

Photo by Marni Rothschild Durlach



Jennie Hodges and Jenn Hodges are joined by a job.

The strawberry blondes share a love for shopping, coordinating play dates with their kids, and their first and last names. Jennie Gromel and Jenn Perkins attended Virginia colleges and met through a mutual friend at a Dave Matthews concert. They clicked and stayed close after graduation, though Jenn taught in California while Jennie gravitated to grad school and a teaching career in Charleston. Their name change came when Jennie married Burt Hodges and Jenn married Tom Hodges, who turned out to be an old friend of Burt's. "It's this crazy, small-world story." When Jenn and Tom moved to Charleston and Jennie went on maternity leave, she encouraged Jenn to sub in her third-grade classroom at Orange Grove. Now they share a contract, working as part-time teachers of the same class by alternating days. Students see them as The Tall Mrs. Hodges and The Small Mrs. Hodges, while faculty and staff refer to them as Hodges, Inc. "It's hilarious. We love it. We're just goofy."