



**Water Spring Middle School
Performing Arts Department
Musical Theater II/III**



Scott Beck, Director
scott.beck@ocps.net

Facebook: Water Spring Middle School Chorus and
Theater

Instagram: @waterspringchorus

Welcome/Introduction

Congratulations on your decision to be in the second or third year of Water Spring Middle musical theater course. Those of you who were in musical theater last year, there may be some reviewed items. However, we will be building on the skills learned from last year and taking a more performance and workshop approach for each of you. 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. We will also have 2-3 mandatory performances outside of school for this class where you will be performing solo and ensemble numbers with students in this class. 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 class papers in during the year.
4. Spiral Notebook. Wide or college rules are 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:

Band-Aids, 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. **Payments** can be made 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 then 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.

Showcase Attendance Policy

Performing is the major focus of our class rehearsals and preparation. It is also a fun and unique part of being in this class! Since music classes are co-curricular, some of the required grading falls outside of the usual school day. **All students are expected to attend all performances.** Performances, concerts, and required rehearsals are mandatory and constitute a large portion of each child's grade. **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.

All performance and rehearsal dates are listed in the performance calendar. This calendar contains only dates/times which we know at present and is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. When changes and additions occur, students and parents will be notified well in advance.

Grading

Daily Theatrical 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 work to supplement our learning.

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 TWO REQUIRED OUTSIDE SCHOOL DAY performances and one written/performance project during the year. These are located in the important dates calendar at the end of the handbook 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.

Other Opportunities

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.

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 & 25th. ANY student can audition to be in the show as well as sign up to be stage crew, assist in tech, etc.

Jr Thespian District Festival

Students can have the opportunity to perform solo and ensemble performance pieces at the district festival Saturday, November 15. More information will be provided after the start of the school year.

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. We will be doing Virtual Raise with the chorus classes after Labor Day. There may be smaller fundraisers throughout the year.

Important Dates

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Participants</u>
November date TBD after school	Musical Info Mtg	Choir Room	Those interested
Week of December 1, 4-6pm	Musical Auditions	Choir Room	Musical Students
Friday, December 5, 4-6pm	Musical Call Backs	Choir Room	Students with Callback
Saturday, November 15	Jr. Thespians Districts	University HS	Students interested
Tuesday, November 18, 6pm	MT II/III Showcase	Cafeteria	<u>ALL MT II/III Students</u>
Monday, April 20 school day	Finding Nemo Jr.	Orlando Family Stage	ALL MT interested students
Friday & Saturday April 24 & 25	Musical Performance	WSMS Cafeteria	Students in Musical
Tuesday, May 5, 6pm	MT I/II/III Showcase	WSMS Cafeteria	<u>ALL MT Students</u>

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 showcase performance attendance policy and have placed all the MANDATORY performance dates on the calendar and know that if I am not able to attend a 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 musical theater activity fee of \$15 due Friday, October 10.
- I have read and understand Mr. Beck's grading policy and classroom rules.

Student Signature

Parent Signature