

Policies

Auditions

In order to audition for one of the BCMS Drama Club productions, students must sign up for an audition slot in advance. Audition signup sheets will be posted the last week in September with auditions happening the following week. Walk-ins are *not* permitted. Information about sign-ups are made available to students every day via morning announcements, and there is also an informational meeting held prior to sign-ups. In order to be cast in a production, students must complete the entire audition process. For the spring play, this means both a vocal audition and an acting audition, which will require a 30 second song clip followed by a reading of the scene provided. You will be auditioning on your own and on the stage.

You should be prepared to sing 30 seconds of any popular 80's song of your choice.

Casting

Casting is a very complex process. **We will be limiting our cast and crew to approximately 60** people this year. Ultimately, the production team will choose students who are the best fit for the roles in the play, based on the talents and skills they present at their auditions. The directors involved take this process very seriously, and spend a long time analyzing and discussing what is seen in the audition process. Casting is *not* done by seniority; sixth graders have as much of a chance as eighth graders to be cast in lead or supporting roles. With that said, typically, most sixth graders start in ensemble or cameo roles and work their way up, the same way and athlete might start at a JV level and work their way up to Varsity.

If you do not make it this year, please try again next year. We keep notes on everyone who auditions for us and we want you to be successful.

We know auditioning is an exciting process for students, but we know that it also can be stressful. Remember, you will be auditioning by yourself on the stage in front of our casting crew. **Your poise, level of excitement, talent, singing voice and overall confidence will all be deciding factors in whether or not you get chosen to be a part of our production this year.** There are many other things you can do in the school that does not require you to be outgoing. Drama does! Don't be shy at the audition. Come in and look like you're having fun.

We strive to make the audition environment as friendly and welcoming as possible. If a student is confused by the result of a casting process, we strongly encourage him or her to speak with the directors and seek feedback. A good rule of thumb is that the more a student auditions, the stronger and more comfortable they will become. We ask that parents encourage their children to continue auditioning, and to continue to work at sharpening their skills onstage.

Backstage Roles

This year we will **not be having a set design or backstage team**. Instead we will be challenging our actors to move set pieces for transitions. This was one of the notes we received from Dramafest and we will give it a shot this year.

Rehearsals

We will start out by having rehearsals 1 day per week (Wednesday) from 3:10pm-5:00pm. As we get closer to the production dates, we will increase rehearsal time by adding a day and/or extending the hours. Usually this is Saturday rehearsals in April. All cast and crew members are expected to attend every rehearsal. Sometimes we may not get to your scene, but you should still be there, learning your cues, lines, dances, songs and building rapport with cast members.

- We will be asking for a \$75.00 Drama fee to cover things like audio equipment, script photocopying, dramafest, supply days for teacher's attending dramafest, awards, end of the year party, specialty costumes, set pieces, and pizza! Drama fees can be paid to Mme. Tallon ONLY and can be cash or a check (made out to Bliss Carman Middle School).
- If you receive photocopied script, PLEASE do not lose it. Please regard it with the same importance that you would a book. We strongly encourage you to get a folder or 3-ring binder that you will designate for rehearsals to keep your script in.
- **Please come to rehearsals prepared.** This means: bring music, a pencil, water, and a healthy snack. Please wear comfortable clothing (yoga pants, leggings, sweat pants, gym clothes, etc).

Pick-Up Times

Because most rehearsals run past the typical 3:10 pm after school activity time, student pick-up times are extremely firm. Please communicate with your parent/guardian and make sure you have a ride scheduled for every rehearsal

for which you are called. There is limited supervision in the school after these hours. Pick-up time for after school rehearsals is 5:00 pm. The production staff have other commitments and schedules after rehearsals, and it is essential for students to arrange for prompt and timely pick-up.

Attendance Policy:

You must be present at rehearsals for which you are called. Students who have more than three (3) unexcused absences from rehearsals will be asked to leave the cast. (Extenuating circumstances, such as illness or family emergencies, are obviously taken into consideration and students will not be penalized for such matters.) If you know you are not going to be at a rehearsal, please email or speak with Mr. Mallard.

Behavior Policy:

The Basic Rule: **SAVE THE DRAMA FOR THE STAGE!!!!!!**

This will undoubtedly be a fun and exciting experience; however, when we are at rehearsals, we are here to work. Putting on a musical is a long process, and we need everyone's effort, determination, and cooperation. Misbehavior and inappropriate conduct will **not** be tolerated. Bullying of any kind, whether it is in-person, online, or via text message, is inexcusable. Please refer to the student agenda for specifics on the expectations for school conduct. Students who disregard this policy will receive a phone call home to the parent/guardian, and may be asked to leave the production if the offense is repeated.

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Overall, we expect to have a great year! We can't wait to get started!

