

Set Building and Costuming at CHS THEATRE

Mr. C (Cordonnier), mike.cordonnier@centerville.k12.oh.us

Briley Lambert, briley.lambert@centerville.k12.oh.us

centervillehstheatre.com



The 411 for students:

- NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED, nada, ziltch, zero!
- No time commitment required - come as little or as often as you like
- Be a part of something really cool! Students do all the work. You see the stuff you made onstage!
- Meet new people! CHS Theatre is an eclectic group of students from all backgrounds where all feel welcome and accepted.

The 411 for parents:

- Literally, no experience is required. We teach them how to do everything. Most of what we do is repetitious and designed to be done by students. They learn and work in a supportive environment that provides challenges and successes.
- We meet from 3-5:15 most days after school. A calendar is published before each show
- \$10 Activity Fee for CHS Theatre and \$30 Pay to Participate fee for Centerville Schools. (We do not want fees to be a barrier to participate - Mr. Hamen and Mr. C can help.)
- All participants must complete a Company Form to turn in with their \$10 CHS Theatre Activity Fee. These are available in all CHS Theatre work areas. Forms and fees must be completed by the "Deadline Day" for each show. Show t-shirts are available to purchase separately from our online Gear Shop.
- Theatre kids are an awesome group of students for your child to be involved in. Upperclass students are great, positive role models.
- Being involved in CHS Theatre teaches life skills that your child will use the rest of their life such as time management, work ethic, leadership, responsibility, teamwork, follow through, and being in front of a large group.

FAQ's:



What do I do the first time I come to set building?

Show up at the Scene Shop, C199. Grab a snack and sign in on the paper hanging on the big brown door. Introduce yourself to Mr. C. He will say "Welcome" and hand you off to our Student Technical Director. That's the student in charge of building the set. They will put you in a small group of other students, some of whom have been building for a few years and know exactly how to do things. You may get trained on using a tool if you are comfortable with that or help with other tasks. At 5:00, we clean up. EVERYBODY stays to help clean up.

Then at 5:15, you say to yourself, "Wow, that was fun" and tell Mr. C that you will see him tomorrow! When you come back, you will be in the same group of kids so you will already know people! When you get home that night, you will actually put your phone down and talk about how great theatre was after school, that you did some really cool things you never imagined you would do, and that you met some interesting people that were very passionate about putting on a great show ...then you will go back to scrolling ...sigh....



centervillehstheatre.com/costumes

centervillehstheatre.com/setbuild



What if I am interested in costuming?

The experience is similar as above except you will go to the upstairs lobby of the PAC. Ms. Lambert will greet you and get you started with the process. Don't worry, the students do all the work, so you will be busy. Costumers work most days after school from 3:00-5:00 (a calendar will be available for each show). After you get a snack and sign in, you'll be part of the "task board" for the day where jobs are divided up. If you're new to costuming, you'll be paired up with a veteran to learn to use the tools (and sewing machines), to find items in our costume stock, or to make and alter items. Even though the needs of every show are different, the process is the same, so you'll pick up new skills as you go that you'll continue to use in the future.



I really have NO experience doing anything in theatre. We don't have tools at home or a sewing machine. Can I really do this?

Absolutely! We teach you everything and give you tasks to match your skills. Some students catch on super quick and end up doing very complicated stuff. Others are very happy to just go at a slower pace, doing less complex tasks. It's all up to you and your comfort level.

What if I don't like it?

That's fine. Nobody likes everything they try. We'd ask that you give it a few times though as everyday is different. One afternoon, you might be cutting wood, the next painting, then maybe assembling styrofoam. In costuming, it's pulling clothes from stock, cutting a pattern, and then gluing a hat. If one day you aren't that fond of what you did, the next day will be different. But, if you find it isn't for you, you aren't required to stay for the whole show or anything like that.



How did the students who are leaders get to be in those positions?

Great question. They really liked doing this, they showed up most all the time, and an adult saw leadership potential in that person. Before each show, there is a meeting for all those students interested in being in a leadership position. They tell us what positions they are interested in and we decide who will do what for each show. Some students apply for and get a leadership position during their first year, others wait to apply. It's really up to you and if you feel you would be a good leader.

How do you get to be on the crew that works backstage during the shows?

It depends on each show. Some shows have a big crew (20+ students) and sometimes almost no crew (3 students). We keep track of how many hours you work after school. And when the size of the crew is determined, we take the students who have worked the most hours and offer crew positions to them first. We feel that is a fair way to fill our crew. FYI - Backstage or Running Crew positions are very sought after. Ask any older student and they will tell you that's the most enjoyable part of working! Costumers become "wardrobe" crew during a show, where they help with organization and quick changes. Set builders may operate scenery, run lighting and sound cues, or operate a spotlight. It's all part of the magic of theatre! If you are not part of the run crew for a show, come see the show for free! Your name will be on our list at the box office when you arrive.



It sounds like a fun thing to do with my friends. Is it OK to come and hang out? I'm not really interested in doing the work.

While what we do is "fun," we all still recognize that we have a job to do. We have deadlines that can't be extended, and we do stuff at a very high level for high schools. That means we have a lot of work to do in a short time. You will find that slackers don't really last long around here. The students are committed to their work and will let you know if you need to step up your game.