

2015-2016 Yorktown High School Band Achievements

The Yorktown Band program was named a 2015-2016 Honor Band, the highest honor that can be bestowed upon bands by the Virginia Band & Orchestra Directors Association (VBODA). The Honor Band title is awarded to bands achieving superior ratings at the state marching and district concert festival.

Yorktown Band

- *Superior* (I) Rating, Symphonic Band, VBODA District Band Assessment.
- Symphonic Band, 2016 Festival Disney, *Superior Rating*, Orlando, FL.
- Concert Band, 2016 Festival Disney, *Excellent Rating*, Orlando, FL.
- Sevdah Commission Project. The Sevdah Commission Project was the joint effort of three Arlington Public School music teachers and resulted in a new concerto for oboe and wind band. Carl Holmquist, director of bands at HB Woodlawn, composed the concerto, *Songbook: Concerto for Oboe & Wind Ensemble*. Oboist and Tuckahoe Elementary School music teacher, Katelyn Kyser, with the Yorktown High School Symphonic Band led by Brian Bersh, premiered the concerto. 2015 marked the 20th anniversary of the end of the Bosnian War. Honoring the musical traditions of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the impact of cross-cultural education, this commissioned work is based upon folk tunes from the Bosnian tradition, sevdahlinka, and is written to recognize the events of the Bosnian War as well as to honor the resilience of the people of Sarajevo.
- 16 participants in the VBODA Solo and Ensemble Festival.

Yorktown Marching Patriots

- *1st Place*, IV A - US Bands Marine Corps Invitational, Annapolis, MD.
- *1st Place*, IV A - The Marching Music Series presented by Music in Motion: Northeast Edition, Towson University, MD.
- *2nd Place*, IV Open – Band by the Bay Competition, Annapolis, MD.
- *Superior* (I) Rating, VBODA State Marching Band Assessment.
- *Caption Awards* from the 2015 season include: Best Music, Best Visual Performance, Best Percussion, & Best Overall Effect.

Yorktown Big Band

- Hosted the 3rd Annual *Essentially Ellington* Regional High School Jazz Band Festival in coordination with Jazz at Lincoln Center and The U.S. Army Blues Jazz Ensemble.
- Selected to perform on the Finals Stage at the Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival.
- 10 students selected to the Chantilly International Jazz Festival All-Star Big Band, 3 students selected to All State ensembles, & 3 students received solo awards in at Festival Disney.
- 2016 Festival Disney, *Superior Rating*, Orlando, FL. Silver medal finalist.

Yorktown Percussion Ensemble

- Host, 3rd Annual Arlington Percussion Ensemble Festival.

Yorktown Indoor Percussion Ensemble

- *The Rose that Grew from Concrete*; Awarded first place at US Bands Indoor Regional Championship in Somerville, NJ.
- Achieved highest score in the ensemble's 10-year history (93.80).

Yorktown Winter Guard

- *DotDotDot*; Atlantic Indoor Association Scholastic Regional A1 Finalists, finishing in the top quartile of Regional A-class colorguards.
- First season involving participants from multiple APS schools: Yorktown HS, Wakefield HS, and Williamsburg MS.

Community

Yorktown ensembles played an active role in the community, including performances at the 9-11 Memorial 5k, Nottingham Halloween Parade, Discovery Elementary Fall Festival, Smithsonian National Zoo, and the Westover Farmer’s Market.

Professional Presence

- Symphonic Camp featured a day of master classes, sectional clinicians, and guest conductors working with the concert band and symphonic band. A total of 23 professional musicians, including a conductor of The U.S. Navy Concert Band and Jonathan Caldwell, Director of Virginia Tech’s wind ensemble, worked with the students.
- The Airmen of Note Jazz Ensemble performed and provided clinics for the Yorktown Big Band.
- The Concert & Symphonic Bands participated in clinics at the University of Central Florida with Dr. Scott Tobias.
- The Symphonic Band received clinics by the wind band directors from Shenandoah Conservatory & Radford University, Dr. Timothy Robblee & Dr. Wayne Gallops, respectively.
- Performance for concert band by the U.S. Marine Band Brass Quintet.
- The GMU Graduate Percussion Ensemble was the featured ensemble and served as clinicians for the Arlington Percussion Ensemble Festival, hosted at YHS.
- Performance by The U.S. Army Blues Jazz Ensemble as part of the *Essentially Ellington* Regional High School Jazz Band Festival hosted at YHS. Special Guests Sal Lozano, James Chirillo & Ron Carter
- Performance by the U.S. Navy Concert Band as part of Yorktown’s 2nd Annual Symphonic Camp.
- Side-by-side band rehearsals with UVA’s Pep Band and Wind Ensemble.

Virginia Honor Ensembles

The Yorktown Band was well represented in District and State Honor Ensembles. These ensembles are highly competitive and participation is admitted through audition. Here are the honor ensembles, and how many students participated in each:

District 12 Honor Band: 5 Senior Regional Orchestra: 4 All-Virginia Symphonic Band: 1	All-Virginia Concert Band: 1 All-Virginia Jazz Ensemble: 3 All-Virginia Orchestra: 1
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Thank you to all of the Yorktown parents, students, staff, administration, and community members! Without your support, these opportunities for the band and its members would not be possible.