



Katherine Johnson Middle School

Performing Arts

PERFORMING ARTS DIRECTORS



Band

Charles Burts

cwburts@fcps.edu



Chorus

Kelly Harbison

kmharbison@fcps.edu



Theatre

Gregory Stowers

grstowers@fcps.edu



Orchestra


Anna Sengstack

amsengstack@fcps.edu


****If you have questions please e-mail your future director!
We can't wait to hear from you!****


EXCITING THINGS FOR YEAR 2023-2024

 We love having LIVE performances!

 - In order to take a performing arts class, make it your 1st or 2nd choice to ensure enrollment

 -Band, Orchestra, Advanced Theatre, and Chorus are year long classes.

 - Theatre, Tech Theatre, MPL, Musical theatre and Speech are semester classes

 - If you rent an instrument, we still offer that option in middle school and give you a place to store your instrument during the day.

 - The music trip to a theme park is back on in the spring!

KJMS BANDS

Beginning Band

Cadet Band

Percussion Ensemble

Symphonic Band

Wind Ensemble

We have been having a blast this year playing together again! We have continued to grow as musicians and have enjoyed performing and learning to function as a team!



Good times are back!



Whether you have never played before, or you have played for years, we have a place for you!



A wide-angle photograph of a large, empty theatre. The stage is a circular wooden floor in the foreground. The seating area is filled with rows of red seats, with a few rows of black seats in the immediate foreground. The ceiling is white with many recessed lights. The text 'Theatre Arts' is overlaid in a large, black, serif font on a white background. Below it, 'With Mr. Stowers' is overlaid in a white, sans-serif font on a black background.

Theatre Arts

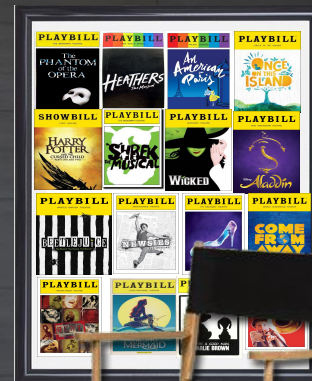
With Mr. Stowers

Theatre Arts with Mr. Stowers

There are five classes you can take in theatre at KJMS:

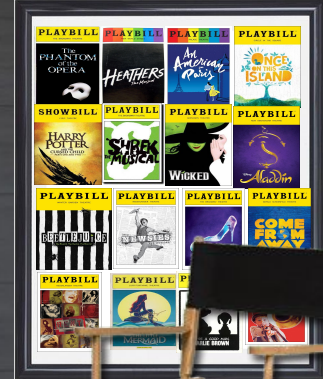
- Speech and Theatre (Semester Long)
- Theatre Arts Appreciation (Semester Long)
- Technical Theatre (Semester Long)
- Musical Theatre (Semester Long)
- Advanced Theatre Arts (Year Long)*

* prerequisite of Speech or Theatre to take
Advanced Theatre



Which class should I take?

- Theatre Arts Appreciation is where students learn about acting fundamentals!
- Technical Theatre is a class where you learn everything about being backstage!
- Speech/Theatre is both an acting and Public Speaking fundamentals class.
- Advanced Theatre builds on those fundamentals and focuses on producing and putting on plays!

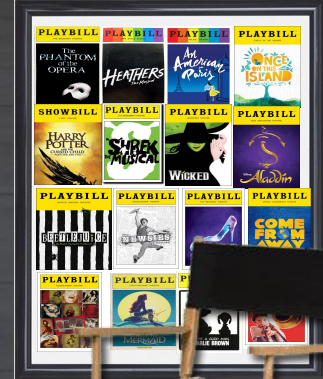


MUSICAL THEATRE

Our newest course was a hit this year, and we can't wait for next year!

There are no prerequisites for this course, and it is a great opportunity to learn about acting, singing and dancing in school!

Please tell your counselor that you would like to take Musical Theatre next year!



MAY 4TH, 5TH, AND 6TH!

THE
WIZARD
of
Z



**Auditions for our
Spring Musical are
Monday, Jan. 30th
Tuesday, Jan. 31st
and
Wednesday, Feb. 1st!**

**Our Audition
Workshop is next
Tuesday, Jan. 24th!**

Chorus at Katherine Johnson Middle School



Good Evening! My name is Kelly Harbison and I am the choral director at Katherine Johnson Middle School. I am so excited to welcome you all to our performing arts family!

Chorus in middle school is a great way to meet new friends and create memories that will last a lifetime. Chorus is a year-long elective. We have tons of fun playing games, building relationships, and of course making music! Even if you've never been involved in a formal choral ensemble before, now is the time to join!

What classes are offered in the Choral Department?

Treble Chorus/Basso Chorus: These two choirs are great for students who love to sing but aren't ready for the pressure of our advanced ensembles. We have a lot of fun, learn fundamental choral skills, and NO PLACEMENT HEARING is required!

Advanced Basso Chorus: We hope to be able to offer this course next year! It will be an ensemble for more advanced tenor and bass voices to continue to grow and sing together. Placement hearing or teacher recommendation required.

Vocal Ensemble: This auditioned choir is made up of talented 7th and 8th grade treble voices. If you love to sing and want a good challenge, this choir is for you! Placement hearing or teacher recommendation required.



What classes are offered in the Choral Department?

Bella Canzone: This fantastic ensemble features the best treble of the KJMS community. This choir is made up of advanced 8th graders. It is a choir for the most dedicated choral singers who will perform in a variety of performances throughout the year. Challenging repertoire will take this choir soaring to new heights! Placement hearing or teacher recommendation is required.

Music Participation Lab (MPL)- Music Participation Lab is a semester course and not a formal chorus class. Students will broaden their knowledge of music through learning keyboard skills, music notation, composition, music history and studying composers and musicians both past and present. This class is for anyone who loves music and wants to explore it further!



How do I sign up?

It's easy! Just sign up for **Treble/Basso Chorus**, or **Music Participation Lab (MPL)** with your counselor! Can't seem to fit chorus into your schedule? Email Ms. Harbison!

Interested in a more advanced choral ensemble at KJMS? Once you sign up for Chorus, I will contact your elementary music teacher with further details.

Please feel free to email me at kmharbison@fcps.edu with any questions at all. I can't wait for you all to join our KJMS choral family next year!



Orchestra

Katherine Johnson Middle School

Director: Anna Sengstack

amsengstack@fcps.edu

5 levels of Orchestra

Orchestra is a year long class

- **Beginner Orchestra**
- **String Ensemble
(intermediate level 1)**
- **Concert Orchestra
(intermediate level 2)**
- **Symphonic Orchestra
(advanced level 1)**
- **Chamber Orchestra
(advanced level 2)**

*All classes are based on enrollment and subject to change



Things about Orchestra



Wide variety of performances and opportunities for all students.



All graded work can be retaken for a better grade.



Learning a wide variety of music and musical styles.



If you need help with something in orchestra, I am happy to help you during lunch or after school.



There are no practice records! But you are expected to practice 😊



We will have our spring trip next year!! To a theme park for a day of fun and a little music competition!

You can still learn note reading in middle school.

Playing assessments are done in a variety of ways to make the playing assessments more comfortable.

Orchestra is a class that is the same amount of time as your other classes.

If you play cello or bass, you will be provided an instrument to keep at school, so you do not have to haul your instrument back and forth 3 times a week.

If you make Orchestra your 1st or 2nd choice on your course selection form, you will be placed in an orchestra in the spring based on an audition or a teacher

Important to note....

-Continuing in music can be helpful for college applications. Universities like to see continuity in a skill.

[Music lessons improve Language Skills](#)

-Participating in the advanced music classes can earn an additional 0.5 added to your GPA in high school.

[Want Smarter Kids? Take Music!](#)

[Harvard Study on benefits of music](#)