



You may be receiving this packet due to the following:

- The student is signed up for a band course at YCHS for next school year
- The student made the Cougarettes Team
- Directors recommended the student for YCHS Varsity Marching Band
- Directors strongly feel as though the student should reconsider his/her decision not to participate, and come to the orientation

Greetings from York Comprehensive High School! We hope this letter finds everyone enjoying a fine academic and musical year. Next school year is right around the corner, and preparations are already being made for the Cougar Band. After the enormous success of this year, we are very excited about the possibilities of another outstanding year for the York Cougar Bands!

We are excited to have our veterans ("vets") returning, and new talents ("rookies") including some 7th graders who were selected to be evaluated to have an early marching band experience as an 8th grader by Mr. Robinson! Congratulations everyone! We are also excited to have wonderful supportive band parents. Our band parents and chair people for specific functions act as a support system for our band program. Please get involved!

There will be 4 Mandatory Student Orientation days - Monday April 29th - Thursday May 2nd. All students receiving this letter should attend all 4 days. Specialized staff including Mr. Robinson, Mr. McCarter, Mrs. McCarter, Mrs. Brooks, and Mr. Brooks will be working with each section individually. We will meet each day in the high school band room. Please contact Mrs. Brooks (lbrooks@york.k12.sc.us) ASAP if you should be unable to attend for any reason. Students should wear athletic shoes, socks, and gym type clothing. All hair should be pulled back and away from face. Students should bring: water bottle/red water jug, hats, sunglasses, and sunscreen. We will be outside for 2 days and inside for 2 days. Current YMS students can be transported by parents to YCHS for orientation each day, or they can ride a designated shuttle bus to the high school.

Evaluations & Show Production Assignments

- Mr. Brooks & percussion staff will be conducting percussion evaluations during the Percussion Clinic Week (April 8th-10th). These evaluations will continue during the first several days of Orientation.
- Mr. Brooks, Mrs. Brooks, & winds staff will be conducting winds evaluations approx. 2 weeks before orientation during YMS & YCHS band classes during the day. These evaluations will continue during the first several days of Orientation.
 - *The above evaluations are based on skill level and musicianship on the instrument, a series of physical movements, coordination, following directions, and overall attitude/work ethic.*
- Mrs. McCarter & staff will be conducting the Cougarette evaluations during Cougarette tryouts and during the first several days of Orientation.

Marching band shows are designed with the aid of computerized marching drill and music writing programs. Drill designers charge per marching position on the field. Each member will be assigned either a numbered position in the competitive marching show, or designated as a reserve member. Marching assignments are subject to change at any time. *(Note: These assignments are for Marching Band only: July-October)*

- **Spot holder member**
 - A numbered position who will have a specific coordinate sheet detailing their positions on the field by the computer.
 - Performs at all games, competitions, etc.
- **Reserve member**
 - A reserve member is simply a student who will share a numbered position on the field.
 - Reserves will have the same opportunities in the marching experience except for select performance occasions. Younger students, new students, and those with less experience can expect to be reserves more often than upper-classmen. Selection of reserves will be ongoing and can change at any time.
 - Reserve members have the same expectations as all other students.
 - Reserves could be worked into the lineup as spot holder places open up, or as necessary to replace members who may be having a difficult time.
 - Reserve members designated to take a spot holder's position during the competitive season are selected based on movement skills first, then musicianship.
 - Age & experience are NOT determining factors
 - Instrument is also NOT a determining factor, as a student may serve as a visual spot holder for another instrument section.
- **Student not ready for membership at this time**

There will also be a **MANDATORY Band Parent Orientation on Thursday May 2nd.** The meeting will be held in the YCHS Auditorium. We ask that you enter the school using the pavilion doors. Registration will be conducted in the pavilion/lobby of the auditorium. Parents are asked to arrive between 5:00pm & 5:45pm to register. Registration before the meeting will consist of turning in all forms, paying the deposit for membership, and paying for any show shirts ordered. The parent orientation will begin promptly at 6pm in the auditorium. The meeting agenda will include: procedures, expectations, needs for band camp, fundraising information, trip information, and student "show & tell" performance!

NEW!! NEW!! NEW!! >To Do List for 2019-2020 Band Parents< NEW!! NEW!! NEW!!

To help make Orientation Registration be even more efficient for parents, we are going paperless with most of our forms this year!!! Parents have until May 2nd to complete the online forms below. If the forms are not completed before May 2nd the parent will need to complete the forms on site at Orientation Registration.

1. Student/Parent Information Form – <https://forms.gle/fsMEWgsuUdHncYfd7>



2. Student Medical Form – <https://forms.gle/9V8aJSUKbdE74xE49>



3. Field Trip Form - <https://forms.gle/RUAPLy7HHnFbh4hY6>



- Only one form to turn in at Orientation Registration!
Please bring the **Payment Contract/Rental Form** (attached to this packet)!

The May 2nd meeting is the time to **make the \$100 deposit for membership fees.** This will secure your student's membership in the Cougar Band!

Membership Fees Total: (Please see the "Payment Contract" form for payment plans.)

- Upper Woodwinds (*Flutes, Clarinets, Alto Sax*) - \$250
- All Others using School owned instruments for Marching and/or Concert Band - \$300
(*Bass Clarinet, Tenor Sax, Bari Sax, Trumpet, Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, Percussion*)
- Cougarettes - \$325

Making payments: If paying with cash, please have exact change. If paying by check, please include the student's name and what the payment is for in the memo blank of all checks.

We understand that sometimes there may be some financial hardships. In this event, please note this on your Payment Contract Form-this will be a confidential matter. **EVERY STUDENT should be able to participate!** –we can work together to make this happen! Some form of deposit must be made to guarantee your student's participation on May 2nd.

We look forward to seeing all students on April 29th and all parents on May 2nd. You will find that this is only the beginning of watching your student grow in life and in music through the high school band/color guard experience.

There are things that music, dance, and other arts teach us that nothing else can. There are things that music and dance make us feel, and places music and dance take us that nothing else can. Our hope as music educators is that your student and family become avid connoisseurs of all kinds of music and musical experiences. Music is exciting! LET'S GET EXCITED!

We look forward to meeting you all at orientation!

Douglas W. Brooks, Director of Bands, YCHS
Jeff Robinson, Director of Bands, YMS
Mariah McCarter, Director of Cougarettes/Hunter St. Elem.

Laura C. Brooks, Associate Director of Bands, YCHS
Zack McCarter, Director of Bands, YIS/GHSES

Save the Dates

- ❖ April 8th-10th 4-6pm Percussion Clinic/Tryouts
- ❖ April 29th - May 2nd 4-7pm Student Orientation
- ❖ May 2nd 5:00-5:45pm Parent Registration (Pavilion)
6-7pm Parent Orientation (Auditorium)
7pm Student Show & Tell
- ❖ May 16th & 17th Band Revue III (YMS & YCHS Bands)
- ❖ May 24th 7pm YCHS Band Awards & Reception

