

James Island Charter High School Trojans The Odyssey for Parents

PARENTS YOU ARE THE DIFFERENCE!

Mission Statement

The mission of James Island Charter High School is to develop confident, responsible, life-long learners who can excel in society by creating a diverse curriculum and extra curricular experiences in a safe, nurturing environment supported by faculty, parents and community.

Principal Bohnstengel Lunches with Student Council Members

On a monthly basis, Mr. Bohnstengel has the pleasurable experience of good food and great company when having lunch with student council members. Through experiences like these, Mr. B. and school administrators open lines of communication with students and afford them opportunities to discuss pertinent, school-related issues. "I think that it is important for the administration of JICHHS to listen to students and their concerns because in the end that's what we are here to do."

Bright Hutchinson, President of Student Council, finds the monthly luncheons quite beneficial, especially when planning school-wide projects and upcoming events.

It is apparent that the monthly lunch dates between Mr. B. and the student council members have been successful on many levels; however, above everything else, all agree that the bonding experience of principal and fellow administrators with students is the most advantageous result of their monthly meetings

Student Council Officers for 2008-09 are:

Student Body

President

Bright Hutchinson

Vice President

Lyndsey Johnson

Secretary

Megan Morgan

Senior Class:

President

Colin MacNamara

Vice President

Spencer Young

Junior Class

President

Tori Bachan

Vice President

Hannah Yaldaparast

Sophomore Class

President

Taylor Stubbs

Freshmen Class

President

Jake Weed

Vice President

Moses Pyatt

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Who is Rich Gordon?

Hello! My name is Rich Gordon, I am an Assistant Principal and the Freshman Academy Director at James Island Charter High School. This is my second year at JICHHS, and I am simply overjoyed to participate in such an extraordinary and exciting learning environment.

The transition from middle school to high school can be a daunting task, but we have competent and capable professionals who implement innovative and effective programs that help foster student achievement. That is what I think is most special about charter schools—the

ability to assess student needs and to implement services to meet those needs. Please contact me at anytime to learn more about the dynamic learning experiences that we provide for our ninth grade students. Thanks!



Panelists in the Gym. Pictured l-r: Helen Fields, Hatzel Vela, Jermaine Husser, Tripp Hays, Akim Anastopoulos, Lyla Ambrose, Ana Lee, Ray Olson, and Liz DeLoach

High Schools That Work and Forum

JICHHS has become a *High Schools That Work (HSTW)* site this school year. *HSTW* is a nationwide school reform initiative that creates a culture of high expectations and continuous improvement in high school and middle school. More than 1,200 *HSTW* sites in 31 states are using the framework of *HSTW* Goals and Key Practices to raise student achievement.

HSTW believes that everyone teacher, school, parent, district, local and state leaders

must work together to align policies, resources, initiatives, and accountability efforts to support high schools and middle schools as they adopt and implement comprehensive school improvement designs.

As part of the *HSTW* initiative, we have put into practice an advisement program called **THE FORUM**. Its purpose to develop students' academic, social, and career skills. **THE FORUM** provides each student the same mentor throughout high school to assist with

setting goals, selecting courses, and developing study skills. Students meet for 30 minutes twice a month.

During **THE FORUM** on November 12th, a Career Panel discussion was held for Juniors and Seniors. Representatives from each of the sixteen national career clusters spoke to the students about the skills and training required. We look forward to continuing these partnerships.

“Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence.”

Abigail Adams

SC Department of Education Parent Survey

Annually, the Oversight Committee of the SC Department of Education seeks input concerning home and school relations, learning environment, and the school's social and physical environment of public education from a parental perspective. In order for the state to ensure that students are receiving the best quality

of education possible, it is up to you, the parents, to provide feedback. To date, **ALL** parents of current 11th graders are asked to provide feedback on the annual survey; it is crucial for parents to take the opportunity to complete the survey. As parents and guardians, you are the most dependable source to provide

valuable information and identify areas for school and district improvement. Surveys are available beginning February 17, 2009 and should be returned to JICHHS by March 13, 2009.

Please do your part in providing much needed and welcomed feedback for our present and future students.

Personal Pathways to Success Websites for Parents

Since kicking off the 2008-09 academic year, students have been receiving monthly Career Cluster Newsletters during Forum, each highlighting a new career cluster as well as sectors of employment relating to that field. These newsletters are designed to encourage career exploration and future planning on the part of all students, regardless of grade level. They also provide

up-to-date, career-related information and valuable resources for both parents and students.

Parents in need of further information regarding the SC Career Clusters are encouraged to visit the following websites, which provide a wealth of information on careers, college/financial planning, and future job outlook and

security:

www.scois.net
www.careerclusters.org
www.scpathways.org
www.glencoe.com/sec/careers/cclusters/student/clusters/information.shtml

For all other career-related inquiries, please see Mrs. Wanda Horne, Career Development Coordinator, in Room 122.



HSAP Testing is Coming

All students who are working toward a high school diploma must complete required coursework as defined by the State Department of Education in addition to earning a passing score on both sections of the High School Assessment Program test which is better known as the HSAP and sometimes referred to as the “exit exam.”.

Mandated by the *SC Educa-*

tion Accountability Act (EEA) of 1998 and supported by the resurrection of state standards as defined under the *No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)* of 2001, the state of South Carolina uses HSAP as a measure of academic achievement and accountability in regard to state standards.

Students take the HSAP for the first time in the spring of their 10th grade year. Stu-

dents who fail either or both may repeat testing in the fall and spring of each year until receiving a passing score on both sections (English Language Arts and Math). If a student takes the test the first time and passes only one section, he/she will not be required to sit again for the entire test; however, he/she must retake the section that they failed as many times as necessary until receiving a passing score.



DECA's Annual Community Outreach

James Island Charter High School Distributive Education Club of America (DECA) and Student Council held its fourth annual Clemson vs. South Carolina Food Drive. Students held a competition to collect the most canned foods for the James Island Outreach Center.

The theme for 2008 was “A

Common Sense Solution to Hunger.”

Brian Gottshalk, Alex Frech, Samantha Janse, Chet Ceren, and Taylor Mason helped to deliver the cans to the final destination. The final result of that drive showed the following data:

- 2,642 cans that were de-

livered to the center.

- Over \$1,900 raised in canned goods. A special thanks to the student officers, faculty, administration, and community for their full support.

Mr. Brian D. Garvin is the advisor for DECA.

**“Become
who you
were
meant to
be”**

How to Arrange a Parent Conference

James Island Charter High offers several opportunities throughout the year for parents to meet and conference with their child’s teachers. We encourage all parents to take advantage of those pre-scheduled events. There are times, however, when you may need to meet individually with a teacher, or meet with all of them at the same time.

The following steps will assist you in arranging those meetings in a timely manner.

For scheduling conferences with **ONE** teacher:

- Contact the teacher directly by phone and/or email to request a conference. If you don’t have the teachers’ email address or direct number

you may visit www.jamesislandcharterhs.org or call the Main Office at 762-2754.

- If you are unsuccessful in reaching the teacher, please contact Mrs. Anne Wright in the Main Office to assist in scheduling the conference.

For scheduling a conference with **ALL** teachers in a group:

- Contact Mrs. Anne Wright in the Main Office at 762-2754 to request a conference. Note that conferences are typically held on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays immediately following the 3 p. m. bell and if a teacher cannot attend he or she must contact the parent as soon as possible.



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James Island Charter High School
1000 Ft. Johnson Road
Charleston, South Carolina 29412

Phone: 843-762-2754

Fax: 843-762-5228

E-mail:

patricia_williams@charleston.k12.sc.us

“Expect to be Impressed”

www.jamesislandcharterhs.org

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THANK YOU PARENT AND COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

James Island Charter High School is extremely fortunate to have over 300 parent and community volunteers who selflessly donate their time, talents, and energy to making a difference in the lives of our students. To those who have so generously committed themselves to volunteering, the faculty and staff of James Island Charter High School would like to extend our appreciation and thanks for your dedication and hard work. Through your tireless efforts, you have given meaning to the old saying that it truly ‘takes a village to raise a child’ and by working hand in hand with our school you have gone above and beyond to ensure community prosperity within our school and beyond.

In addition to fostering community spirit and touching lives through acts of volun-

teerism, you have also distinguished yourselves as leaders and role models for students as well as parents. The school’s mission statement states that the faculty and staff of JICHS strive “...to develop confident, responsible, life-long learners who can excel in society,” your kindness and giving of self sets the example for the students of James Island Charter High and assists faculty and staff in supporting this mission. For this, we are extremely appreciative and forever grateful.

Parent volunteers and community involvement are integral elements of James Island Charter High School’s commitment to continual growth and excellence, and we are extremely fortunate to have individuals to share in our efforts of creating a safe and nurturing environment in which all students can learn and grow.

JICHS welcomes new parent and community volunteers. If interested, please visit www.jamesislandcharterhs.org for an online application or contact Pat Williams at 762-5220.

