

To receive a printed copy of the PTA's Yorktown Spirit newsletter in the mail, fill out and return the form on page 6.

Yorktown Spirit

A Blue Ribbon School-Fostering Success in All Students

Fall 2017

Principal's Letter

Welcome back Patriots! I hope that your summer was filled with memorable adventures as well as time for rest and relaxation. My husband, Andrew (Director of Bands at Robinson Secondary School), son, Ian, (a junior at Robinson), our dog, Charlie (a German Shepard/Lab mix full of wiggly love), and I spent a glorious week at Cape Charles on Virginia's Eastern Shore. We have had a great summer, and I am excited about joining the Patriot family.

The start of a new school year is always filled with anticipation of new adventures and recognition that change is inevitable. Change defines the high school years, and at Yorktown, we strive to support our students and families during this time of transition. As our student population nears 2,000, we are fortunate to expand our Patriot family. We are pleased to welcome the following new staff members:

Alesandra Bakaj – Social Studies
Audrey Chan – Administrative Assistant
Chelsea Christ – Health & PE
Kim Cordell - Math
Lauren Cortese – English
Taliah Graves – Special Education Assistant
Suany Hurlson – American Sign Language
Chris Kahldahl – Physics
Kenneth Mandel – Social Studies
Barbara Marks – Math and Special Education
Chris Mauthe – Social Studies
Ruth Mohr – English
Tamara Molina - Biology
Troy Olsen – English
Scott Painter – Physics
Alexis Nemer – Special Education
Benjamin Peterson – Math
Jessica Reeve - Counselor
Surender Raut – Special Education
Dakota Springston – Social Studies
Christine Stark – Art
Mindy Straley – Computer Science
Monica Strolk – Art
Stacie Vincent – Math

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PTA President's Message

Dear Yorktown Families:

Welcome! I hope everyone enjoyed the summer and is looking forward to a terrific school year. The PTA is excited to welcome new Principal Bridget Loft to Yorktown – we greatly appreciate that she participated in events over the summer to meet YHS parents and answer questions.

The PTA wants to make it easy for families to be informed, and support and participate in YHS PTA activities. There are many ways to become involved and we hope you find the way that works best for you. Here's how to learn more:

- Visit yhspta.org – learn, join, donate, volunteer!
- Sign up at yhspta.org for e-newsletters filled with the latest news (details on p. 3).
- Attend PTA meetings on the second Monday of the month -- hear from Mrs. Loft and PTA chairs and be part of parent discussions. **See you at 7:30 p.m., Sept. 11, in the library!**
- Volunteer for a PTA committee or pitch in to chaperone a dance, judge the Science Fair, bake for teacher appreciation—find out more at yhspta.org or by contacting volunteer@yhspta.org.
- Read the Yorktown Spirit newsletter online, or request future issues in print (see back page).

Your membership dues and donations are critical to fund student activities, staff appreciation, college scholarships, family forums, and more. Our largest program provides education grants to enhance student learning through field trips, lab equipment, and student programs. Last year, the PTA provided more than \$28,000 in education grants. Thank you, Yorktown families!

Please help us keep this work strong and support all

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Chalis Waizenegger – Special Education
Ryan Zito – Social Studies

Please visit our school often and stay involved in all aspects of your child's education. We are here to work with you. Join us for the **first PTA meeting on Monday, 9/11 at 7:30** and at **Back-to-School Night on Wednesday, 9/27 at 7:00**.

Communication is essential for success. We have a well-established network of voicemail, email, Parent & Student Vue (online grade and student information portals), report cards, and progress reports. This newsletter, *Yorktown Spirit*, is also an excellent way to stay connected with events at Yorktown. The Yorktown web site (<http://www.yorktown.apsva.us/>) includes up-to-date information regarding events, activities and homework assignments. We encourage you to use these resources to stay informed of your child's progress during the coming year.

Our mission and commitment are to provide a first rate education to every student at Yorktown and to work together collaboratively to offer that education in a climate of mutual respect and positive support. We want to provide a school environment in which our students can best grow their unique talents and where they embrace and appreciate the contributions of their classmates and their teachers. This focus on social-emotional learning (SEL) at Yorktown is symbolized by the slogan created by staff and students - *Yorktown ROCS*, which stands for **R**espect for **O**thers, **C**ommunity and **S**elf. Yorktown ROCS helps us all keep paramount the importance of respecting ourselves and our community as we also strive for academic excellence. There is a place for everyone here, and we invite you to join us as we build on these successes. Welcome aboard and have a great year!

Bridget Loft
Principal

Yorktown students:

- Become a member of the PTA by going to www.yhspta.org and clicking on "Join."
- Donate to our "no fuss fundraiser," the Phantom Phling, through the "Join & Donate" form at www.yhspta.org. It is our only fundraiser of the year!
- Connect your Harris Teeter and Giant cards to Yorktown and shop through the [Amazon Smiles](https://www.amazon.com/smiles) program to benefit the Yorktown High PTA (see details on p. 5). It costs nothing to participate and, last year, over \$13,500 was donated to the YHS PTA from the grocery receipts program simply because families took this extra step!

It is exciting to consider how much the Yorktown school community has accomplished by working together, and how much more we will do this year. I'm looking forward to serving with a great group of PTA officers and committee chairs – and we hope you get involved, too!

Kathy Mimberg
Yorktown PTA President
president@yhspta.org

Support Yorktown: Join the PTA

The PTA provides funds to teachers, administrators, and staff for science programs, TV studio and art equipment, field trips, math study aides, computers, and many other items and projects. See your First Day Packet or visit www.yhspta.org for details on how to join. Questions? Contact: Rachel Moore at membership@yhspta.org

2017-18 PTA Officers

Last spring, the PTA elected the following officers for the 2017-2018 school year:

President: Kathy Mimberg
Internal Vice President: Joycelyn Harrison
External Vice President: Yvonne Brandt
Treasurer: Michele Rinn
Secretary: Ashley Rehr

Congratulations to all and thank you for your service to the YHS community!

Teacher-Staff Welcome Back Breakfast on September 28—Volunteers Needed

The annual Back-to-School-Breakfast for teachers and staff will be held on Thursday, September 28. This is a great way to welcome the staff back to another year with our students. The breakfast will certainly be a help to the teachers since it will be held the day after Back-to-School Night! We will have information on how to contribute to this event on "Sign Up Genius" after school starts, so please keep an eye out for it. Thank you in advance for your help in recognizing the YHS teachers and staff! If you are interested in joining the Teacher Appreciation Committee contact Paula Cohen at pauladcohen@me.com or 703-536-6555 (home) and 703-963-6840 (cell).

**Stay Connected: Sign Up for YHS & Class Emails**

It's important to stay connected. Communication is the key! One of the best ways to know what is going on at YHS is to receive the PTA Weekly Updates and the class specific updates by email. Please take a moment and sign up for both the YHS Weekly PTA Update and the Class of 2018, 2019, 2020, or 2021 (incoming freshman) updates.

It's very easy to do. Click on this link, <http://eepurl.com/dxBk>, enter your email address, choose both the YHS Weekly PTA Email and your particular class graduating year, and hit submit. If you already have a student at YHS, but need to add the class of 2021, you can do so thru this link as well. Just enter your email address, and choose Class of 2021. The system will then tell you that your email address is already part of the system. It will send you an email with a link to update your profile and include the Class of 2021.

Alternatively, you can go to www.yhspta.org, and follow links for the weekly emails or listserv. Enter your email address, choose both the YHS Weekly PTA Email and your particular class graduating year, and submit. If you have any questions or problems, please contact Lisa Koch at kochfamilyva@gmail.com

YHSPTA.ORG — NEW AND IMPROVED — Check it Out!

Now even better! Learn more about all the great ways the PTA is supporting the YHS community by checking out the new and improved YHS PTA website at www.yhspta.org. The site contains timely messages from the PTA president, the weekly email and online issues of the Yorktown Spirit newsletter, as well as information on how to volunteer for or donate to PTA programs. The site also includes relevant school and county calendars, PTA contacts, budget and meeting agendas/minutes. You can even order your YHS Spirit Wear on the website. So start the year by checking out the redesigned PTA website! A big thank you to Yvonne Brandt for leading the website redesign!

Homecoming Dance Set for October 21st—Help Needed!

Yorktown's Homecoming Dance will be held Saturday, October 21 at 8:00 p.m. in the Yorktown Gym, and we are seeking volunteers to supplement the school staff and police who traditionally supervise the dance. Volunteers are needed from 7:30 to 11:00 in shifts of 1, 2 or more hours. Your help is crucial, and it's a great way to be a part of the Yorktown community on a very special evening for the students (you also get to see everyone dressed up)! Volunteers are needed in the coat check area, at the refreshment table and as roving monitors (to provide extra eyes-and-ears for the police, staff, and teachers). Parent chaperones are not responsible for reprimanding students or any disciplinary action. School staff will handle that, if needed. For more details or to volunteer, contact the chaperone coordinator, Roena O'Donnell at roenao@gmail.com or 703-237-3494.

Reflections Content 2017-2018

Calling all creative Yorktown students! This could be your year to win School, Regional, State and National Awards! The PTA Reflections Contest is coming soon. PTA Reflections is a nationally acclaimed student recognition program to encourage artistic creativity in the classroom and at home. Students of all grades and abilities may participate and explore the arts based on the 2017-2018 theme: "Within Reach." Students may choose one or all of the available arts categories: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts. Submissions due Friday, October 20, 2017 to the YHS Main Office. Details for Students: <http://www.vapta.org/arts-and-education/reflections.html>

**Support Yorktown High PTA:
Shop at Giant, Harris Teeter and Amazon and help fund
deserving programs that support our teachers and students**

The PTA benefits from several fundraising programs sponsored by local grocery stores, as well as Amazon.com. Since you are already shopping anyway, please take a few minutes to register for these programs that support the Yorktown school community.

Please link your grocery cards at Giant and Harris Teeter. YHS receives the bulk of its funding from these two great programs. Sign up is simple! Over the course of a few years, the PTA has earned over a quarter of a million dollars!

Registration instructions are below. Alternatively, you can ask the cashier at check out to link your card or stop by the manager's desk. Not sure if you are registered? Check your receipt.

Questions or comments? Contact Jennifer Gold at YHScards@gmail.com. Thank you for your support!



Harris Teeter Together in Education

www.harristeeter.com/community/together_in_education/tie.aspx

YHS Code 4542

Your VIC card must be linked to a Together in Education code at time of purchase for YHS to benefit. Not sure if your VIC card is linked, look at the bottom of your HT receipt. Registration opens 8/1/17 and program runs 8/1/17 through 6/1/18.



GIANT A+ School Rewards <http://giantfood.com/school-rewards/>

YHS code 02223

Sign up for A+ Rewards starts on September 11th, and the program runs 10/6/17 through 3/15/18.



Amazon Smile <https://smile.amazon.com>

YHS Code is Yorktown High PTA

Amazon will remember your selection. You can use the same account on Amazon and Amazon Smile. Supporters must always start at smile.amazon.com to support Yorktown High PTA. Amazon donates 0.5% of eligible Amazon Smile purchases to Yorktown PTA.



eScrip www.escrip.com

Search Yorktown High School

Sign up, designate Yorktown High School and then shop or dine to earn funds for your school.

Yorktown Spirit Newsletter: Want A Copy Mailed to You?

Yorktown's PTA *Spirit* newsletter is included in each year's First Day Packets, on the PTA website and as a link on weekly PTA emails; however, winter and spring issues can be mailed to families who request it.

Families who want a printed and mailed newsletter during the year, please fill out the form below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Return this form in the First Day Packet or mail or email to:

Bridget Curran, 2012 N. Illinois St., Arlington, VA 22205 or currans5va@verizon.net

Show Your Yorktown Pride by Wearing Your YHS Colors!

Stock Up on Spirit Wear! Order Online Now!

T-shirts (\$10) and crew style sweatshirts (\$20) are now available for online purchase. Both items are navy blue with "Yorktown" printed across the front in Patriot Blue in S, M, L and XL.

New online ordering is available at www.yhspta.org.

Questions? Email Spirit Wear Chair Diane Small at wee@smallfam.com

