

TJHSST 2020 Winter Program Information



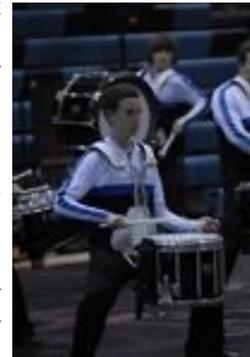
Welcome to the TJHSST Winter Program! We are excited to have you in our program. Both the Indoor Drum line and Indoor Color guard offer students a vast array of educational and social experiences. Students will learn how to work as a team, problem solve, persevere through challenges, and understand the value/reward of hard work.

Winter programs began as a training program for the fall marching band, but through the decades they have defined themselves as respected competitive activities throughout the world. If you have ever seen the marching band you have pretty much seen the activities in this winter program. The only difference is that during indoor, instead of being a part of the bigger picture, the focus is entirely on the drum line or color guard. To help enhance the visual interpretation of the music, both groups employ visual movements as well as props and backdrops.

These programs offer students the opportunity to perform a more individually customized show. They will have much more personal exposure and higher individual responsibilities and demands since there are fewer people on stage with them than in the marching band. This added focus on the individual adds an extra level of excitement and personal achievement to the activity. The educational value of this is obvious; confidence and self-expression become second nature.

Membership and Audition Policies

Membership in the winter program is entirely voluntary and includes a vast array of people and personalities. Typically every student who would like to be a member of the winter program will be accepted regardless of prior experience as a musician (or as a dancer for color guard). It is up to the discretion of the instructional staff to determine if a prospective rookie needs some basic training first before they would be reasonably ready to participate in one of these groups, however such cases are rare. Don't worry - no such decision will be made without an open dialogue between the student and the instructional staff. Veteran members of the ensemble will be automatically accepted unless there were any attendance or other membership issues in previous seasons to discuss. Auditions are mostly for part-assignment, not actual membership eligibility.



Students are able to audition for either color guard or drum line, just make sure you communicate with the staff before beginning the auditions so they can plan accordingly if you want to try both. The goal is to complete all part-assignments by the "Commitment" day on November 18. In the past, both programs have had participants from the wind-section of band, orchestra, chorus, and theatre programs as well as from the student body not otherwise involved in the fine arts.

Prospective members must make arrangements to attend the necessary audition rehearsals (Nov. 16, 17, and 18 after school when we will set most/all of the part assignments. If you have other conflicts, please discuss with the instructional staff as soon as possible to make arrangements (See "Communication" section for contact info). We will offer a formal interest/info session this year at 6:00 PM on November 16, shortly before the Band Booster meeting begins at 6:30 that same evening. A virtual login will be offered and communicated through the TJBands website and/or email messages. We are also happy to answer any questions you or your parents have via email or in person.

Attendance Policy and Commitments

Attendance at all practices and competitions is mandatory. Excused absences include illness, family emergency, and pre-arranged conflicts communicated to the staff but instances must be kept to an absolute minimum for the sake of the group's success. When a member has to miss practice during the week, they need to inform the instructors as soon as the issue becomes known, in advance.



However, if a student were to miss several practices or have one unexcused absence, their status as a performing member would be in jeopardy and a discussion would be necessary. It is likely that any further absences from rehearsal or any single unexcused absence from competition or rehearsal would be grounds for removal from the group. Students are responsible for keeping up with their academics – *catching up on homework is not an excused absence*. This activity is built upon team-work and unexpected, missing members hurt the entire team.

This is not to say that if a student knows ahead of time that they might miss a major rehearsal or show that they will not be able to perform or be part of the team. The instructors of both groups will do what they can to accommodate the performers, but they have the discretion to decide which absence will be excused and which will not. If a student knows of reoccurring conflicts with rehearsal times or a conflict with a competition date, they need to notify instructors during enrollment, no later than the second day of auditions. Even spring-sports preseason schedules can be accommodated on occasion.

During the enrollment process, students will be asked to declare their possible conflicting interests. Every year we have members who also play softball, swim, sing in church choirs, participate in the school musical and any of a thousand other activities who are able to make the drum line and color guard schedule work as well because they notify the instructors before the season begins and work out a plan. Even if you don't know what your schedule may be in March because it will be your first time trying-out for some activity, as long as you research the possible conflicts and keep your instructors informed and work out a plan in advance, accommodations can usually be made. Sometimes you will be forced to choose but many times things do work out. It only becomes an issue if your commitment changes mid-season without letting your instructors know about it in advance. This requires that you be proactive in communicating with your coaches, teachers, parents, etc. to determine any and all details of the potential conflicts so that solutions may be discussed.

Regular practice time outside of rehearsal is expected, consistent within any such school program. Students must be willing to practice at home on a regular basis as a part of their regular homework routine. Occasionally it is appropriate for small groups to meet for extra sectional work on their own at the discretion of the section leaders. The section leaders (student leadership) are encouraged to keep these meetings somewhat relaxed and less formal than a regular rehearsal, but much work can be done at these times. This is especially important early in the season while members are trying to learn the work and music to their shows. 8th period "Open Practice" sessions are often used for this purpose.

Withdrawal from the program whether by choice or as a result of violation of the commitment requirements may result in a show design re-write fee. The design staff devotes a great deal of time and energy toward designing the shows in ways, which don't work without all the members working together as expected. There are also several purchases that are made very early in the season for custom-fit uniforms, and props and other equipment that are designed, built, and worked into the show in ways that are entirely dependent on who and how many students are in the show. If it becomes necessary to re-write the show or replace any such equipment or uniforms due to such circumstances, the student may be held responsible for covering the necessary costs. All normal membership fees are non-refundable.

Costs

Typical membership cost is around \$950 per member, depending on enrollment, not including trips. This fee will help cover staff pay, show design fees, uniforms, equipment, set design, competition fees, regular-season transportation and other necessary costs. Overnight trip costs will be included on top of this. If you need assistance with making full payment, please contact Mr. Ballard (swballard@fcps.edu) at any time.

The first installment of \$400 will be due on the commitment date of Nov. 18. A second \$400 installment will be due around late-January and once the total cost and trip fees are calculated, a final installment of \$200-350 will be due in late-February. Trip payments will be due separately in early March if necessary. *The final amounts vary based on the enrollment numbers of the group – the more students, the lower the cost. It also varies based on details of whatever overnight trip costs are included, which are not known until closer to the trip. The amounts also may be different for color guard and drumline depending on membership size, schedule, and destination.* Partial payments and payment plans are acceptable if necessary.



This season, the color guard and drum line will both be requesting permission to attend the WGI championships in Dayton, OH. If permission is granted, there will be an additional trip fee to cover costs. Due to the differences in activities and needs, the drum line trip cost is typically around \$450-550 while the color guard is closer to \$250-300. All other performances will be single-day events, costs covered in the enrollment fee. Joining the drum line or color guard will constitute an agreement that you are able to accommodate the financial needs and schedules involved with these events. All members MUST participate in these trips.

Other incidental costs are involved – usually a little higher for color guard than drum line due to various uniform expenses. See the drum line and color guard specific sections for more details. Cost is still TBD but will not exceed \$150 for color guard – and generally around \$50 for drum line. Any items of this kind are the sort that students would get to keep for themselves following the season.

If a student wishes to join either the drumline or the color guard but has financial concerns please contact Mr. Ballard (swballard@fcps.edu). The TJ Band Booster organization does have financial assistance funds available for students in need. We do not want the cost of the group to prohibit any student from joining that is able to meet all of the other requirements of membership.

Schedule

The schedule is dictated mostly by availability of rehearsal space. Rehearsals on school days will generally be 4:30pm to 7:30pm for drum line and 4:30pm to 7:00pm for color guard. Both groups will have weekend rehearsals in order to get extra time in the gyms, more so for color guard than drum line. Please allow at least 15-20 minutes for clean-up and equipment storage AFTER the scheduled end-time for each rehearsal.

Regular season shows are generally on Saturdays and much like the marching band shows, the schedule for some of these events runs all day long. Our schedules are not made available until our competition circuit organizers publish the performance times, something we have no control over (generally 2 weeks prior to each event).

This is the currently planned performance schedule:

Drum Line

2/19 – Woodgrove HS – AIA
3/5 – Powhatan HS – WGI Regional
3/12 – Mount Vernon HS – AIA
Regional”)
3/26 – South County HS – AIA
4/3 – *SUNDAY* – Hampton Roads, VA – AIA Championships

TENTATIVE

– *Pending Eligibility?*

4/20-23 – Dayton, OH – WGI World Championships (overnights)
Championships (overnights)

Color Guard

2/19 – Woodgrove HS – AIA
2/26 – Potomac HS – AIA
3/12 – South County HS – WGI Regional (“DC
3/26 – South County HS – AIA

TENTATIVE

4/2 – Hampton Roads, VA – AIA Championships

4/6-9 – Dayton, OH – WGI World

The season runs from November 14 through April 23 for the drum line and April 9 for guard, including their possible multi-night trips to Dayton. Enrollment in the program means commitment to this entire schedule unless other preseason decisions are made on a student-by-student basis.

Parent Support Opportunities

As we’ve mentioned, many hands make light work, so even if you can only fit one or two small things into your schedule due to living/working too far away or incompatible schedules, etc., we’ll take it! We need as much help as we can get.

Chaperoning and “pit/equipment crew” – we will need a group of parents to accompany the groups and serve as a “pit/equipment crew” for movement of equipment for both groups at our competitions. We will need several adults on each trip to serve as both chaperones and “pit/equipment crew” as it may be needed. As many as 10 adults are needed for the Drum Line “pit/equipment” crew. At all events, we sincerely hope all the students’ parents will come watch us perform and cheer loudly! Audience reaction can actually impact the scores we receive!

Drivers to shows – Drum line will use charter busses for the shows at Powhatan, Hampton Roads, and if necessary, Dayton. For the local shows, we will make arrangements for either carpools or meeting directly at the show sites. Alternate transportation options will be made available for all shows. Color guard typically carpools to all events, including Dayton due to cost of bussing a small number of students.

Equipment truck driver – TWO trucks are needed for every Drum Line competition and rentals are handled by Mr. Ballard. Color guard can usually function with an SUV or two, but may have some extra larger props this year. Please indicate on the enrollment form if your parent(s) are able and interested in being a driver and/or offering use of a vehicle.

Building and painting crew/sewing and uniform crew – A uniform crew of a couple people may be needed to handle fittings/alterations. Assistance may also be needed with painting/building/repairing props. Flags and uniforms often need repair as well. We occasionally need carpentry/metal work done on percussion equipment. You don’t need to be an expert craftsman, just let us know what you’re comfortable with and we’ll go from there.

Parent coordinator for each group – These are extremely important positions and one exists for both the Color Guard and the Drum Line. These people mainly help with organizing and mobilizing parent volunteers and chaperones, and

with handling paperwork such as holding emergency contact info and alternate transportation forms during trips to shows. If you cannot commit for the whole season, your assistance would still be very much appreciated. Even a day here or there when you can assist the instructional staff would be great!

Other on-line resources:

TJ Band Boosters Website: <http://www.tjbands.org>

AIA Website: <http://www.atlanticindoor.org>

WGI Website: <http://www.wgi.org>

WGI CODE OF CONDUCT: <https://wgi.org/about-wgi/code-of-conduct/>

Outlines expectations for staff and volunteers active with any groups operating within AIA or WGI events, in addition to regular FCPS rules and regulations. Also provides additional avenues for students (or anyone else) to report issues or concerns if necessary. Training and accountability are very high as these organizations take student safety extremely seriously, as do we.

