

District Musical FAQ

The Audition Process:

1. How long is the audition process?

Students in the lower grades go first. Therefore K-2nd graders are often done by 4pm, while high school students could go as late as 7pm.

2. What does my child have to do to prepare for the audition?

Nothing. We will teach your child a short song selection from the show and a short dance break. No singing or dance experience is required. Just tell your child to have fun, show personality, and do their best.

3. Can parents watch auditions?

Yes, as long as parents are being quiet and respectful they may watch their child audition.

4. Does my child have to audition both days?

Yes, unless your child is sick, you email in advance, and the school can provide information that they were absent, they must audition both days or they cannot be considered for a role in the musical.

Casting:

1. Do only high school students get leads?

No; each year we pick shows where lead roles can be spread out across all age groups. While more leads may get cast to older students, there are always lead roles each year that go to students in grades K-3.

2. Do we only cast students we know?

No, every year we base casting on the audition process only, as this is the only fair way to select students for the musical. Every year students whom we have never even met before get cast in the show, at times even as leads, while seniors in high school whom we have known for years could get cut.

3. Do you only take a few younger students to be cast in the show?

No, in order to be fair, we try our best to cast an equal number of students per grade level so that all grades K-12 are represented. This means that even high school students often get cut from the show as we base everything on auditions only.

4. How many students will be cast?

We typically say 100, but that is based on auditions. At times we may cast 110 students as we always lose a few throughout the process and will most likely end up with about 100 by the time the show goes up.

Rehearsals:

1. How late do students rehearse daily?

Just like auditions, we try to get the younger students out first. Therefore, students in grades K-2 may only be needed until 4:30pm, whereas students in high school would stay until 7pm.

2. What does the rehearsal schedule look like?

The rehearsal schedule is posted on the school website every two weeks. For a show with this many students, we can only work two weeks at a time before the production team can reassess what is needed for the following two weeks. The schedule always changes so we ask that you only participate in the musical if you can be flexible.

3. What if my child has a conflict every Monday and cannot attend Monday rehearsals?

In an effort to be fair, we ask that all conflicts be written down on the audition forms. The production team allows for one conflict per cast member to be excused per week. This means if your child has ballet on Mondays and cannot attend any Monday rehearsals we will do our best to not schedule rehearsals on Mondays for your child's role/ensemble. If we cannot avoid scheduling your child for a rehearsal on a day when they have a known conflict, we excuse your child. In an eight-week rehearsal schedule, however, it is very hard to catch students up on missed rehearsals as things move very quickly. If your child has quite a few activities or sports that they play already in the spring, the musical may not be the best fit for them as they will not be able to attend many rehearsals.

4. Can parents watch rehearsals?

No, rehearsals are closed for all parents. This helps keep the rehearsal process more focused. As a parent you will drop off and pick up your child in the lobby of the high school outside of the auditorium.

5. What happens during tech week?

Tech week is the last 4 days of rehearsals before the opening night of the show. This is where costumes, microphones, set pieces, the band, and lights are implemented. It is mandatory and imperative that all students participating in the musical be present for all four rehearsals from 3-8pm. Dinner will be provided. K-2nd grade students are often not called until Wednesday that week due to their age so that they only have two days of tech rehearsal. Failure to be at these rehearsals will remove your child from the production as they are the most important aspect of the show.

6. How many days per week will my child be needed at rehearsals?

That all depends on their role and what ensembles are being worked on that week. Most often students in grades K-2 are needed twice a week while students in grades 3-6 are needed 3 times a week, and students in 7-12 could be needed as much as 4 days per week. All leads, no matter the age of the student, are most likely needed 4 days per week.

7. How many rehearsals can my child miss?

In an eight-week rehearsal process we allow for up to 3 rehearsals to be missed as long as you email Ms. Miller by the morning of the day to be missed to explain the absence. We can excuse the absence if your child is sick or you are going away on a family vacation.