



# CENTERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE: PIT ORCHESTRA

*An overview of being part of a C.H.S. Theatre Production*

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## GET CONNECTED

### WWW.CENTERVILLEHSTHEATRE.COM

Tickets, advertising, parent guides, and general info

### SOCIAL MEDIA

**Facebook:** Centerville High School Theatre

**Instagram:** @chstheatreco (This is run by our student S.T.A.G.E. club officers).

### PARENTSQUARE GROUPS

**CHS Theatre Students/Parents:** general info and announcements

**CHS Theatre Company:** participants of a current production

**CHS Theatre Community:** a group for those outside CHS, include alumni, Golden Elks, and other patrons



## C.H.S. THEATRE PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

*Promoting Excellence in High School Theatre:* Our program is designed with the goal of providing quality opportunities for students ranging from our Main Stage Season, student-produced shows, and events to support C.H.S., the Centerville School District, and the community. We choose shows of varying genres and styles that not every high school does and that will challenge our students. Students are trained and empowered to manage, build, and run productions whenever possible. Through careful management of fiscal resources, we provide budgets for all productions, maintain an up-to-date, complete inventory of equipment, and have the ability to provide financial assistance to students for special activities. We feel students deserve a safe, caring, encouraging environment in which to grow as performers/technicians/musicians, as well as people.

## BENEFITS OF BEING IN A PIT ORCHESTRA

- Experience working with professional-level scores: Musical theatre orchestrations are written differently from concert music and often include challenging keys and instrumentation, not to mention the endurance, flexibility, and musicianship required to play an entire score nightly.
- Ownership of your part: You may be the only one playing a particular book.
- Collaboration with other artists: This is one of few opportunities that bring together all CHS performing arts programs. Being a collaborator is an essential career (and life!) skill.
- New performance opportunity: Not only is this a chance to work in a new setting under a new structure, it's a chance to experience another avenue for your future as a musician, whether you'll continue making music as a college major, career, or hobby.
- Fun! We have a good time doing what we love!



Bonnie & Clyde

## COMMITMENT

- Rehearsals and/or sectionals: scheduled by the conductor
- Independent practice
- Sitzprobe: A rehearsal that integrates the cast with the pit orchestra to time dialogue and set tempos
- Crew View: A rehearsal where the cast performs the show so the crew and orchestra can watch and become more familiar with it
- Tech Week: We run the show nightly with all elements in place, including lighting, costumes, and scenery.
- Brush-Up: A rehearsal in between performance weekends where we run parts or all of the show.
- Performances: Musicals perform four times, split into two weekends. We also host in-school preview performances at C.H.S. which require missing classes for one day.
- State Conference: C.H.S. Theatre has one show judged each year to perform at the state level. Sometimes this selection is the fall musical. State Conference includes its own brush-up, encore performance, and performance at State.

## COST

- C.H.S. Theatre Fee: \$10 per production. This supports materials for the show and meals, when scheduled. This fee does not include a show t-shirt, which is available for purchase separately in the Gear Shop on the C.H.S. Theatre website.
  - Financial Aid: We never want 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.
- Centerville Schools Pay-to-Participate Fee: \$15 for each show is applied to your student fees after our roster is complete. This supports staffing of extra-curricular activities.



*You're a Good Man,  
Charlie Brown*

## MUSICIAN SELECTION

Invitations to be a part of a pit orchestra are made by the C.H.S. band and orchestra directors, who are the best at judging the difficulty of the music and the abilities of their musicians. Depending on the needs of the show, these invitations are sometimes made in-person and sometimes made as announcements to a class. Individuals who do not have a band or orchestra class in their schedule may still speak with the conductors about being involved. Auditions may be held if necessary.

Occasionally C.H.S. Theatre uses professional musicians to fill needed parts. Because our focus is on building student experience, we prioritize giving opportunities to C.H.S. students over using outside musicians.

## MIAMI VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE AWARDS

C.H.S. Theatre has all of its productions judged by local professionals as part of the Miami Valley High School Theatre Awards. These awards are only presented to students, and recognition is available to both "Outstanding Student Orchestra" and "Outstanding Soloist," when applicable. C.H.S. Theatre's 2022 production of *Cinderella* was the only group to receive the "Outstanding Student Orchestra" award. Congratulations!

## PARENTS' ROLES AT C.H.S. THEATRE



*Into the Woods*

continue the quality of our program without you, and we are grateful for your help!

We have many opportunities for adults to support C.H.S. Theatre. Most do not involve working directly with students as we limit adult participation so that students can take an active role in the process. Instead, we ask for parents to support operations such as ticketing, publicity, meals, and office help. The volunteer page of our website has a list of opportunities available, and we welcome you to contact us. We can't

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## 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 purchase tickets on the C.H.S. Theatre website.

## 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! C.H.S. 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) may generate a small profit, our main goal is to provide these services to our parents, students, and other patrons.



Chicago

## MAY I TAKE PHOTOS OR VIDEO DURING THE SHOW?

Due to copyright law and strict contracts with publishers, no photos, audio or video recording of any type are 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: [www.burtenshaw.smugmug.com/events/centerville-high-school](http://www.burtenshaw.smugmug.com/events/centerville-high-school)

We encourage positive comments on social media that celebrate our students' hard work. Feel free to stick around in the lobby to see actors, technicians, and orchestra members.



Fiddler on the Roof

## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE SHOW?

Students often make plans to go to nearby restaurants 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 performance!

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

## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE LAST SHOW?

Strike happens. This is when the company and adult volunteers take everything apart and put everything away.

Strike is held the day after a show closes, typically starting at 9:00. It usually ends between 1:00-3:00. 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! Orchestra members typically stay late after the last performance to empty the pit rather than attend Strike, but we welcome all helpers, especially if we have to re-cover the pit!