

**James Island  
Charter High School  
String Orchestra**



**Student Handbook**

**2009-2010**

# **Andrea R. Kemper, Music Director**

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**<http://www.jamesislandmusic.org>**

<i>Table of Contents</i>	<i>Page</i>
Welcome Letter	3
Class Rules and Consequences	4
Materials	5
Concert Attendance	6
Concert Dress	7
Assessment	8
Suggested 9-Week Practice Record	9
Student Info and Contact Sheet	10
Volunteer Form	11
Music Contract	12
JICHHS Strings Polo Shirt Order Form	13

Dear Students and Parents:

Welcome to the JICHHS Strings Program! Music is a unique, rewarding, and exciting educational opportunity offered by our school and we are so lucky to have you. Your investment will pay tremendous dividends in your child's life for many years to come. The ultimate goal, however, is a lifelong understanding and appreciation for quality music and music making. In addition, we get to use the medium of music to teach some wonderful life lessons as part of our comprehensive program here at James Island Charter High School.

I am extremely pleased to be your child's teacher for the 2009-2010 school year. This is currently my third year at JICHHS. We had an extremely successful 2008-2009 school year in which the students improved their playing abilities, received straight Superior ratings two years in a row at the State Concert Orchestra Festival, and had the opportunity to be apart of the Charleston Concert Series Intermezzo Club. We are in the process of purchasing more quality stringed instruments for our growing orchestra, buying quality music and materials specifically designed to improve their music education. You must know that our administration and JICHHS Board is extremely supportive of the performing arts and is looking forward to the continual expansion of the program on James Island.

In 2007, I graduated with my Masters of Music Education from the University of South Carolina where I emphasized in both Orchestra and Chorus and was the Graduate Assistant for the nationally recognized USC String Project teacher-training program. Both the cello and piano are my main instruments although I can play all stringed instruments including the guitar. I come from Columbia by ways of Miami, Florida where I taught Orchestra, Chorus and Guitar for four years at the middle school level. In 2001, I received my Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from the University of Miami. I consider myself well rounded in the performing arts, and I hope to bring that love and experience to each of my students.

I want parents to get energized and engaged in the music program because we are only as good as the sum of our parts. Alone we achieve nothing! A volunteer form is at the back of the packet to let me know how you are interested in helping. We will actively campaign to become more visible within the community, participate more fully in District and State festivals, perform in high-quality venues, and to perform and recruit interested students at the Elementary and Middle School levels. I have no doubt that this year will be one of our finest yet!

Please feel free to contact me at any time about class matters. Email is my preferred mode of communication because it allows me to get back to you throughout the school day unlike the voicemail system. My address is: [andrea\\_kemper@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:andrea_kemper@charleston.k12.sc.us) You may leave a voicemail message at phone 843-762-8295 but must realize that there is up to a two-day lag of notification. I appreciate your patience; I will get back to you

Sincerely,

Andrea R. Kemper, MME, BS  
Music Director

## Class Rules

1. Enter and exit in an orderly manner and arrive and unpack immediately. Respect all people, instruments and property.
2. Remain quiet (including instruments too) during instruction and demonstrations.
3. Raise our hands before speaking or leaving our seats.
4. Treat all guests and guest instructors as an extension of the director. All rules apply and will be enforced.
5. No food, drinks, candy, or gum allowed in Music room. Water is acceptable.

## Consequences

1. Verbal Warning
2. Behavior Log and Student/Teacher Conference
3. Behavior Log/Detention and Parent Call
4. Behavior Log/Student-Parent-Teacher Conference and Individual Behavior Plan
5. Behavior Log, Referral to Administration and Parent Call

\* Any extremely disruptive behavior will result in immediate referral. Teacher reserves the right to skip any step.

\*\*All misbehavior will be documented in a course-long Behavior Log.

## **2008-2009 STRING LEADERSHIP ROLES: (REDO)**

1. **President:** Megan Morgan (cello)
2. **Vice President:** Hannah Beckwith (viola)
3. **Secretary:** Lindsay Napier (violin)
4. **Treasurer:** Jherica Jenkins (viola)
5. **Historian:** Emmy Kerekes
6. **Concert Master:** TBA
7. **Music Librarian and Assistant Music Librarian** TBA
8. **Freshman Representative** TBA
9. **Section Leaders (determined by audition)**TBA

# Class Materials

## **Required:**

*Orchestra will need ALL the following materials for class each day:*

1. Instrument (Owned, private rental or provided by the school)
2. Muller Rusch Book 3 (provided by school)
3. \*Pencil with working eraser (pens are not acceptable)
4. A Color pencil or Highlighter(bright color of choice)
5. Rosin (lighter for violin/viola, medium to dark for cello, bass rosin)
6. **MANDATORY Accessories:** violins and violas- shoulder rest (Kun or Wolfe) cellos and basses- rock stop or belt.
7. Soft Cloth for wiping the instrument.
8. 1/2" BLACK Notebook for Class Notes, Handouts, dividers labeled: Notes/Journal, Theory, Playing Tests and approximately 25 plastic sheet protectors.

## **Recommended:**

*These items are not required but **strongly** recommended.*

1. Metronome with A=440Hz
2. Music stand for home use and use at other special events.
3. Solo Literature (Suzuki) and Etude Books

# Concert Attendance

## Concert Attendance:

Each music student is required to attend and participate in all concerts and other scheduled performances. Students will be graded on their attendance and appropriate dress. We rehearse as a team and *cannot* perform well with members missing. **Every Musician is Important!** Good communication between teacher, string board, students, and parents can prevent misunderstandings. Thus, please read the following rules carefully and contact the orchestra director if you have any questions.

1. Written notices from parent are required for ALL absences. **Verbal or written excuses from students are not accepted. Students that do not show for scheduled events will be considered a no-call, no-show and will receive a failing grade for that performance.**
2. **Advanced notices are required for all prior commitments.** A prior commitment is defined as a date already committed to another event when the schedule is announced. **A notice of such a commitment is due to the director the next school day no more than a week after a rehearsal or concert date is announced.** In case of sports whose schedules have not yet been announced, excused absences must be requested the next school day after receiving the schedule. All requests should take priority over social events.
3. Excused absences include: extreme illness, death in the family, unpreventable emergencies, and approved prior commitments. **No absence will be excused unless documented by a parent note or email.**

## **Concert Dress/Fees: Class A & B for String Orchestra**

### **Girls:**

**Girls:** Class A-Private Seamstress will be making a long black skirt and new Royal Blue blouses are provided (purchased by school at no cost to student) for use in the 5+ Major performances/competitions we will participate in. Black hose and black closed-toed dress shoes. (No t-shirts, jeans or athletic shoes)

**\*\*\*\$20 Non-Refundable Uniform Rental Fee to cover uniform maintenance, alterations, and dry-cleaning.**

Class B- Embroidered black polo-shirt with JICHHS Strings Logo and ensemble name with khaki-colored long-pants. This will be used for all school-day functions, recruitment performances or spirit days. Polo shirt is the same from 2008-2009 school year.

**\*\*\*Shirt to be purchased through music department for \$20**

### **Boys:**

**Boys:** Class A-Black tuxedo pants and jacket, white tuxedo shirt, black socks and black dress shoes, Royal Blue vest and bow tie. (To be ordered through a private uniform company purchased by school at no cost to student.)

**\*\*\*\$20 Non-Refundable Uniform Rental Fee to cover uniform maintenance, alterations, and dry-cleaning.**

Class B- Embroidered black polo-shirt with JICHHS Strings Logo and ensemble name with khaki-colored long-pants. This will be used for all school-day functions, recruitment performances or spirit days. (Shirt to be purchased through music department and not to exceed \$20)

**\*\*\*Shirt to be purchased through music department for \$20**

**\*Uniforms are to be wrinkle free and clean prior to all performances and students should look neat and clean for all concerts. All tears, lost items or other uniform issues should be reported to Ms. Kemper asap!**

**\*\*Checks can be made payable to James Island Charter High School (JICHHS) in the amounts of \$20 or \$40.**

## Assessment/Grading

The Student's grade will be based on three main categories: Various Concerts, 2 Video Portfolio Tests, weekly participation, one solo & ensemble piece per nine-week grading period, weekly music theory assignments, and one music history research project per nine-week grading period.

1. **Concerts:** (30 % of grade) This grade is comprised of a two-grade performance evaluation assigned by the instructor. Students will listen and evaluate their own performance the very next class period in a rubric, essay or questionnaire format.
2. **Video Portfolio Tests:** (30% of grade) Score will be based on criteria outlined in said rubric for each skill and performance. Rubric will be given one week prior to the test. Students will be trained in using the digital video recorder and recordings will be collected for a long-range view on the students' year-long improvement.
3. **Weekly Participation Grade** (15% of grade) Participation is based on at least 120 minutes of practice a week, bringing materials to class and class performance. Each student starts each week with a possible 100 points and deductions are made for not bringing materials and not participating.
4. **Solo & Ensemble** (10% of grade) Students will be given at least one solo and an optional ensemble piece per nine-weeks that should be performed for the director during that time. (rubrics will be given)
5. **Weekly Music Theory/9-week Music History Research Essay** (15% of grade)  
A packet of Music Theory and Musicianship worksheets will be given to students and they will be due every Tuesday of each week. (Total of 8) Students will be select from given topics and complete one Music History Research Essay using resources in the JICHS library per nine-weeks. (rubrics will be given)

## Calendar

TBA---Currently being approved by the JICHS Administration and Fine Arts Department Head.



# Student Info and Contact Sheet

*All information on this form is confidential and for instructional purposes only.*

## **Student:**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Health Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

Anything you want me to know about student: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **Parents/Guardians:**

**1. Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

# Volunteer Sign-Up

*☑ Please check the box you are interested in signing up for.*

Volunteer\_\_\_\_\_

Student\_\_\_\_\_

Monthly Event Postcard

Overnight Field Trip Organizer

Volunteer Coordinator

Concert Helper

Fundraising Volunteer  
(distribution or collecting)

Other\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Tree

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Please list TALENTS!)

Photographer

Field Trip Chaperone

# Music Contract

## 2008-2009

I am familiar with the JICHS Music Handbook. I am aware of the requirements in the following areas:

- ❖ Required Materials
- ❖ Classroom Rules/Responsibilities
- ❖ Practice Records are due each week
- ❖ Grading Policy and Video Portfolio
- ❖ Concert attendance and uniform will be graded.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian(s) Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

Please, sign and return this by **Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>** for your first written assignment grade.

# JICHS Strings Polo-Shirt Order Form

***☑ Please check the box with the appropriate size and attach payment.***

*Checks should be made out to JICHS.*

Name of Student \_\_\_\_\_

Parent \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Paid \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **Size: (choose one)**

### **Women's**

XS

Small

Medium

Large

Xtra Large

1X

2X

3X

### **Men's**

XS

Small

Medium

Large

Xtra Large

1X

2X

3X

All shirts are tri-colored embroidered on a black breathable dry-weave cotton fabric with white trim. The price is \$20 for all shirts and will be shipped within 2-3 weeks of the form being submitted. These shirts are to be worn for all Class B events and to promote pride in JICHS music program.