



# James Island Charter High School

1000 Fort Johnson Road  
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Timothy Thorn, Principal

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Dear Seniors and Parents:

James Island Charter High School has the reputation of having beautiful and dignified graduation programs, and we know that this graduating class will continue that tradition. This year's graduation is being held on Saturday, June 8th at 6:30 pm in the North Charleston Coliseum. We look forward to this very special time. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with details about practice and the ceremony.

The graduates will be receiving their diploma at the conclusion of the graduation ceremony on June 8, 2019. If a student does not wish to participate in this type of ceremony, he/she should inform Deborah Farrell, Guidance Director, by Monday, May 27, 2019. They will need to come to the JICHS Guidance office after June 10th to pick up their diploma.

## Graduation Practice

On Friday, June 7, 2019, seniors are to report to the North Charleston Coliseum and enter through the Coliseum loading dock to check in for graduation practice. Practice will be from 9:00 am – 11:00 am. The practice is mandatory so those students will know their place in line and the procedures for the ceremony. Students who do not attend the graduation practice will **NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE** in the commencement ceremony on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Seniors are expected to stay until practice is over. We will begin promptly at 9:00 am because the staff must set up for Wando's graduation. **All fees and fines must be cleared by 3:00 pm on May 31, 2019.** (See enclosed Senior Clearance Form)

## Attire for Ceremony

- Dress or a blouse with a dress skirt (HEM MAY NOT be visible below the graduation gown), neckline should be completely covered by the graduation gown, **black dress shoes** (no athletic footwear or flip flop type shoes).  
*Note: Jack Rogers sandals are acceptable as long as they are black.*
- Black or navy blue dress pants (no denim/jeans or athletic pants), white dress shirt with a tie, **black dress shoes with dark socks** (no white socks, athletic footwear, Crocs, sandals or flip flops) – **NO T-SHIRTS** or polo-style pullovers.

Sunglasses, headgear, flip-flops, tennis shoes are not permitted. **You are not permitted to decorate the top of your cap. Absolutely no college "wraps" or other alterations or additions may be present on the caps nor the gown worn for graduation.**

## Parking

Due to construction of a new parking garage, there is limited space for parking. Seniors will receive four (4) parking tickets specifically for our Graduation Ceremony. Students will receive their tickets during senior check out time. Students will sign out their tickets before being cleared for graduation.

If your family or friends do not have a ticket for the North Charleston Coliseum or Performing Arts Center parking lots, and cannot find a place to park near the Coliseum or PAC, Charleston County School District is providing a space for overflow parking. It is located near the corner of Montague Avenue and Dorchester Road; the entrance to the lot will be off of Montague, across the street from Thrifty Car Rental.

Signs directing traffic to the site will be located along International Boulevard and Montague Avenue. Volunteer attendants will be on site to direct parking, and multiple shuttles will run on a regular basis to transport those who park there to the Coliseum and PAC, and back to the overflow parking lot when the ceremony is complete.

## Graduation Ceremony

The ceremony on Saturday, June 8, 2019 will last approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes. You may want to consider this in your planning. Seniors need to be at the Coliseum robed and ready to line up no later than 4:45 pm. Graduates are asked to enter through the East entrance to the coliseum. Only graduates and school personnel are allowed to enter through that entrance.

**Seating and Safety Information**

Every graduate's family and friends deserve the opportunity to see and hear their student receive his or her diploma and to enjoy the entire program without distraction. You are requested to refrain from loud expressions of pleasure for individual graduates. Such expressions frequently and unfairly detract from the recognition due the next graduate in line. Please review the following guidelines and share them with your guests.

- **The Coliseum has a Clear Bag Policy. Please see below:**
  - Fans are strongly encouraged to not bring any types of bags to the North Charleston Coliseum and Performing Arts Center, however, outlined below are types of bags that will be permitted:
    - *Bags that are clear plastic, vinyl or PVC and do not exceed 14" x 6" x 14"*
    - *One-gallon plastic freezer bag (Ziploc bag or similar)*
    - *Small clutch bags, with our without a handle or strap, not to exceed 4.5" x 6.5"*
    - An exception will be made for medically necessary items after proper inspection at designated entrance specifically for this purpose.
    - Diaper bags will be allowed for families with infants and toddlers. Child must be present.
    - Prohibited items include, but are not limited to: purses larger than a clutch bag, coolers, briefcases, backpacks, fanny packs, cinch bags, luggage of any kind, computer bags and camera bags or any bag larger than the permissible size.
    - Fans will continue to be able to carry items allowed into the venues such as non-professional cameras, binoculars, and smart phones as long as they are in their pockets or a clear bag.
    - Graduates and school personnel will enter the venues through designated entrances where they will be subject to screening and bag inspections.
- Members of the audience who make excessive noise or use noisemakers such as air horns will be asked to leave.
- The Coliseum does not allow balloons in the coliseum. If balloons are brought to the check-in area, Coliseum personnel will ask for them to be taken back to the car.
- Walking around during the ceremony should be limited to emergencies. Please do not plan to leave until all graduates have received diplomas and the graduates have marched out. You may meet your graduates outside of the East entrance of the Coliseum.
- A professional photographer will be present and will take a picture of each student receiving his diploma. No other picture-taking will be permitted near the stage or on the floor of the arena where the graduates are seated. Guests who arrive early to obtain seats on the side of the arena near the graduates deserve to see without the distraction of people walking up and down with cameras.
- All guests should seek seats in the upper level. The seating on the coliseum floor is limited to participants in the ceremony and ADA seating.
- Special handicapped seating is available. An usher will direct disabled guests to that area.
- The last segment of the ceremony is the recessional of the graduates. The graduates will move to a designated area in order to receive their actual diplomas, certificates and other special recognition. This allows graduates to receive diplomas quickly and without error.
- Please arrange a place to meet your graduate after the ceremony. A location either inside the arena, in the lobby, or outside the building would be appropriate.

We request that you review these guidelines. The guidelines represent a contractual agreement regarding appropriate behavior and dress. We look forward to a dignified ceremony that allows graduates and their families to hear names when called. We are sure you understand the nature of our request and will honor it on that day.

Please help us to continue our fine tradition of excellence in everything that we do. If you have any questions, please contact Angela Childs-Kindred at [angela\\_kindred@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:angela_kindred@charleston.k12.sc.us). See you at graduation!

Sincerely,

Timothy Thorn, Principal

Angela Childs-Kindred, Graduation Coordinator

Enclosure