

Middle School Troupe & Drama Club

PLEASE READ COMPLETELY - LOTS OF INFORMATION INCLUDED



Studies show that students who are involved with the performing arts gain confidence, excel academically, develop social skills, become leaders and team members. Because of all the positive benefits of being on the stage, we will once again be offering middle school students a chance to participate in the Northridge Theater Program. This program is designed for any student in grades 6-8 who might be interested in performing on the stage.

Our program has two components. Students may choose to participate in one or both of these depending on their interests:

Theater Troupe is for those students who would like to develop their acting skills through performance of plays sometimes dealing with more serious content. There is generally no music or dance involved in these plays. The bigger challenge is that this group competes against other middle school troupes, aiming for the honor of performing at the state thespian conference. If a student continues to perform in troupe shows or other productions, they can earn points toward membership in the International Thespian Society, the honor society of theater.

The troupe will meet every Monday and Wednesday after school from 4-5:30 from August through competition, with additional rehearsals when competition nears. The competition is on a **Saturday, November 21** so students will need to make sure they are available. **There is a fee of \$25 to help pay for material such as scripts.** There will be additional fees to compete at the regional event. Usually around \$20/student. Should the troupe earn the privilege of performing at state, additional fees will need to be paid. (We'll cross that bridge when we need to.)

Drama Club is for students who want exposure to performance on stage, but without the competition. This doesn't mean rehearsals will be less demanding, but the show will be lighter in content and may contain singing and dancing if there are enough students enrolled.

Drama Club will meet Mondays and Wednesdays after school from 4-5:30 starting in November and running through March's performance scheduled for **March 5 & 6, 2027**. Our theater "season" closes after this performance. **Auditions will be held Monday, November 23rd. Be aware that spring sports may interfere with drama and students may need to choose between activities.** There is a fee of \$25 to help pay for materials.

State Conference is a weekend in January where theater students from all over the state come together to experience "all things theater." We invite our younger theater students to attend. They will be able to watch performances, attend workshops on the various facets of theater, compete in technical events, and just hang out with other theater geeks. They also have an opportunity to compete in Individual Events (IEs/Thespys). These include monologues, solos, group acting/singing, etc. Directors will assist in choosing these and working with the students individually.

If any of these interests your student(s), please complete the following form and return it to the table or the front office with your \$25 (troupe) by August 24. Feel free to contact Augi with questions.

Ellen (Augi) Augustine
Director

REGISTRATION FORM

Student Name _____

Grade 6 7 8

Mailing Address _____

Parents/Guardians Names _____

Contact Name & Phone Number _____

Interested in _____Troupe _____Drama Club _____Both

What experience does your student have on stage? If none - that's ok. We just need to know where to start.

Attendance is extremely important to our program. We are a team, but we have no “bench” to pull from when someone is absent. And we don't have time to teach/work individually with students if we are blocking or teaching music/choreography. Knowing this, is there anything that might cause a conflict for any of our rehearsal times? (This includes dentist/doctor appointments, voice/piano lessons, meetings, dance, sports, etc.) Please list so we can discuss it early.

SEE AUDITION INFORMATION ON NEXT PAGE

PERFORMANCES & AUDITIONS

Troupe Show - American History in 60

This play is a laugh-out-loud comedy that takes the audience on a madcap journey through the story of America. Led by the pompous Professor Bartholomew T. Featherstone and a ragtag group of "historians," the show races through Columbus, Pilgrims, Founding Fathers, the Revolution, the Civil War, the Great Depression, and beyond - all before the clock runs out. It's full of pop culture mash-ups, game show parodies, and sports caster-style Revolutionary War Commentary. This show has 65 parts! Obviously we won't have 65 actors but the challenge will be to change roles convincingly. Some cutting will need to take place to contain it to 45 minutes. **(Competition - November 21 in Munster)**

Drama Club Show - Annie, Jr.

The familiar story of Little Orphan Annie and her quest to be adopted by Daddy Warbucks. Add to that a couple of con artists and lots of music and dance and the audience will be laughing, crying, and cheering at the outcome of the story. **(Performance - March 5 & 6)**

AUDITIONS

Auditions for Troupe (American History in 60) will be held **August 19** after school in the auditorium. Auditions for **Annie, Jr.** will be held after school on **November 25**. Students will indicate on their form which show(s) they are interested in. They will be asked to read an audition scene with a partner(s). If they are auditioning for Annie, Jr. they will also be asked to sing a simple song - Happy birthday, ABCs, Twinkle Twinkle, etc - we just need to know how well they sing.

Both cast lists will be posted within a few days and scripts will be handed out to all students. These scripts are theirs to keep so they may highlight lines, make notes, etc. in preparation for performances. We will provide them with mp3 links to all the music which they can download to their phones, tablets, or mp3 players. This way they can also begin to learn the music. When we begin rehearsals we will still have a lot of dance, music, and blocking to learn.

KEEP INFORMED

We have a theater group on **Schoology** that students and parents are invited to join. We post announcements about rehearsals, performances, and other important communications on this site. This will also be where we post the music tracks for Annie, Jr. so students can work on learning music/dance outside of our rehearsals. To join our Schoology page do the following:

Login to Schoology through the MCS web page or your school web page -> go to the top "Groups" -> right hand side click "my groups" -> "join group" -> join code = KMS2-3BZQ-X2KT4. If you have problems contact us. We can put you in from our end. Students definitely need to join this group; parents it's optional, but helpful.

We also have a **Facebook page**. Search under Northridge Theater Program.

In addition to these two forms of communication, I will also be posting on our **Parent Square** group. To join, navigate to the Participate section on your dashboard, select Groups, and browse the list of available or public groups to join. If this doesn't work, let me know.