



ST. JOHN CATHOLIC
SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL INFO 2024-25

Thank you for thinking about the Middle School Musical. It's a massive undertaking that requires a huge time commitment from both students and parents. But truly, there is nothing like it. Middle school students work together and create this amazing, ephemeral thing that sparkles with life.

Middle schoolers are at the precipice of young adulthood, and for most of them, this is the last time they will get to play dress-up and sing together on stage. If your student is nervous and not sure they can do it, encourage them to try. We hold them up and support them, and they will always remember that time they were a spoon in the middle school musical.

There is a lot of information about the many moving parts. Please read through this information carefully. This document details expectations and requirements for participation. Some of this information will evolve, but this is a good start to understanding the process.

SCHEDULE 2024-2025

Required Information Zoom Meeting, November 4, 2024, 7:00pm: Students interested in the Middle School Musical, along with their parents/guardians, must attend the MSM Informational Zoom Meeting. The director will go over expectations and requirements and answer your questions. Details will be announced in NewsViews.

Permission Form and Registration Fee: Permission/Registration form will be available November 4, after the Information Zoom Meeting. The Permission/Registration form, including the fee, must be submitted by November 26 in order to secure an audition. All who audition will be given a part.

- Registration fee Cast per student: \$150
- Registration fee Crew per student: \$75
- Financial aid is available. Information will be shared in the NewsViews post and Registration page. Note: refunds will not be issued. Fees will not be prorated if the student changes their mind about involvement, misses rehearsals or is asked to withdraw because of lack of commitment.

CAST MEMBERS (People Who Act on Stage)

Cast Member Auditions, December 3 and 4, 2024, Egan Hall, 3-5pm, MANDATORY ATTENDANCE BOTH DAYS: Auditions can be scary, but we promise you will be okay.

- Students have to sing one minute of any song (pop, musical, Happy Birthday). The director needs to hear you sing alone so she can find the right role for each student.
- Students may have to learn a few simple dance steps in a group.
- Students may be given "sides" (actual lines from the show) to read with a partner. The sides are used to see how different actors work together and who might be the best at each role.
- Students may ask the director for a 'big', 'medium', or 'tiny' part; it depends on the student's comfort level.

Note: The middle school musical is a junior version of a Broadway show. It is modified to make it about an hour long and to give almost every student at least a line of dialog, a line of song to sing by themselves or in a small group. We need all kinds of parts to make a great show.

Friday Evening, December 6, 2024: Cast list will be announced via email. Note: eighth graders do not automatically get the lead roles. Leads last year may not be the leads this year. Casting is gender blind (boys can play girls; girls can play boys, and everything in between). Every cast is different, and we try to put all interested students together to make the best show.

Read Throughs, December 10 and 11, Egan Hall, 3-5pm, MANDATORY ATTENDANCE BOTH DAYS FOR CAST: During the read-throughs, we read through the whole show in character. Scripts will be given out.

Christmas Holidays: Do your best to learn your lines and songs. You will be given an email link with all the songs. Learning your lines early is incredibly helpful.

Rehearsals

January 6-March 13, 2025, 3-5pm: Rehearsals are every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3-5pm every day school is in session.

- Schedules for the week are based on progress from the previous week. Therefore, there may be rehearsals where certain cast members may not be needed.
- **Students cannot miss rehearsals they are called to attend.** Commitment to the show is paramount. Students must decide if they can dedicate themselves to the show.
- We try to make the schedule work with basketball, music practices, etc., but if your student has a weekly commitment Monday through Thursday, please try to reschedule it until after March 13. *Reschedule those dental appointments, piano lessons, and karate classes now.*
 - If there is an appointment you CANNOT reschedule (aunt's wedding, hard-to-get orthodontist appointment), please share that in the Permission/Registration Form.
 - Ski Bus: We will try to schedule around Ski Bus Thursdays in January. However, cast and crew are expected to attend all rehearsals in February.
- **You cannot miss more than 2 rehearsals that you are called to attend.** If you do, your role will be given to another student. Think carefully; make sure you can commit.

CREW MEMBERS (People Who Make the Show Work)

There are six different Crew teams: Sound, Lights, Sets/Props, Costumes, Hair/Makeup, Floaters, with different levels of time commitment based on the Parent Team Lead availability.

Sound: 4 students to learn the sound board and run the sound during tech weeks and performances.

- Attend rehearsals twice in January; four times in early February; February 26, 27; March 3-6, 10-12.
 - Last 3 weeks are tech weeks: the Sound Crew starts learning the show, the sound cues, the mics, sound board, and music cues.
- Sound Crew must be at all performances. Crew wears all black during performances.
- **Parent Team Lead Volunteer Needed**

Lights: 3 students to learn how to use the lightboard and spotlight.

- Light Crew can come any day they want in February to look at the system.

- Attend rehearsals March 3-6, 10-12. They will learn the show, the cues, and help decide what sort of lighting works best for each scene.
- Light Crew must be at all performances. Crew wears all black during performances.
- **Parent Team Lead Volunteer Needed**

Sets/Props: 6 students to come once in January to decide what props need to be built/crafted/sources/thrifted/bought. You can work together to divide up the tasks and work at home or together.

- Attend
 - Saturday, February 1, Work Party in Egan Hall to help build/paint set pieces (the flats that move around on stage during the performances).
 - Saturday, February 22, Work Party to help build the secondary stage and finish up any props/sets.
 - Rehearsals Feb 26, 27 and March 3-6, 10-12.
- Sets/Props Crew attend all performances. Crew moves set pieces and props around on stage during the show. Crew wears all black during performances.
- **Parent Team Lead Volunteer Needed**

Costumes: 5 students to help build/craft/design/thrift/buy costumes.

- Attend
 - Several rehearsals in January early/mid-February to measure the cast members and design and fit costumes. You'll label everything and organize everything costume related.
 - Saturday, February 1 and 22, Work Parties.
 - All rehearsals the last week of February and beginning of March.
- Costumes Crew may divide up performances. Crew wears all black during performances.
- **Parent Team Lead Volunteer Needed**

Hair/Makeup: 2-3 students to help before performances with hair and makeup needs.

- This crew meets in the mezzanine 2 hours before every performance to apply makeup, curl and braid hair, etc. Crew wears all black during performances.
- **Parent Team Lead Volunteer Needed**

Floater (Stage Manager): We need 2 students to facilitate communication between crews and between the director and team leads. Requires someone with strong organizational skills and leadership qualities.

- This crew comes at least once a week in January and February, attends Work Parties February 1 and 22, and attends all rehearsals the last week of February and first weeks of March.
- Floaters may be asked to help front or back of house during all performances.

EXPECTATIONS FOR CAST AND CREW

- Come to all rehearsals prepared and on time.
- Be at every performance.
- Always be respectful of teachers and fellow company members.
- Ask the director if the student has questions.
- Not miss more than two rehearsals when called to attend. Missing more than 2 rehearsals means your part will be given to someone else or you will be released from the show.
- Learn the part and perform to the best of the student's abilities.
- Pitch in when help is needed

Students with missing assignments, failing grades, or on academic probation may jeopardize their participation in rehearsals and final performances. And in accordance with the [Family Handbook](#), if a student stays home from school for illness, they cannot participate in after school activities, including CYO practices, after school clubs, musical, musical performances, etc.

PARENT HELPERS

We need many, many parent helpers. You do not need to have a student in middle school to help us. Have a younger student? Great! Shadow a Team Lead now so you can be the Team Lead in the middle school years. Have an older student? Great! Come back. We miss you. Are you an older student? GREAT! Come get some service hours.

Parent Positions:

- Sound Team Lead
- Costume Team Lead
- Light Team Lead
- Set/Prop Team Lead
- Hair/Makeup Team Lead
- Choreographer
- Assistant Director
- Director
- Music Director

Parent Volunteers Tasks – Look for Sign Up Genius:

- Take photos during rehearsals and build/print the playbill
- Find sponsorships that get highlighted in the playbill
- Bake/shop/thrift for the Goodie/Gift Bags sold at performances
- Shop and manage the Concession Stand during performances
- Decorations for Egan Hall and photo booth during performances
- Provide intermission snacks for performances
- Provide snacks for rehearsals
- Plan the food and games during the Strike Party after final performance
- Take tickets and manage front-of-house needs during performances
- Help build the secondary stage at the Saturday, February 1 and 22 Work Parties (bring your tools)

PERFORMANCES

- Thursday, March 13, 1:30pm: Full dress performance for students during the school day. This is only for students.
- Friday, March 14, 7pm: Cast and Crews will need to be at Egan at 5pm.
- Saturday, March 15, 7pm: Cast and Crews will need to be at Egan at 5pm.
- Sunday, March 16, 2pm: Cast and Crews will need to be at Egan at Noon.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday performances will be ticketed events. Tickets will be available for purchase online several weeks before performance weekend. After the final performance, all Cast, Crews, Parents will stay to help strike the set; we tear down everything, put it away, break down the stage, set pieces,

pile up the laundry, take out the trash, sweep the floors and then eat pizza. This is usually over between 5 and 6pm.

The shows will be recorded, and Director Aguila will edit them into a cohesive show. Everyone in the show will get a copy of the video over email (usually a private YouTube link).

This works out to be 40 rehearsal days (or less depending on cast or crew) and 4 performances.

Email Director Kari Aguila, kaguila@st-johnschool.org with questions.