

Musical Theater

2008-2009

**INFORMATION
AND
FORMS
PACKET**

Mrs. Hawk, Director

khawk@bwschools.net

www.bwschools.net/music

Purpose of this Information Packet

Musical Theater at Harrison Middle School has grown considerably since its beginning 12 years ago. The scope of the program is such that using only oral communication of educational philosophies, goals, policies, and procedures is not effective.

The purpose of this Information Packet is simple---communication. This document provides the basic structure of musical theater at Harrison Middle School. It presents the foundation that guides the day-to-day operation of the musical in the best interests of the production and all involved. All aspects are continuously assessed to continue strengths, to identify areas of concern and to determine strategies for improvement and continued growth.

It is highly recommended that you keep this packet for your records.

HMS Musical Theater Goals

1. To develop a musical theater production at our best possible level of artistic excellence that is also educationally valid for our students. A school production within an educationally valid paradigm that has an efficient organizational structure and effectively implements theater concepts and skills should be both artistically successful and enjoyable for all involved, including the audience.
2. To present a production at the level of excellence set by outstanding theater programs within the metropolitan region and throughout the United States.
3. To develop a musical theater production that is interdisciplinary in both philosophical structure and practical implementation by bringing various aspects within the district and community together in a cooperative venue.
4. To provide opportunities for students within their roles in the cast, orchestra, or tech crew to learn essential concepts and develop fundamental skills in the art form of live musical theater.
5. To develop the individual intangibles of responsibility, work ethic, motivation, self-reliance, and confidence that combine with comprehensive theater concepts and skills to make artistic excellence possible within the student.
6. To develop the collective intangibles of leadership, pride, cooperation, focus, ability to deal with adversity, problem-solving and interpersonal skills that combine with comprehensive theater concepts and skills to make artistic excellence possible for our musical theater production as a company.
7. To serve a crucial role within a comprehensive theater arts program at HMS that reflects the National Standards for Arts Education (1994) and the PA Academic Standards for the Arts and Humanities (2003).
8. To provide awareness and enrichment opportunities by viewing other school and professional musical theater productions throughout the metropolitan region.

Philosophy of Casting

LEAD ROLES: The production staff will determine which lead roles will be double cast from the audition results given the challenge of balancing the philosophy of providing lead role opportunities with artistic viability. The staff reserves the right to cast a single student for any given role. Which student will be Cast 1 and Cast 2 will not be decided until further into the rehearsal process and will be based on merit, motivation, and adherence to musical theater policies. Because Musical Theater is an enrichment activity to the performance curriculum at Harrison Middle School, only students who are in band, chorus, or orchestra during the course of the school day will be considered for lead roles.

Double casting has pros and cons. While many schools, large and small, perform with one cast, we choose to undertake the extensive additional planning, costs, and rehearsal time for one fundamental educational purpose: to give more students opportunities to experience lead roles.

Each cast lead is expected to be thoroughly prepared not only to succeed in his/her performance but also to replace the other leading role if he/she should become ill, injured or vocally incapacitated, or, who falters due to attendance or preparation.

Leads from both casts are expected to attend all rehearsals that affect their role. Leads will be active members of the cast on the night they are not playing their role. They will participate in the ensemble or an individual cast. **Leads are expected to be the leaders as well, setting the standard and being the example of responsibility, conduct, work ethic, and preparation. Therefore, no behavioral issues will be tolerated from students who are cast in leading roles.**

Roles are granted on a merit basis. Seniority and past experience are taken into consideration, but are not determining factors of who will be cast.

WILLY WONKA JR. CAST LIST

WILLY WONKA / CANDY MAN

Willy Wonka is an enigmatic character; at once mysterious and mischievous but also charismatic. There are a number of directions to take with Wonka, ranging from Gene Wilder's version in the original film, *Willy Wonka & The Chocolate Factory*, to Johnny Depp's portrayal in the recent film, *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory*, and everything in between. The actor should be able to be funny and serious and change between the two on a dime.

CHARLIE

The role of Charlie Bucket is the emotional heart and soul of the musical. The actor performing Charlie should have an unchanged voice and lots of pluck and enthusiasm. Think a male "Annie." Charlie is in

nearly every scene, so make sure you select an actor who can handle the demands of a sizable role.

Grandpa Joe

Grandpa Joe is the grandfather we all wish we had when we were Charlie's age. He is caring, patient, and sweet and always reminds Charlie to remain cheerful. The actor should be able to be kind and funny. The role sings a bit, but the singing is secondary.

Grandma Josephina, Grandpa George, Grandma Georgina

Charlie's three grandparents are mainly non-singing character roles. Cast performers that are innately interesting, who have good comic timing and are solid actors.

Mr. & Mrs. Bucket

These are great roles for young people who have nice voices, and are natural nurturers. Both sing solos; Mr. Bucket performs the number "Think Positive" with Charlie and Mrs. Bucket sings "Cheer Up, Charlie" with Mr. Bucket and Grandpa Joe.

Phineous Trout

Phineous is the reporter who announces the winners of the Golden Ticket contest throughout the show. The role requires some singing, and can be doubled by Wonka or played by another actor. In addition, either a boy or a girl can play the role.

Veruca Salt

Veruca is the wealthy, class-conscious, spoiled brat. She is often portrayed with a high British accent that is by no means required (brats come in all nationalities). Veruca's solo number "I Want It Now" is deceptively tricky and comes late in the show. Veruca should contrast sharply with Violet Beauregarde in terms of look and physical type.

Augustus Gloop

Augustus is the overachieving eater who represents the evils of eating too much. Either a boy or a girl acting like a boy can play Augustus. Augustus sings "I Eat More!" along with his mother and Phineous Trout. The song is on the difficult side, but does not need to be sung with a polished pretty voice, in fact, the more character the better.

Violet Beauregard

Gum chewer extraordinaire, Violet hails from Snellville, Georgia, so it's nice if she has a Southern American accent, but not necessary. Violet should stand in stark contrast to Veruca Salt. Veruca is a wealthy refined brat; Violet is more of a blue-collar, middle class brat. She sings "Chew It" along with Willy Wonka.

Mike Teavee

For this adaptation Mike is not just a TV junky. He is also addicted to video games, the Internet and any other mind numbing technological device. Mike is bratty, loud and obnoxious. He does not know the word "no." Mike and Ms. Teavee sing "I See It All On TV" so he should be a reasonable singer, but does not need to be phenomenal.

Mrs. Teavee

Ms. Teavee is a take on all television moms of the distant past. Think June Cleaver (Leave it to Beaver) or Marion Cunningham (Happy Days) or even Carol Brady (The Brady Bunch). She's perfectly put together and a bit vacant. She sings "I See It All On TV" but does not require a polished voice.

Mrs. Beauregard

Mrs. Beauregard is a teacher of geography and has invested a great deal of hard-earned money on therapy for her orally fixated daughter, with less than stellar results. The role is virtually non-singing. Her accent should match Violet's.

Mr. Salt

Mr. Salt's solution to most problems is to buy his way out. He is upper class, and usually portrayed with a high British accent. (But this accent is not necessary—just make sure Veruca and Mr. Salt sound like they hail from the same place.) He sings very little.

Mrs. Gloop

Mrs. Gloop is Augustus' mother who has overindulged her son with food. She accompanies Augustus on the tour of the factory, and sings "I Eat More!" which is one of the more difficult songs in the score for young people. The role requires a character actress who isn't afraid to take positive risks both in her acting and her singing.

Oompa Loompas

The Oompa-Loompa Chorus can be as small as a handful of performers or as large as your stage and theater can accommodate.

James

James is Charlie's friend from school. He has a few lines and sings the introduction of "The Candy Man" along with Matilda and Charlie.

Matilda

Matilda is also a schoolmate of Charlie's, but she's a bit of bully. Matilda has a few lines and sings the introduction of "The Candy Man" along with James and Charlie.

The Candy Man Kids

THE CANDY MAN KIDS (a.k.a. SOPHIE, DANNY, ALFIE, BILLIE and additional kids as needed). These kids sing "The Candy Man"

Chorus of Cooks

Please note this is an optional chorus. The Cooks appear during "I Eat More!" presenting Augustus with a smorgasbord of food choices.

Squirrels

The squirrels are non-speaking, non-singing roles and you can cast as many as necessary. This is a

great part for beginning actors.

Musical Theater

Code of Conduct and Participation

Requirements

Membership in Musical Theater is a privilege, not a right. As a proud member of this organization I agree to the following guidelines of membership:

1. I will obey all Baldwin-Whitehall School District rules while at Harrison or when traveling away from the school for performance purposes.
2. I will treat all adults and fellow musical theater cast, crew, and pit orchestra members with courtesy and respect.
3. I will take proper care of all materials including props, costumes and sets, which includes proper hanging storing of costumes and props.
4. I will behave in a professional manner while in public representing my school at all times. This includes remaining in my designated area and following all directions given by the Musical Theater staff and volunteers.
5. I will adhere to the attendance policy of Musical Theater. I will miss no rehearsals or performances for any reason other than illness or death in the family. When family functions require precedence, I will provide a written request 2 weeks prior to the family commitment.
6. I will take pride in the Musical Theater program, striving to perform at the highest level at all times, striving to improve my theatrical ability at all times, and striving never to betray a negative attitude.
7. I will arrive on time and work hard at all rehearsals, talking only when necessary.
8. I will not leave my 8th period class until walkers and students staying for activities are dismissed.
9. I will promise to memorize my part in a timely fashion and to meet any deadlines given by the director.
10. I will bring script and music to every rehearsal.
11. I will submit signature page and costume fee prior to the first rehearsal.

Consequences

1st Violation
2nd Violation
3rd Violation

Warning
Phone Call Home
Removal from Musical Theater

Hershey Trip Guidelines

The trip to Hershey to perform in a *Music in the Parks* adjudication festival is an extension of the musical theater experience. All students who have participated in musical theater cast, crew or pit orchestra are invited to attend.

Additional guidelines and mandatory rehearsals for this trip are listed below. Any solos or leading roles that the students had in the musical may be re-cast for the adjudication performance.

1. Students must successfully perform/participate in the musical.
2. Students must adhere to all school district and musical theater codes of conduct.
3. Students must adhere to the attendance policy of musical theater.
4. Students must be able to attend the additional rehearsals for the trip.
5. Students must adhere to timelines for payments and submission of forms.

ADDITIONAL REHEARSALS (*mark your calendars now!!!!*)

Wednesday, May 27, 2009 until 5:00

Friday, May 29, 2009 until 5:00

Monday, June 1, 2009 until 5:00

Wednesday, June 3, 2009 until 5:00

*** Please note that once money has been submitted for this trip **it cannot be refunded for any reason**. This requires a commitment from both students and parents to make sure they fulfill all requirements that go along with this added responsibility.

Payment Dates:

October 31, 2008	\$100
December 3, 2008	\$100
April 20, 2008	balance due

Tentative Rehearsal Schedule

December

Friday, December 5 – until 5:00 (*mandatory to learn audition song*)

Students should sign up for ONE of these dates:

Tuesday, December 16 – Auditions until 5:30

Thursday, December 18 – Auditions until 5:30

Note: *Students who do not want a solo or leading role do not have to audition.*

They should see Mrs. Hawk to sign up.

January

Monday, January 5 – until 5:00

Tuesday, January 6 – until 5:00

Friday, January 9 – until 5:00

Monday, January 12 – until 5:00

Tuesday, January 13 – until 5:00

Friday, January 16 – until 5:00

Tuesday, January 20 – until 5:00

Friday, January 23 – until 5:00

Monday, January 26 – until 5:00

Tuesday, January 27 – until 5:00

Friday, January 30 – until 5:00

February

Tuesday, February 3 – until 5:00

Friday, February 6 – until 5:00

Monday, February 9 – until 5:00

Tuesday, February 10 – until 5:00

Friday, February 13 – until 5:00

Tuesday, February 17 – until 5:00

Friday, February 20 – until 5:00

Monday, February 23 – until 5:00

Tuesday, February 24 – until 5:00

Friday, February 27 – until 5:00

March

Monday, March 2 – until 5:00

Tuesday, March 3 – until 5:00

Friday, March 6 – until 5:00

SATURDAY, MARCH 7 – 10 AM – 3 PM

Monday, March 9 – until 5:00

Tuesday, March 10 – until 5:00

Friday, March 13 – until 5:00

Monday, March 16 – until 5:30

Tuesday, March 17 – until 5:30

SHOW DATES

Sunday, March 22 – 2:00 SHOW

CALL TIME 1:30

Thursday, March 26 – 7:30 SHOW

CALL TIME 7:00

Friday, March 27 – 7:30 SHOW

CALL TIME 7:00

Saturday, March 28 – 7:30 SHOW

CALL TIME 7:00

Wednesday, March 18 – until 5:30
Thursday, March 19 – until 5:30
Friday, March 20 – until 5:30

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is a very important part of any musical production. To assure that our students are getting the most out of their experience, as well as to insure that our production is as professional as it can be, the following attendance policy has been established.

- Any student missing 4 after school rehearsals for any reason will not be permitted to participate in the school assemblies or field trips.
- Any student with a leading role *may* be removed from that role after 4 absences.
- Any student missing the Saturday rehearsal will not be permitted to perform in any school day assemblies or field trips.
- After 7 absences the student will be removed from all performances.
- Any student who is absent from school on the day of a performance or rehearsal is not eligible to participate in the activity on the day of the absence.

Adjustments may need to be made to the rehearsal schedule. This policy applies for changes as well.

Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the staff. However, exceptions will only be considered in extreme cases. In such cases, a parent should contact Mrs. Hawk to see what accommodations, if any, can be made.

Please review this policy and sign the last form in this packet. No student will be allowed to participate in Musical Theater without signing this form. We need a strong commitment from everyone involved to make our program a success. Thank you again for supporting our endeavors.

Sincerely,
Musical Theater Staff

Willy Wonka Jr. Signature Page

Costume Fee:

To participate in Musical Theater there is a \$20 costume fee. This is to cover the cost of all that goes along with costuming such a large number of students. This fee will take care of costume issues such as maintenance, cleaning, storing, making, and renting. Students will still be responsible to provide their own shoes for the show. Please submit a check made payable to Harrison Middle School along with this form.

Please initial each of the following statements:

_____ I have read and agree to the Code of Conduct

_____ I have read agree to the Attendance Policy

_____ I have read and agree to the Hershey trip guidelines and am aware that money is non-refundable should my son/daughter not fulfill their responsibilities as set forth in this packet

Parent's signature _____

Student's signature _____

Date _____

This form must be returned on or before the first January rehearsal.

Morning/ Afternoon	X	X	X	X	X	
-------------------------------	---	---	---	---	---	--

Dear Parents,

As you know, it takes much effort to put together a musical. We are in need of assistance in many areas of our production. Below is a form for you to fill out. All parents are required to sign up for at least one volunteer job. Please check all boxes that are appropriate.

Someone will contact all volunteers with a schedule. Make sure to fill out your name and phone number so that you can be contacted.

Thank you very much for your help in making this program a success.

Musical Theater Production Staff



Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

___ **Backstage Monitor**

___ **Dressing Room Monitor**

___ **Washing**

___ **Ironing**

___ **Sewing**

___ **Tickets**

___ **Gift Table**

___ **50/50**

___ **Props**

___ **Set Construction**

___ **Set Painting**

___ **Fundraising**

___ **Trip planning**

___ **Chaperone**

Please circle dates that you are available to be a monitor so that we may set a schedule:

Saturday 3/7/09

Monday 3/16/09

Tuesday 3/17/09

Wednesday 3/18/09

Thursday 3/19/09

Friday 3/20/09

Sunday 3/22/09

Thursday 3/26/09

Friday 3/27/09

Saturday 3/28/09