

# WCSD Featured Story



*News Stories from Across Williamsburg County School District  
Provided by the Williamsburg County School District Office of Public Relations*

## ***Interview of Dr. James Patterson Director of Bands at Kingstree High School***



### ***Q: What is special about this year's band?***

A: This year's band is a dynamic, dedicated, and hardworking group of musicians! Ninety-eight percent (98%) of this group have only one year (or less) experience on their instrument, yet they are playing on levels that are beyond their years!

### ***Q. How many students do you have marching in this year's band?***

A: We currently have Ninety-five (95) members in our marching band. We are looking for more members! If you know a student at CE Murray (6-8), KMMSA (6-8), or KHS that would like to play a musical instrument, please have them contact me!

### ***Q: What has been the hardest part for students this year?***

A: I would say growing as young musicians and working as a cohesive group. Being in the band takes work, dedication, sacrifices, and so much more. Putting in the work can sometimes be a task, but the reward is so much greater than one could ever imagine.

### ***Q: How did you arrive at the name of the band?***

A: Initially, it was simply the Merge of the two schools. We've decided to keep the name because of our merging of the different instruments, different styles, and all of the various parts that make up our band. We merged dancers, colors, music, and techniques to bring musical excellence to Williamsburg County. It's a merge of musical excellence at its best!

### ***Q: How does a student join the band?***

A: If a student wants to join the band, they should contact me on any of our social media platforms, or simply sign up by contacting me, Director of Bands, Dr. James L. Patterson (843) 355-6823 ext. 4406. Students can also sign up by contacting Dr. Lucear or Mr. Batiste if they attend KMMSA or Mr. Chandler or Mr. Mack if they are a student at CE Murray.

### ***Q: How can parents get their children involved in music?***

A: Sign them up for music classes! They can also contact me at the school and sign up right away!

### ***Q: What is your ideal size band?***

A: I would like to see our band at one hundred twenty (120) members.

### ***Q: What is the most rewarding part about being a band director?***

A: The most rewarding part about being a band director is seeing my students growing musically and growing as young adults. I've watched so many of my students become amazing, successful adults that come back and tell me that I had a major impact on their lives! I currently have one of my former students assisting the band this year! To see it happening full circle is such an amazing feeling and reminds me to keep going!

### ***Q: If one of your band students were interviewed, what do you think they would say about you?***

A: They would say that I try to push my students to their best potential. They would say that I am hardworking, funny, very understanding and very encouraging, and motivational. They would also say that I am very passionate about whatever I do. I live to inspire.