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## D-Y on parade

School's color guard invited to join Macy's Thanksgiving pageant

By **K.C. MYERS**  
**STAFF WRITER**

SOUTH YARMOUTH - Look closely at your television for four Dennis-Yarmouth High School students who will be marching in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade Thursday.



■ D-Y sophomore Katelyn Arledge shows off some of the moves that won her and three fellow students the chance to march in Thursday's Macy's parade. (Times photo by PAUL BLACKMORE)

The four students were recommended by their coach to be part of the first All-Star Color Guard of the U.S. Scholastic Band Association, or USSBA. The 200-person color guard will spin flags and twirl rifles throughout the length of the 2.5-mile holiday procession.

Joined by 2.5 million viewers along Broadway, sophomores Katelyn Arledge and

Ashley Karras and seniors Raye Rose and Krysten Golden will be among the high school color guard students from all over the United States.

The girls are part of the award-winning Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School band, which won the U.S. Scholastic Band Association's All-State competition in Pennsylvania Nov. 8. The band also won the New England competition earlier in the season.

"Oh, my God, everyone was in tears," said junior Jen Stearns, a clarinet player, in her green and gold-colored band uniform, as she recalled the big win.

"It's my senior year and we've been working so hard for all four years - it's awesome," added Becky Libby, who also plays clarinet.

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Band director John New attributed the band's success to hard work.

"The senior class has been instrumental - no pun intended. They have contributed at an extremely high level ever since they came in," New said. "They have a level of dedication, drive and commitment that inspires others to follow their lead."

Now, the young women in the color guard portion of the band can continue the glory by heading to New York City for the Macy's parade. It will be televised before an NBC audience of 50 million, according to USSBA spokeswoman Christine Higgins. If the color guard is good enough, it will also be featured in a separate, short NBC telecast.

But if you see bags under their eyes on the television set, it's because the teenagers from Cape Cod will be arriving in New York City this afternoon, and immediately go to a seven-hour rehearsal, followed by an eight-hour rehearsal tomorrow.

"It may sound like a long time, but when you're trying to get 200 people to spin flags together, it's not that long," Higgins said. "We have to look good."

On Thursday, the Color Guard will be up at 3:15 a.m. to perform in the NBC studios at 4:15 a.m.

The parade route is 2.5 miles, but the Dennis-Yarmouth students have no idea how long they'll be marching.

"We just hope it won't be cold," said Kevin Karras, the Dennis-Yarmouth Color Guard coach.

A color guard comprising high school and college students from all over the country has never been part of the Macy's parade before, Higgins said.

The USSBA was asked to create the all-star guard this year to add to the many high school and college marching bands, floats and balloons that festoon Broadway on Thanksgiving Day.

The four D-Y young women were selected as the best in their team of 12, who perform with the Dennis-Yarmouth band in the fall and then as the Winter Guard for the rest of the year.

"I'm excited because I've never been to New York City," said Katelyn Arledge.

The young women are looking forward to a behind-the-scenes look at the giant parade.

"We'll watch the balloons being blown up at Central Park," Raye Rose said.

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