

**PARENTS' MEETING**

Thursday, August 18, 7:00pm, in the PAC Lobby

Jason Hamen and Mike Cordonnier will talk more about the Theatre Program and offer tours of our facility to new parents. Also, find out more about opportunities where you can support the program and your children.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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I Hate Hamlet, November 2015

**PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY**

"Promoting Excellence in High School Theatre" – Our program is run and managed with the goal of providing quality opportunities for students ranging from our Main Stage Season, student-produced shows, and events to support the high school, Centerville School District, and the community. We choose shows of varying genres and styles that not every high school does and will challenge our students. Students should be trained and empowered to be responsible for managing, building, and running productions whenever possible. Through careful management of fiscal resources (we get no money from the school district other than staff contract support), we are able to provide adequate budgets for all productions, maintain an up-to-date, complete inventory of lighting, sound and other technical equipment, and have the ability to provide financial assistance to students for special activities and trips. We feel students deserve a safe, caring, encouraging environment in which to grow as performers/technicians, as well as people.

COMMITMENT LEVEL

We have students who participate in every show, and we have students who only do a special event for one day. Students who are cast in shows commit to a more rigorous rehearsal process of 5-10 weeks depending on the show. Students who work on a technical/backstage area have a less rigorous schedule as they can usually work just the days they are available. Set building and costuming usually do work all weekdays but can accommodate a student's schedule much easier. If a student's other activities/commitments are such that a sport, marching band, etc., is not possible, then theatre might be just right for them.

COSTS

Pay to Participate Fee: \$30.00 for each show is collected by the school and is used for extra-curricular contracts. While it is used to support staff for the shows, none of this money is used by CHS Theatre to produce shows.

Activity Fee: \$20.00 for each show. This includes the show t-shirt and all meals served. Typically, lunch is provided for set building and costuming done on Saturdays and during Load-In/Strike along with snacks throughout the process. All cast and crew members are invited to dinner on the Saturday/Sunday before the first Tech Rehearsal.

Financial Aid: We never want the fees to be a deterrent for a student to participate. Contact us if this is an issue, and we will work with you so that your child can participate.

PARENTS' ROLES AT CHS THEATRE

We have many opportunities for parents, grandparents, and other adults to support CHS Theatre. Most do not involve working directly with the students as we limit adult participation so that students can take a more active role in the leading and managing of the process. "Just let me do it" tends to creep in when we have adults involved. Instead, we ask for parents to help with support operations such as ticketing, publicity, meals and food, and office help. The parent section of our website has a complete list of opportunities available and how you can help. We can't continue the quality of the program without you and will gladly take your help!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

AUDITIONS

HOW DO AUDITIONS WORK?

ALL CHS students are welcome to audition. Students do not need to be in a theatre class or have prior experience to audition.

When auditions are near, there will be announcements at CHS and on our e-newsletter to pick up audition information outside the PAC office or on the CHS Theatre website.

Depending on the needs of the show, students may be asked to perform a short monologue or song or to preview readings that will be used. Some auditions involve "cold readings" where students will read scenes from the script when they arrive at their audition. Musicals typically also involve vocal range checks and a dance component, where students are taught a combination in groups to try. No prior dance experience is required; we often just want to get a sense of your movement.

WHAT ARE CALLBACKS?

Some students are asked to attend "callbacks" on another day, where directors can see how students interact with each other and in different roles. When students do not receive callbacks, it doesn't mean they have not been cast. The directors may have already seen what they needed. Similarly, callbacks are not a guarantee.

WHAT ARE THE CHANCES MY CHILD WILL BE CAST IN A SHOW AS A FRESHMAN?

Open auditions are held for each show. Contrary to many other schools, we do not cast based on grade, or number of shows done, or "favorites." The process may have many people giving input and is solely based on the audition, work ethic of the actor, and the needs of the show.

WHAT IF MY STUDENT ISN'T CAST?

If they audition and are not selected, encourage them to work on crew/backstage. They will still get a great experience, and the staff will have more chances to observe the student and become more familiar with them and their work habits. Above all, remember that the needs of every show are different, so students are encouraged to return to audition again.



PERFORMANCES

DO I HAVE TO PAY SEE MY CHILD PERFORM? HOW DO I GET TICKETS?

Yes. However, we need volunteers at every performance who sell flowers or assist with ticket sales, and these helpers are admitted free to the show.

You may order tickets from the CHS Theatre website, purchase them at the door on show nights, or get them during show weeks from 11:00AM-1:00PM in the front lobby of CHS (central unit).

ARE SEATS RESERVED?

Seating is general admission, so the best seats often fill when the doors open at 7:00PM (and sometimes there's a line at the doors).

HOW ABOUT HANDICAPPED SEATING?

Handicapped seating is available across the center of the house. If you need assistance, please contact the box office in advance at (937) 439-3535 or see an usher when you arrive.

HOW CAN I SEND FLOWERS

So glad you asked! CHS Theatre parents sell flowers before shows. You may write a short note when you purchase flowers, and then we'll wrap them and deliver them backstage.

Students look forward to receiving these greetings from their "fans," and it's a fun way to share your excitement and support!

Although flower sales (along with other souvenirs and concessions) often generate a small profit, our main goal is to provide these services to our parents, students, and other patrons.

MAY I TAKE PHOTOS OR VIDEO DURING THE SHOW?

Unfortunately, no audio or video recording of any type is permitted. However, we are very fortunate to receive the free services of Barry Burtenshaw, who takes high-quality photos during rehearsals and makes them available on his website. You may download and post these pictures (we encourage positive, supportive comments that celebrate our students' hard work) from Mr. Burtenshaw's website: www.burtenshaw.smugmug.com/events/centerville-high-school.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE SHOW?

Feel free to stick around while the show is over to see your favorite actors and technicians after they have changed out of their costumes and wrapped up their work.

Students often make plans to go to nearby restaurants (they're often hungry!) after a show. These are unofficial events planned by students, and older students may offer to drive passengers. These are decisions that should be made by each family based on what you are comfortable with. Students are expected to be in school following rehearsals/shows, and we appreciate parent support in making sure they are rested, fed, and ready for success at school and at the next show!

Usually a cast member's family will host a cast party in their home after one of the shows with adult supervision. All students who participated in the show are invited.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE LAST SHOW?

Strike happens. This is when the cast/crew and adult volunteers take everything apart and put everything away. Strike is typically held the day after a show closes at 12:00. It usually ends between 3:00-5:00. All cast/crew members are expected to participate, and we're happy to have extra hands around with work gloves, organizational skills, or just a rested brain! We'll let you know when it looks like we'll need extra help at Strike.



The Addams Family, April 2016

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

STAGE

Student Theatre—A Great Experience! Our “drama club” meets monthly to enjoy events, eat snacks, and share their love of all things theatre. STAGE officers handle organizational and leadership tasks on behalf of the STAGE members.

Some STAGE plans include:

Trick-or-Treat So Kids Can Eat This is a national food collection campaign, with all donations given to a local food bank. Theatre kids love to dress in costumes, so why not make an impact in our world at the same time?

STAGE Siblings New students are matched with older students, who can serve as one-on-one mentors or resources. Each STAGE Sibling pair is different, but for everyone involved, this is a great way to make a connection!

Student-Produced Show This second-stage opportunity gives students the chance to serve in roles often reserved for adults—like producers, directors, and designers—along with traditional roles—like actors, stage managers, or technicians. Since this production is student-driven, the application process looks for students who have shown they are responsible, good communicators, and strong, positive leaders.

HIGH SCHOOL DAYTONY AWARDS

The high school division of the DayTony Awards honors work onstage and behind the scenes. Students serve as judges (stay tuned to find out how to be a judge!), and their scores turn into awards of “excellence” and “merit” as well as “outstanding overall production.” Student judges receive a free ticket for themselves and a guest in exchange for their time



A Funny Little Thing Called Love, March 2016
STAGE student-produced show

THESPIANS

C.H.S. Troupe #2204 of the International Thespian Society recognizes students with exceptional dedication to theatre arts. Membership is based on the I.T.S. point system, and eligible members are notified in the spring. Visit the Ohio Chapter website at ohedta.org and the international website at www.schooltheatre.org.

Some Thespian events include:

LEAD A one-day conference for student leaders that focused on skills students can use in their schools. (Open to all students)

Area Conference Southwest Ohio schools gather for a one-day event made up for short performances and workshops in a variety of theatre arts topics. (Open to all students)

Individual Events Competition

From monologue to mime to musical theatre dance, there is a large variety of categories in I.E. competition. CHS may send one competitor for each event. Students who score the highest are featured at the Best of I.E.'s Showcase at State Conference. (Open to Thespian members only)

All-Ohio Show Students from all over the state work on winter weekends in an intense, but rewarding process to put together a show that opens State Conference. (Open to Thespian members only)

Ohio Thespians State Conference

A weekend marathon of performances, workshops, college auditions, and tons of fun, this is what many students look forward to all year long!

International Thespian Festival For six days, students from all over the world gather together for the best-of-the-best in school performances and theatre arts workshops. (Open to all students)