



## Yorktown HS Winter 2025 Colorguard Introduction & Paperwork

Thank you for your interest in the Yorktown HS Winter Colorguard (i.e. winterguard) and our winter 2025 season. This season's program will be directed by Christopher Roland, director since fall 2006, and assisted by James Raquedan and Atiya Hall. 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 HS Colorguard is a performing arts ensemble affiliated with the Yorktown HS Band. 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 some of our past productions may be viewed below:

Winter 2024 (Winterguard show):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JyFjkPYAJDVb-hUyC3IFYWujJ7TWvsDM/>

Fall 2024 (Marching Band show):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CqulctN3noAtAVDvtLLIRdY3CsvXhEI3/>

### **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 High School Colorguard represents Yorktown High Schools, is managed by the Yorktown High School's music department (<http://www.yorktownband.org/>) under the supervision of Mr. Joseph Witkowski, Director of Bands, and is sponsored by the Yorktown High School Band Boosters. 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 supervisor Mr. Joseph Witkowski at [joseph.witkowski@apsva.us](mailto:joseph.witkowski@apsva.us).

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

Colorguard has fees associated with the activity. Members' fees are handled entirely by the band program and the high school, and not by the instructional staff. The Yorktown Band 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 \$550/student (\$275 for students on reduced lunch; \$110 for students on free lunch). We expect a similar fee this year.

The fees cover the costs of instruction, show design, equipment and equipment maintenance, props, costumes, floor covering, competition fees, transportation, etc. The Boosters 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 director 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 that new students will be asked to purchase outside of the fee structure. Guard gloves (\$19) and personal equipment bags (\$30) will be ordered at the start of the season. To save on shipping costs, the guard will place a group order for gloves and bags after commitment forms are submitted. 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 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 High School. However, the schedule places the bulk of these hours on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings to minimize the effect on students' academic requirements. 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: <https://yorktownband.org/ensembles-clubs/colorguard/>

## **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 High School 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. 23rd 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.

## **TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:**

### **Interest meeting:**

Thurs. Nov. 7th 3:30PM-4:30PM @ band room

### **Open house rehearsals:**

Tue. Nov. 12th 6:00PM-8:00PM @ atrium

Fri. Nov. 15th 6:00PM-8:00PM @ atrium

### **Regular season rehearsals:**

Tue. Nov. 19th 6:00PM-9:00PM @ atrium

Fri. Nov. 22nd 5:00PM-8:00PM @ atrium

Sat. Nov. 23rd 8:00AM-12:00PM @ atrium (**commitment forms are due**)

Tue. Nov. 26th 6:00PM-9:00PM @ atrium

## **THANKSGIVING BREAK**

Tue. Dec. 3rd 6:00PM-9:00PM @ atrium (aux gym 6:30PM-9:00PM)

Fri. Dec. 6th 5:00PM-8:00PM @ atrium (aux gym 5:30PM-8:00PM)

Sat. Dec. 7th 8:00AM-12:00PM @ main gym (main gym 8:00AM-11:00AM)

Tue. Dec. 10th 6:00PM-9:00PM @ atrium

Fri. Dec. 13th 5:00PM-8:00PM @ atrium (aux gym 5:30PM-8:00PM)

Sat. Dec. 14th 8:00AM-12:00PM @ main gym (main gym 8:00AM-11:00AM)

Tue. Dec. 17th 6:00PM-9:00PM @ atrium (aux gym 6:30PM-9:00PM)

Fri. Dec. 20th 5:00PM-8:00PM @ atrium (aux gym 5:30PM-8:00PM)

Sat. Dec. 21st 6:00PM-9:00PM @ main gym (main gym 8:00AM-11:00AM)

## **WINTER BREAK**

Tue. Jan. 7th 6:00PM-9:00PM @ atrium

Fri. Jan. 10th 5:00PM-8:00PM @ atrium

Sat. Jan. 11th 8:00AM-12:00PM @ main gym

Tue. Jan. 14th 6:00PM-9:00PM @ atrium

Fri. Jan. 17th 5:00PM-8:00PM @ atrium

Sat. Jan. 18th 8:00AM-12:00PM @ main gym (main gym 8:00AM-11:00AM)

Tue. Jan. 21st 6:00PM-9:00PM @ atrium

Fri. Jan. 24th 5:00PM-8:00PM @ atrium

Sat. Jan. 25th Spin-a-thon 8:00AM-11:00AM & 12:00PM-3:00PM @ main gym

Tue. Jan. 28th 6:00PM-9:00PM @ atrium

Fri. Jan. 31st 5:00PM-8:00PM @ atrium

Sat. Feb. 1st 8:00AM-12:00PM @ main gym

Tue. Feb. 4th 6:00PM-9:00PM @ atrium

Fri. Feb. 7th 5:00PM-8:00PM @ atrium

**Sat. Feb. 8th AIA Competition Tuscarora HS Leesburg, VA**

Tue. Feb. 11th 6:00PM-9:00PM @ atrium

Fri. Feb. 14th 5:00PM-8:00PM @ atrium

Sat. Feb. 15th 8:00AM-12:00PM @ main gym

Tue. Feb. 18th 6:00PM-9:00PM @ atrium

Fri. Feb. 21st 5:00PM-8:00PM @ atrium

**Sat. Feb. 22nd AIA Competition Woodgrove HS Purcellville, VA**

Tue. Feb. 25th 6:00PM-9:00PM @ TBD

Fri. Feb. 28th 5:00PM-8:00PM @ TBD

Sat. Mar. 1st 8:00AM-12:00PM @ main gym

Tue. Mar. 4th 6:00PM-9:00PM @ TBD

Fri. Mar. 7th 5:00PM-8:00PM @ TBD

**Sat. Mar. 8th KIDA Competition Governor Thomas Johnson HS Frederick, MD**

Tue. Mar. 11th 6:00PM-9:00PM @ TBD

Fri. Mar. 14th 5:00PM-8:00PM @ TBD

Sat. Mar. 15th 8:00AM-12:00PM @ TBD

Tue. Mar. 18th 6:00PM-9:00PM @ TBD

Fri. Mar. 21st 5:00PM-8:00PM @ TBD

**Sat. Mar. 22nd AIA Competition Mount Vernon HS Alexandria, VA**

Tue. Mar. 25th 6:00PM-9:00PM @ TBD

**Thurs. Mar. 27th APS Indoor Showcase Yorktown HS Arlington, VA**

Fri. Mar. 28th 5:00PM-8:00PM @ TBD

**Sat. Apr. Mar. 29th AIA North Championships Hampton Coliseum Hampton, VA**

Tue. Apr. 8th Banquet 6:00PM-8:00PM @ cafeteria (tentative)

Fri. Apr. 11th Maintenance Day 3:30PM-6:30PM @ guard closet (tentative)

**Winterguard Commitment Form**      **(due no later than Sat. Nov. 23rd)**  
**School Year 2024-2025**



Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Parent/Guardian Phone Number (for emergencies): \_\_\_\_\_

Best Email to Contact Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Email to Contact Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that my participation in the Yorktown 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. I have read the introductory paperwork, have marked the rehearsal and performance calendar dates, and have reviewed the payment information. These forms are available at:

<https://yorktownband.org/ensembles-clubs/colorguard/>.

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

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