

The Grove Players
2026-2027 Season
Audition Information

The Grove Players will be holding auditions for both the fall play, *Miss Nelson Is Missing*, and the spring musical, *Newsies*, in August. Please review the following information carefully in order to be prepared for your audition!

General Audition Date: Monday August 24, 2026

Audition Time: 3:30-6:00

Audition Location: Drama room (308) & Chorus room (307)

Dance Audition (musical only): Tuesday August 25, 2026

Callbacks (if needed): Thursday August 27, 2026

Please complete the Audition Form posted in Google Classroom prior to auditioning. The form will be available on August 3rd.

What To Prepare

If auditioning for *Miss Nelson Is Missing* ONLY:

- Memorize and prepare a one-minute monologue of your choice, or from the [provided list](#)

If auditioning for *Newsies* ONLY or BOTH:

- Memorize and prepare a one-minute monologue of your choice, or from the [provided list](#)
- Memorize and prepare a 30 second cut of a musical theatre song that shows off your voice. Have a backing track available to play on your phone.
- Learn the [step-by-step choreography video](#) & be prepared to dance in a small group at the dance audition. Please learn the dance by mirroring the YouTube instructor.

Please sign up for an audition order. The sign up sheet will be posted outside of the drama room. You will not have a specific time slot, we will just go in order of those signed up. Auditions move quickly and you will be dismissed after your audition is over. Those auditioning for the musical will go first and those auditioning for the play only will go toward the end.

Tips for a Successful Audition

- Know your material! Memorize your song/monologue & be confident in your talents
- Dress to impress! Make a good first impression by dressing appropriately and confidently
- Begin with a slate: EX - "Hello, my name is Cara Funte and I will be performing "The Wizard and I" from *Wicked* and Wendy's monologue from *Peter Pan*."
- Be familiar with the shows and characters you are auditioning for! The scripts are posted in the Drama Club Google Classroom. (code to join: **kfnrsto**)
- Don't apologize for your audition! Walk in confidently and leave confidently.
- Attend the audition workshop on August 20, 2026 to receive one-on-one coaching and help with the dance!

***Miss Nelson Is Missing* Information**

Miss Nelson can't control her crazy classroom because she's just too nice. But when she disappears, her replacement is the hard-as-nails, detention-loving, recess-canceling, homework-overloading substitute teacher Viola Swamp! With the Big Test approaching, the kids suddenly realize how much they miss Miss Nelson and they'll do anything – including hiring a private eye – to solve the mystery of her disappearance and bring her back.

Characters:

The Adults

MISS NELSON

MISS VIOLA SWAMP

PRINCIPAL HUMLEKER

DETECTIVE MCSMOGG

The Kids

RAYMOND – A chubby little George Smiley figure

PHOEBE – A shy, nerdy girl

GEORGE JORGENSEN, JR. – A jock

LAVITA – A little spitfire girl

MORRIS – AKA “Mouse,” a tough, little African-American kid

KIMBERLY – A perfect, popular girl, with great hair

ELVIS – A slicked-back greaser boy who talks like “The King”

Important Dates:

- Rehearsals will begin on September 8, 2026
- Rehearsals will be Mon, Tues, Thurs, after school from 3:30-5:30
- Saturday rehearsal (required):
 - Tentative date: Nov. 7, 2026 @ UGHS
- Show week (required):
 - Nov. 11-13, 2026 @Fairview PAC

Things to know:

- Any known or potential conflicts with the above rehearsal & performance dates must be disclosed at the time of auditions

Newsies Information

It's time to carry the banner on your stage with Disney's Newsies! Set in turn-of-the century New York City, Newsies is the rousing tale of Jack Kelly, a charismatic newsboy and leader of a band of teenaged "newsies." When titans of publishing raise distribution prices at the newsboys' expense, Jack rallies newsies from across the city to strike against the unfair conditions and fight for what's right!

Characters:

JACK KELLY – Charismatic leader of the Manhattan newsies. An orphaned dreamer and artist yearning to get out of the crowded streets of New York to make a better life for himself. Very protective to his best friend, Crutchie. Loyal and not afraid to speak his mind to get better conditions for the working kids of New York City. Jack has a softer side showing his big heart and vulnerability, especially for Katherine Plumber. Pop tenor voice and command a strong stage presence/physicality. Also read the additional description for overall newsies characters.

CRUTCHIE* – A dedicated newsie with a bum leg, which happens to help him sell more papers. Crutchie represents a very important time in history of representing a disabled child, but he does not let this define him. The crutch he uses to get around is simply a tool to help him see the world. Crutchie is Jack's best friend and has a goofy sense of humor and optimistic resilience. Also read the additional description for overall newsies characters.

DAVEY – New, bookish newsie. Les's straight-laced, bright big brother starts selling newspapers to help his family earn a living, but becomes swept up in the strike. Davey is a leader in his own right and learning how to use his voice to uplift others. Davey is the brains of the resistance. Also read the additional description for overall newsies characters.

LES – Davey's fearless, cheeky younger brother. He's inspired by the freedom of the newsies and loves their independent lifestyle. Les is natural salesboy and pint-sized charmer. He is younger than the other newsies. Also read the additional description for overall newsies characters.

Other Newsies: RACE*, ALBERT*, SPECS*, HENRY*, FINCH*, ROMEO*, ELMER*, MUSH*, BUTTONS*, SPLASHER*, TOMMY BOY*, JO JO*, MIKE*, IKE* – rough-around-the-edges, full of New York personality and mischievous at times, but hard-workers who go on strike for a living wage.

SCABS* (3) – Newsies who are hesitant to join the strike. Also read the additional description for overall newsies characters. Cast from above other Newsies roles.

SPOT CONLON* – Proud leader for the Brooklyn newsies and boasts of an intimidating reputation. Also read the additional description for overall newsies characters.

KATHERINE PLUMBER – An ambitious young reporter trying to make a name for herself as a legitimate journalist (women were not taken as seriously during this time). Quick, funny, scatterbrained, resourceful, brilliant and embraces and captures a new generation rising by covering the newsies strike. She doesn't make time for streetwise, cocky men, but has a soft spot for Jack Kelly. Contemporary pop voice with a high belt.

DARCY* – Is an upper-class son of a publisher who sides with the newsies. Can double as a newsie.

BILL – Son of William Randolph Hearst who joins the newsies cause. Can double as a newsie.

PHOTOGRAPHER* – Takes the triumphant photo of the newsies at the end of Seize the Day. Can double as a newsie.

WIESEL (WEASEL) – runs the World's distribution window and knows most the newies by name. Assisted by the intimidating Delancey brothers, who keep order by any means necessary. Wiesel is Pulitzer's disgruntled paper pusher.

MORRIS & OSCAR DELANCEY – Tough guys who work at the World's distribution window and take the side of the publishers in the strike and are known to use their fists to make a point.

GOONS – Assist Delancey's in roughing up the newsies. Can double as a newsies.

JOSEPH PULITZER – A serious businessman and publisher of the World. He is focused on profits and the bottom line with whatever it takes to get there. Katherine's no-nonsense father does not sympathize with the stikers, but does eventually and grudgingly – respects Jack in the end.

SEITZ* – Pulitzer's editor and adviser, but ultimately admires the kid's newspaper.

BUNSEN* – Pulitzer's bookkeeper comes up with the idea to raise the newsies' price per paper.

HANNAH – Pulitzer's practical and insightful secretary.

NUNZIO – Pulitzer's barber.

GUARD – Removes the newsies from Pulitzer's building.

MEDDA LARKIN (Any age over 30) – A true madame and buxom beauty theater owner. Medda sparkles and shines through her personality. Inspired by Aida Overton Walker, a big, voiced salon singer and vaudeville star of the Bowery. She offers a safe haven for the newsies. An astute entertainer with great comic delivery. She is a good friend to Jack and stands firmly behind the newsies in their fight for justice. Seeking an actress full of personality and can command the stage.

BOWERY BEAUTIES – Female showgirls at Medda's theater. Can double as a newsies.

STAGE MANAGER*

NUNS (3) – Offer breakfast to hungry newsies.

WOMAN – Newspaper customer

MR. JACOBI* – owner of Jacobi's deli and allows newsies to congregate in his restaurant to plan their strike – when he doesn't have any paying customers.

SNYDER* – Crooked and sinister warden of The Refuge, a filthy and horrible orphanage only concerned with catching kids to keep his government checks coming.

POLICEMAN – Assists Snyder and turn against the newsies.

MAYOR – NYC Mayor rebuffs Pulitzer's attempts to shut down the newsies' strike.

GOVERNOR TEDDY ROOSEVELT – Well respected lifelong public servant and inspires Jack to stand up to Pulitzer.

Important Dates:

- A read-thru will happen in December
- Regular rehearsals will begin in January
- Rehearsals will be Mon, Tues, Thurs, after school from 3:30-5:30
- Rehearsals will be extended & days added starting in March
- Saturday rehearsals (required):
 - Tentative date: Jan. 23, 2027 @UGHS
 - Tentative date: March 13 or 20, 2027 @UGHS
- Show week (required):
 - April 19-23, 2027 @ Fairview PAC

Things to know:

- This is a show for every skill level! Some characters dance a lot (the newsies) and some do not! Everyone auditioning will have to do the dance portion, but that does not necessarily mean you will be dancing a lot in the show.
- There are lots of characters that have bit parts and speaking lines.
- Be prepared to show me your New York accent!
- Many of the characters are gender flexible!

Audition Sign Up

Example of the sign-up sheet. This paper form will be posted outside of room 308 where you can sign up.

Newsies ONLY	Newsies & Miss Nelson	Miss Nelson ONLY
1	25	49
2	26	50
3	27	51
4	28	52
5	29	53
6	30	54
7	31	55
8	32	56
9	33	57
10	34	58
11	35	59
12	36	60
13	37	61
14	38	62
15	39	63
16	40	64
17	41	65
18	42	66
19	43	67
20	44	68
21	45	69
22	46	70
23	47	71
24	48	72

