

Yorktown's SOAR Cohort

Success, Opportunity And Results

Overview



SOAR Cohort is a unique program designed for BIPOC students who are looking for a supportive environment with a foundation of empowerment, achievement, independence, involvement, and respect.

In 9th grade, SOAR Cohort is an elective class. The focus of the class is to assist students in understanding the expectations and rigor of high school and to support the development of critical thinking, organization and time management skills necessary for success in challenging classes and, ultimately, college. Students also participate in leadership development activities and a service learning project.

Following 9th grade, SOAR Cohort students meet regularly to reinforce skills and maintain the SOAR support system. Each cohort member is assigned a mentor from the SOAR staff. SOAR Cohort members also participate in college visits and other enrichment opportunities, as appropriate. SOAR Cohort members meet monthly by grade level, and all grade levels of SOAR meet together once each quarter.

SOAR Cohort Staff



Shari Benites, Coordinator of Equity and Excellence / Director of the Center for Leadership and Public Service
shari.benites@apsva.us

Tracy Maguire, SOAR Teacher
tracy.maguire@apsva.us

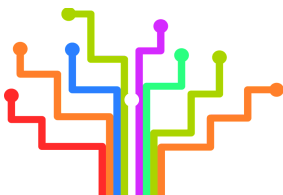
Danielle Dessaso, Counselor
danielle.dessaso@apsva.us

William Lomax, Assistant Principal
william.lomax@apsva.us

Eileen Wagner, Gifted Services
eileen.wagner@apsva.us

Juanice Jenkins, Counselor
juanice.jenkins@apsva.us

Background



The SOAR Cohort Program was developed in 2005 to better respond to the needs of minority students enrolled in and working toward advanced courses. Minority students participating in focus groups on student achievement indicated that they often felt better supported in classes with other minority students and having fellow minority students to study with encouraged their success and fostered their sense of belonging at Yorktown.