Yorktown High School, Arlington, VA
Environmental Scan
Anita Van Harten Cater
LIBS 658

Yorktown High School is located in the northern section of Arlington, Virginia. The school is highly accessible on the top of a hill with four different access points into the parking area. Arlington is a county managed by a five-member county board. The county is twenty-six miles in area, and is located directly across the Potomac River from Washington, DC. The drive from central Arlington to the National Mall and White House in Washington is about 15 minutes. Yorktown is one of three main high school programs in the county. There are three additional alternative high school programs.

The median household income of $200,000 at the high school is twice as much as the median household income rate for the entire county. With a total student population of 2,515, the students at Yorktown are mostly White by a wide majority. The highest number of non-White students are students who are Hispanic, followed by students who are Black, Asian, or multi-racial. The community of students at the high school is high achieving with a strong attendance rate, solid test scores, and the overwhelming majority of students enroll in a post-secondary institution. Less than ten percent of students are chronic absentee, or eligible for free and reduced meals.

In the assessments, students who are non-White or multi-racial show lower test scores consistently in reading and math. Students who are Black, economically disadvantaged, or are learning English as a second language showed an improvement in testing. Students who are Hispanic demonstrated slightly lower test scores. Overall, English learners continue to show the lowest test scores while students with disabilities and students who are economically disadvantaged are slightly higher in comparison.

English Learners speak two or more of the following languages: Amharic, Arabic, Bangla, Bengali, English, Farsi, Hindi, Hungarian, Mam, Mongolian, Oromo, Pashto, Portuguese, Punjabi, Quechua, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Turkish, Urdu, Uyghur and Vitaya. Since the English Learners program started at Yorktown in 1991, students have come from 79 countries and spoken 67 different languages.

The Special Education department includes a Life Skills program for students with cognitive and physical challenges. The Interlude program supports students with mental and emotional and academic challenges. Students with high-functioning autism are in a specialized resource program. Speech therapy is provided to any students as needed.

While Yorktown High School maintains strong academics overall, students who are English Learners continue to be challenged by the curriculum and adjustments to life in an American high school. The test assessments show lowest testing percentages in reading and math for English Learners, but with a strong score increase in the following year of testing.

Resources

(n.d.). Retrieved from https://vaperforms.virginia.gov/govCitizens_internetAccess.cfm

Arlington County Fast Facts. (2020, July 01). Retrieved from
https://projects.arlingtonva.us/data-research/fast-facts/

Arlington, VA. (n.d.). Retrieved from
https://datausa.io/profile/geo/arlington-va/#:~:text=Civics-,About,$117,374, a 4.67% increase.

Search for Public Schools - School Detail for YORKTOWN HIGH. (n.d.). Retrieved from
https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/schoolsearch/school_detail.asp?ID=510027000115

Unemployment in the Washington Area by County – June 2020 : Mid–Atlantic Information
Office. (2020, August 10). Retrieved from
https://www.bls.gov/regions/mid-atlantic/news-release/unemployment_washingtondc.htm

Population:
(n.d.). Retrieved from https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=arlington
va&tid=ACSDT1Y2019.B01003&hidePreview=false

Race:
(n.d.). Retrieved from https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=arlington
va&tid=ACSST5Y2019.S0501&hidePreview=false

Transportation:
(n.d.). Retrieved from https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=arlington va commuting
characteristics&tid=ACSST1Y2019.S0801&hidePreview=false

School quality data:
Education, V. D. (n.d.). Yorktown High. Retrieved from
https://schoolquality.virginia.gov/schools/yorktown-high#fndtn-desktopTabs-college

School demographics:
Search for Public Schools - School Detail for YORKTOWN HIGH. (n.d.). Retrieved from
https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/schoolsearch/school_detail.asp?ID=510027000115