

September 5, 2014

Welcome to the Totino-Grace Fine Arts Academy!

We are so excited to have your student as part of the Schoolhouse Rock LIVE cast! The process your student will be part of over the next few months will be like no other. There will be a great deal of learning, chances to build new friendships, and a lot of singing, dancing, and acting. Because theatre is a fast-paced experience, we would like to let you know about a few things that will occur along the way.

1. Rehearsals: Rehearsals will be held after school, 1:45-3:15pm in the gymnasium, most often on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. However, in September, we WILL have some Tuesday and Thursday rehearsals to learn the music. A calendar fully detailing a rehearsal schedule will be available next week. *Not everyone will be required at all rehearsals.*

Please encourage your children to use their rehearsal time (1:30-1:45pm) wisely. Eating snack and going to the bathroom are good things to make sure they accomplish BEFORE rehearsal starts.

Students should always bring their scripts, a pencil, and a water bottle to rehearsal. Scheduled mid-rehearsal breaks will not occur (incidental breaks and bathroom trips are fine). There will sometimes be some “down-time” at rehearsal; students will be expected to watch quietly and/or bring a quiet activity (read a book, homework). Students are also encouraged to respectfully watch their peers’ practice.

**Rehearsal schedule may change.** Please check the rehearsal schedule carefully and read every communication for changes.

2. Casting: To the best of their ability, your directors will place each student in a role where he or she will be able to succeed to the fullest. EVERY PERSON is an important piece of our “puzzle” and our “family,” and the entire show feels the void when one person is missing.

3. Expectations: Each of our rehearsals is only 90 minutes long. Attention, focus, and hard work will be expected for the full length of every rehearsal. Unlike sports, where a substitute can take the place of an absent player, in theatre each student’s role is unique and necessary to the show. Absences, tardiness, and lack-of-focus have a direct result in the quality of the experience for everyone. That said, a child with a contagious illness should definitely remain at home.

4. Practice Outside of Rehearsal Time: Because of the short rehearsal period, students must practice outside of rehearsals. To help your student have the best possible experience with the musical, grown-up involvement is important. But while adults should encourage children to practice outside of rehearsal time, the responsibility for practicing falls on the children themselves. A practice CD of the songs will be provided, as will deadlines for memorization of song lyrics and speaking lines.

5. Costumes: The costumes for the show will not be seen by the students until children arrive at the theatre for Tech Week. More details (including whether children will need to provide any pieces or parts) to come.

6. Tech Week and Performances: "Tech" rehearsals (when we add in the technical elements of the show: set, props, costumes, lights, sound, etc.) are 2:30-4:30pm on Monday, November 17, Tuesday, Nov. 18, Weds., Nov. 19, Thurs., Nov. 20, and Fri., Nov. 21 in the theatre at Totino-Grace High School. Performances are Saturday, November 22, at 7:00pm and Sunday, November 23, at 2:00pm. Students are called 1 hour before the show starts.

Students are expected to attend all tech rehearsals and performances.

We cannot thank you enough for being a part of the exciting process of putting on a show! We look forward to getting to know you and especially your child/children throughout the next few months! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our St. Vincent's parent volunteer, Kim Lyngen.

Let the magic begin!

Christine Karki  
Totino-Grace Theatre Director  
Producer, Totino-Grace Fine Arts Academy

P.S. Parent volunteers! We will definitely need some. Please contact Kim Lyngen at 763-498-7291 or [kimlyngen@saintvdp.org](mailto:kimlyngen@saintvdp.org)