

Welcome/Introduction

Congratulations on your decision to be in the Water Spring Middle musical theater course. Those of you who were in theater in the past, there may be some reviewed items. However, we will be not just focusing on acting, but also singing and dancing solo, small groups, and as an ensemble. We will have FUN while learning in this class!

I am so excited to be starting my 11th year of teaching as a Wildcat. For the first 7 years I was an elementary music teacher for four and then three years of elementary dance at Water Spring Elementary School before being invited to join the Wildcat family two years ago. I was also involved in musical theater my high school years. A few highlights of my high school performing career were Ren in Footloose and Joseph in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. While pursuing my degree in music education, I volunteered as an assistant director for multiple middle and high school productions. I also just directed the last three years of shows here at Water Spring Middle School; High School Musical 2 Jr., Beauty and the Beast Jr., and Guys and Dolls Jr.

My goal for the year will be to inspire each and every one of you to discover your love and passion for not just acting on stage but singing and dancing as well. There will be many opportunities to perform in class alone and in small groups giving you lots of experience in front of an audience of your peers. While I am not expecting every student to become a "triple threat," you will be expected to participate in each activity that we do in class by putting forth your best effort with a positive attitude.

This handbook will have everything you need to be a successful member in your ensemble this year. **Please look this over and sign the last page acknowledging you read the entirety of the handbook by September 4. We will also be having a short quiz over it that date as well in class.**

I look forward to working together this year to have a successful and fun year in musical theater! Welcome to Water Spring Middle School musical theater class!

Mr. Beck

Scott.beck@ocps.net

Required Materials

1. Positive attitude! Be ready to move and participate each day.
2. Water bottle with your name written on it.
3. A 2 pocket folder color of your choice to put important papers for class in.
4. Spiral Notebook. Wide or college-ruled is fine. Needs to have at least 100 sheets.
5. 1-2 pencils. We only make stage notes in pencil because they can change!

Additional donated materials that we will always need as a class throughout the year:

Clorox Wipes, Reams of Lined Paper, Hand Sanitizer, Kleenex, Mr. Clean Erasers, Amazon Wishlist Items

Amazon Wishlist -

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1YFMBEQCW7LA?ref_=wl_share

If you would like to continually help the Water Spring Middle School Choral/Musical Theater department, please consider purchasing items from the amazon wish list which will be edited and added to during the year. Make sure to check back often. Any small donation is GREATLY appreciated!

Musical Theater Fee - \$15

Performance class essentials include, but are not limited to sheet music, books, recordings, performance expenses, accompanists, props, transportation, equipment, guest clinicians, etc. Fees help us defray a small amount of these expenses and reduce the need for excessive fundraising. You can pay through SchoolCash Online.

Students are never excluded from the program activities based on their family's financial needs. Please contact Mr. Beck if you need to make special arrangements.

Policies/Procedures

1. Students are to come into class, put their backpacks on the back wall, grab their materials, and sit in their assigned seat at the start of the bell.
2. No food or drink is allowed in the classroom except for bottled water.
3. Students may **NEVER CHEW GUM** while in class.
4. Phones are not to be used in class **EVER!** Students using their phones during class will have their phones put in phone jail and given to a dean.

5. Students should participate to the best of their ability during each and every class period. This means giving 100% effort, having a positive attitude, and giving full attention. Giving anything less will result in daily participation points.

Consequences

Failure to follow classroom rules will result in a consequence which can include the following:

1. Loss of daily participation points.
2. Behavior think sheet (loss of your daily 5 rehearsal points)
3. Parent email or phone call home.
4. Loss of privileges (field trips, etc.)
5. Referral
6. Removal from class and/or performances.

Grading

Daily Performing Skills (25%)

Everyone starts out with daily points (5 per day). Students will keep all 5 points by participating in what we are working on each day. Any behavior or technique that is less than 100% effort will lose up to that day's total points. This includes, but is not limited to; talking out of turn, not having required materials, not following directions, not participating, chewing gum, non-focus, or displaying less than best effort and attitude **after a warning is given**. Students who are not in class that day are excused from the points so that way they don't harm your grade.

Class Work (15%)

Although this is a mostly hands-on learning class, we will have exit slips, journal entries, worksheets, and other written or computer work to supplement our learning. Journals/exit slips will be graded biweekly. Students will have the opportunity to make up entries and slips that they missed.

Tests/Quizzes (20%)

There will be regularly scheduled tests/quizzes and some unannounced short quizzes. There is also an End of Course exam at the end of the year which will count towards the student grade.

Projects/Performances (40%)

There will be at least ONE performance and one written/performance project during the year. There may be others scheduled throughout the year. These are meant to be fun and give students a chance to perform in front of their peers to the best of their ability showing effort, not necessarily looking for perfection. There is ONE MANDATORY performance at the end of the year outside of the school day. It is Tuesday, May 5 at 6pm in the cafeteria. **If you know your child will not be in attendance, a valid, written excuse must be sent from the parent via email at least three weeks in advance.** Students with excused absences will be given a make-up performance assignment.

Other Opportunities

Spring Musical

This year we will be putting on a middle school musical in the spring. Auditions will be in the week of December 1 with rehearsals through our performance April 24th and 25th . ANY student can audition to be in the show as well as sign up to be stage crew, assist in tech, etc.

Orlando Family Stage Field Trip

We have the opportunity to go see Finding Nemo Jr at Orlando Family Stage on Monday, April 20. This will be an optional field trip for ALL musical theater students. Tickets will cost \$20. Details will be given at a later date.

Fundraising

Students will be asked to fundraise for the musical theater and chorus department this year. Many of the materials that we could use in class and optional performances cost money and we can have access to more materials if we fundraise for them. This will also be used towards the field trip to Orlando Family Stage. We will be doing Virtual Raise with the chorus classes within the first month of school. There may be smaller fundraisers throughout the year.

Handbook Acknowledgement and Contact Information

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____ Class Period: _____ Shirt Size: _____

Parent/Guardian Contact #1:

Name: _____

Relationship to Student: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Contact #2:

Name: _____

Relationship to Student: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Handbook Acknowledgement

- I have read through the entirety of the handbook.
- I understand that there will be fundraisers that are optional but encouraged.
- I understand the spring showcase performance attendance policy and have placed the MANDATORY performance date, Tuesday, May 5, on the calendar and know that if I am not able to attend the MANDATORY performance, I will have a parent email Mr. Beck no less than 3 weeks before the concert date.
- I understand that I am REQUIRED to pay the class activity fee of \$15 due on the date by Friday, October 10.
- I have read and understand Mr. Beck's grading policy and classroom rules.

Student Signature

Parent Signature