refine our show as we perform it at occasional Saturday competitions, culminating in circuit championships.

The official winterguard calendar can be found appended below within this document and is available on our website:

<http://www.yorktownband.org/WP/ensembles/color-guard/winterguard>.

## **COMMITMENT:**

Colorguard is a high-commitment activity, but this has not prevented students from participating in other activities such as National Honor Society, debate, band/orchestra, choir, improv comedy, etc. However, it is nearly impossible to do colorguard with another high-commitment activity or varsity sport such as field hockey, crew, cheerleading, etc. It is expected that colorguard (especially performances) will be a priority over other extracurricular activities, and that families will do their best to avoid scheduling conflicts.

All rehearsals after commitment forms are due are mandatory. Frequently missing rehearsals will negatively impact the development of the show and reduce the overall experience for the remaining students. It is asked that you please keep absences to a bare minimum (e.g. personal illness, major life events such as weddings and funerals, etc.).

The show is designed with every student in mind, and a student missing from a rehearsal or performance will negatively impact the overall performance of the ensemble. For example, a student may be responsible for moving a prop. If that student is missing for a performance, the colorguard may have to dedicate an entire rehearsal or more to figuring out a solution to the missing performer who can no longer move the prop, rather than on improving our existing show. Accordingly, frequent and repeated absences may result in a student's diminished role in the production, or a removal from the program altogether.

A student exiting the program after the staging has been written necessitates a rewrite of the show. This severely impacts the remaining members of the band and the guard, and significantly decreases their chances of competitive success. It is understood that prospective members who have signed their commitment form will stick with the program through the end of the season.

We understand that absences will happen. We expect this. Students get sick, families have made plans prior to the announcement of the season, etc. We ask that you please notify the staff or student leadership of all absences as soon as you become aware so that the staff may properly plan the rehearsals. Our ability to do our job well is dependent on knowing who will be at rehearsal.

Students are reminded that academics take precedence over colorguard. Similar rules that apply to other Yorktown and Wakefield High Schools sports with respect to grades also apply to the colorguard. However, it is understood that homework is never an

excuse to miss rehearsal. Students are expected to develop time-management skills and address their homework requirements accordingly.

So that the staff may develop the show for the correct number of students, a commitment form will be required by Sat. Nov. 20th for all students wishing to continue participating in the season. This form is an acknowledgement that you will fully participate to the best of your ability in the program for the remainder of the season.

### **REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS:**

Students will need the following items at all rehearsals:

- Athletic or dance attire
- Their assigned colorguard equipment in their equipment bag (once provided)
- Guard gloves (once provided)
- Water bottle/jug
- Small snack if desired (e.g. protein bar, fruit, etc.)

Rehearsals will run the fully allotted time with a short debriefing following instruction.

Please arrive to rehearsals a few minutes before the start time. Arriving late disrupts the rehearsal agenda.

Colorguard is a strenuous physical activity. Students are asked to take care of their bodies and eat well.

### **COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS:**

The colorguard program takes public health very seriously. Accordingly, we will follow and exceed all APS COVID-19 guidelines for winter sports. These include:

- All students and staff must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Proof of vaccination will need to be submitted to [yhsphysicals@apsva.us](mailto:yhsphysicals@apsva.us)
- Students must sign up for daily COVID testing through the following link: <https://intakeq.com/new/v2e12k/XYbiT3>
- Students will be required to take COVID tests daily. COVID testing will be offered Monday-Friday during all lunches and from 2:30PM-7:15PM, and Saturdays from 8:30AM-1:00PM.
- Masks will be worn at all times when not performing colorguard-related functions.

- Students are required to fill out their daily APS health screening survey before arriving on campus.
- Students should maintain at least 6' of distance from each other.
- Any sharing of equipment will be kept to a minimum.
- Students must bring their own water.

## **TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:**

Please note: the staff will be investigating holding some rehearsals at Wakefield HS (WHS) depending on the number of WHS students and the availability of WHS facilities.

### **Interest meeting:**

Wed. Nov. 3rd 3:15PM-3:45PM @ YHS band room

### **Open house rehearsals:**

Tue. Nov. 9th 6:00PM-8:00PM @ YHS atrium

Fri. Nov. 12th 5:00PM-7:00PM @ YHS atrium

### **Regular season rehearsals:**

Tue. Nov. 16th 6:00PM-9:00PM @ YHS atrium

Fri. Nov. 19th 5:00PM-8:00PM @ YHS atrium

Sat. Nov. 20th 8:00AM-12:00PM @ YHS atrium (commitment forms are due)

Tue. Nov. 23rd 6:00PM-9:00PM @ YHS atrium (aux gym 6:30PM-9:00PM)

Tue. Nov. 30th 6:00PM-9:00PM @ YHS atrium (aux gym 6:30PM-9:00PM)

Fri. Dec. 3rd 5:00PM-8:00PM @ YHS atrium (aux gym 5:30PM-8:00PM)

Sat. Dec. 4th 8:00AM-12:00PM @ YHS main gym (main gym 8:00AM-10:15AM)

Tue. Dec. 7th 6:00PM-9:00PM @ YHS atrium (aux gym 6:30PM-9:00PM)

Fri. Dec. 10th 5:00PM-8:00PM @ YHS aux gym

Sat. Dec. 11th 8:00AM-12:00PM @ YHS main gym (main gym 8:00AM-10:30AM)

Tue. Dec. 14th 6:00PM-9:00PM @ YHS atrium (aux gym 6:30PM-9:00PM)

Fri. Dec. 17th 5:00PM-8:00PM @ YHS aux gym

Sat. Dec. 18th 8:00AM-12:00PM @ YHS main gym (main gym 8:00AM-10:30AM)

Tue. Jan. 4th 6:00PM-9:00PM @ YHS atrium (YHS aux gym 6:30PM-9:00PM)

Fri. Jan. 7th 5:00PM-8:00PM @ YHS aux gym

Sat. Jan. 8th 8:00PM-12:00PM @ YHS main gym (main gym 8:00AM-10:00AM)

Tue. Jan. 11th 6:00PM-9:00PM @ YHS atrium (aux gym 6:30PM-9:00PM)

Fri. Jan. 14th 5:00PM-8:00PM @ YHS aux gym

Sat. Jan. 15th 8:00PM-12:00PM @ YHS main gym (main gym 8:00AM-10:30AM)

Tue. Jan. 18th 6:00PM-9:00PM @ YHS atrium (YHS aux gym 6:30PM-9:00PM)

Fri. Jan. 21st 5:00PM-8:00PM @ YHS aux gym

Sat. Jan. 22nd 8:00PM-12:00PM @ YHS main gym (main gym 8:00AM-10:30AM)

Tue. Jan. 25th 6:00PM-9:00PM @ YHS atrium (YHS aux gym 6:30PM-9:00PM)

Fri. Jan. 28th 5:00PM-8:00PM @ YHS aux gym

Sat. Jan. 29th 8:00PM-12:00PM @ YHS main gym (main gym 8:00AM-10:30AM)

Tue. Feb. 1st 6:00PM-9:00PM @ YHS atrium (YHS aux gym 6:30PM-9:00PM)

Fri. Feb. 4th 5:00PM-8:00PM @ YHS aux gym

**Sat. Feb. 5th Competition Patriot HS Nokesville, VA**

Tue. Feb. 8th 6:00PM-9:00PM @ YHS atrium (YHS aux gym 6:30PM-9:00PM)

Fri. Feb. 11th 5:00PM-8:00PM @ YHS aux gym

Sat. Feb. 12th 8:00PM-12:00PM @ YHS atrium (no gym)

Tue. Feb. 15th 6:00PM-9:00PM @ TBD (pending winter sports playoffs)

Fri. Feb. 18th 5:00PM-8:00PM @ TBD (pending winter sports playoffs)

**Sat. Feb. 19th Competition Woodgrove HS Purcellville, VA**

Tue. Feb. 22nd 6:00PM-9:00PM @ TBD (pending winter sports playoffs)

Fri. Feb. 25th 5:00PM-8:00PM @ TBD (pending winter sports playoffs)

**Sat. Feb. 26th Competition Potomac HS Dumfries, VA**

Tue. Mar. 1st 6:00PM-9:00PM @ YHS main gym

Fri. Mar. 4th 5:00PM-8:00PM @ YHS main gym

Sat. Mar. 5th 8:00AM-12:00PM @ YHS main gym

Tue. Mar. 8th 6:00PM-9:00PM @ YHS main gym

Fri. Mar. 11th 5:00PM-8:00PM @ YHS main gym

**Sat. Mar. 12th Competition Mt. Vernon HS Alexandria, VA**

Tue. Mar. 15th 6:00PM-9:00PM @ YHS main gym

Fri. Mar. 18th 5:00PM-8:00PM @ YHS main gym

Sat. Mar. 19th 8:00AM-12:00PM @ YHS main gym

Tue. Mar. 22nd 6:00PM-9:00PM @ YHS main gym

Fri. Mar. 25th 5:00PM-8:00PM @ YHS main gym

**Sat. Mar. 26th Competition South County HS Lorton, VA**

Tue. Mar. 29th 6:00PM-9:00PM @ YHS main gym

**Thurs. Mar. 31st Friends & Family Show Yorktown HS Arlington, VA (tentative)**

Fri. Apr. 1st 5:00PM-8:00PM @ YHS main gym

**Sat. Apr. 2nd AIA Championships Hampton Coliseum Hampton, VA**



**Winterguard Commitment Form (due no later than Sat. Nov. 20th)**  
**School Year 2021-2022**



Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade Level (Circle One)    8       9       10       11       12

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Work/Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Best email to contact student: \_\_\_\_\_

Best email to contact parent/guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that my participation in the Yorktown/Wakefield HS Winterguard is a commitment to my immediate family, my fellow guard members, and myself. By signing this agreement, I have committed myself to the performances and rehearsals for this ensemble. I recognize that my curricular band requirements supersede my winterguard requirements. I will take care of, maintain, and return any equipment loaned to me belonging to YHS/WHS. I have read the introductory paperwork included with this form, have marked the rehearsal and performance calendar dates, and have reviewed the payment information. These forms are available at: <http://www.yorktownband.org/WP/ensembles/color-guard/winterguard>.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_