

Harrison Middle School Musical

2024-2025 School Year



INFORMATIONAL & POLICIES PACKET

REQUIRED FORMS ARE DUE
MONDAY, JANUARY 6th

Contact Information

Musical Director

Marissa Virgin
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Pit Orchestra Director

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Vocal Director

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Choreographer

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Costumer

Sarah Mueller
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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 that has an efficient organizational structure and effectively implements theater concepts and skills and is artistically successful and enjoyable for all involved, including the audience.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. To develop the individual intangibles of responsibility, work ethic, motivation, self-reliance, and confidence.
5. To develop the collective intangibles of leadership, pride, cooperation, focus, ability to deal with adversity, problem-solving and interpersonal.
6. 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).
7. 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.

Additionally, leads are expected to be the leaders, 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 and no regular conflicts (ie: every Tuesday) or vacations will be accepted from leading roles.

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.

Roles are granted on a merit basis. Past theater experiences are taken into consideration, but are not determining factors of who will be cast as leads. Seniority and/or parent participation is not and will never be a determining factor of who will be cast as leads.

Double Casting: 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.

Audition Registration

All students must sign-up for an audition time slot as well as complete the registration Google form. Please be sure to complete both aspects of the registration.



**Audition Time Slot
Sign-up**



**Registration
Google Form**

Audition Process

All students interested in being a part of the cast must complete the following audition steps.

1. Dance audition

The students will be taught a simple dance routine to see how much experience they have dancing and their ability to learn choreography. The students will then perform the choreography in small groups for the panel of judges. *Students are not expected to have any dance experience.* The dance audition will take place on Friday, December 6th from 3:30-5:00 P.M.

2. Vocal audition

The students are to learn an audition excerpt from one of the songs provided. Each student will individually perform their song alongside the rehearsal track in front of the panel of judges. The students are encouraged to select a song which highlights the role in which they are interested in cast.

3. Acting audition

The students are to learn an audition excerpt from one of the scenes provided. Each student will individually perform their scene in front of the panel of judges. The students are encouraged to select a song which highlights the role in which they are interested in being cast.

The vocal and acting auditions will take place at the same time, and the students will individually sign up for a 5 minute audition window.

Audition Rubric

In an effort to provide clarity, below is the rubric through which the auditions will be score by the judging panel.

	0 points	1 point	2 points
Dance Audition			
Technique	Little to no understanding of basic dance techniques.	Basic technique displayed, but lacks precision and clarity.	Strong technical skills, with precise movements and control.
Performance Quality	Limited expression or engagement with the performance.	Some expression and energy; engages with the audience somewhat.	Strong performance quality, with high energy and connection to the music.
Learning & Adaptability	Refuses to learn choreography	Difficulty learning choreography and adapting to corrections.	Learns choreography well and shows willingness to take direction
Vocal Audition			
Pitch & Tone	Frequent pitch issues and unclear tone.	Occasional pitch issues, but generally on key with a pleasant tone.	Strong, consistent pitch with a clear and engaging tone.
Expression & Dynamic	Flat delivery with little emotional connection.	Some dynamics and expression, but lacks full engagement.	Excellent use of dynamics and expressive qualities that enhance performance.
Preparation	Unprepared	Minimal preparation	Thoughtful song choice that showcases vocal abilities and is well-prepared.
Acting Audition			
Characterization	Little understanding of character; minimal engagement.	Basic characterization; shows some understanding of the role.	Fully embodies the character; strong understanding and interpretation.
Delivery & Timing	Poor timing; delivery lacks clarity and focus.	Good delivery with occasional timing issues.	Excellent delivery; strong timing and clarity throughout.
Interaction & Presence	Unprepared	Minimal interaction; lacks stage presence.	Engages with scene partners and exhibits strong stage presence.

Code of Conduct & Participation Requirements

Musical Theater is an extracurricular. Therefore, participation 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 Middle School or while traveling away from the school.
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 not miss rehearsals or performances for any reason other than illness or a death in the family.
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 to not convey 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 students staying for activities are dismissed.
9. I will memorize my part in a timely fashion and to meet any deadlines given by the director.
10. I will bring my script, music and pencil to every rehearsal.
11. I will maintain my grades in all academic areas.
12. I will submit signature page and costume fee prior to the first rehearsal.

This behavior code of conduct includes social media posts.

Online harassment and bullying will not be tolerated.

Be sure to stay positive and think before you post!

As we are learning in school, you are free to make choices, but you are not free from consequences for your choices. If you break any of the Code of Conduct guidelines, the consequences are as follows:

1st offense: warning

2nd offense: phone call home

3rd offense: removal from cast parties, assemblies, and/or field trips

4th offense: removal from Musical Theater

Attendance Policy

Attendance is a very important part of any musical production. In order for our students to get the most out of their experience, as well as to ensure that our production is as professional as it can be, the following attendance policy has been established.

- Students must be available for all shows. No exceptions!
- Students in a small group or featured ensemble may not miss any of the scheduled rehearsals for that individual group/ensemble. If a student misses a rehearsal for their group, the student may be removed from the scene/song that was taught that day. This is not meant to be a petty punishment, we simply do not have the time to go back and reteach already taught scenes.
- Students missing 5 after school rehearsals for any reason will not be permitted to participate in field trips, assemblies, or the cast party associated with musical theater.
- Students missing a Saturday rehearsal will accumulate 3 absences for that 1 rehearsal.
- Students with a leading role may be removed from that role after 5 absences.
- **After 7 absences the student will be removed from the activity.**
- Students who are absent from school on the day of a performance or rehearsal are 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. This policy also applies to students who become academically ineligible to participate in rehearsals.

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 Ms. Virgin 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.

Parent Volunteer Information

Pulling off a musical of this magnitude takes a whole team of effort! We are in need of assistance in many areas of the production from help with building sets to organizing concessions to monitoring students during the show run. There is a job for every comfort level. All parents are asked to sign-up for at least one volunteer position.

Please complete the online volunteer form, and somebody will be in contact with you about your availability.

Assistance needed:

- Sewing
- Costume Cleaning
- Ironing/ Steaming
- Dressing Room Monitor
- Set Building
- Backstage Monitor
- Ticket Sales
- 50/50 Raffle
- Basket Raffle Committee
- Gifts/ Concessions
- Saturday Rehearsal Lunch

Parent Volunteer Sign-up



Frozen Jr. Permissions Page

Due Date: January 6, 2025

Costuming Fee: To participate in the Musical Theater cast, there is a \$40 costuming fee. This fee will cover clothing items associated with your costume, props, and a show t-shirt. Students may still be asked to cover certain items for their costume. A fundraising opportunity to cover the costuming fee will be available. Please contact Ms. Virgin directly if there is financial difficulty so that arrangements can be made .

Please submit your check payable to Harrison Middle School alongside this signed permissions form.

No student will be permitted to participate in the program without submitting the signature page and costuming fee.

Please initial each of the following statements:

..... *I have read, understand, and agree to the Code of Conduct*

..... *I have read, understand, and agree to the Attendance Policy*

Parent's signature

Student's signature

Costume Fee Check #

Date