



Penn Middle School Drama Club

2018-2019

Club Registration & Dues

www.pennmiddledrama.com

Welcome to the Drama Club! This is our 12th year and we are very excited to get to know our new members. The following is a brief overview of what we will be doing and what will be expected as a member of the club. Every year student involvement in the club grows and this year we expect to have over 125 members!

This year we will be performing two shows, a fall play and a spring musical. The play this year is "A Charlie Brown Christmas." The spring musical will be announced before Christmas break or once we receive the performance rights.

Auditions: Audition dates for the fall play are September 17 & 18 after school from 3:00 – 5:00pm. Once you have auditioned, you may leave. Auditions will consist of reading a scene with one or more people. We know for many of you this is your first time doing something like this, so we try to keep the atmosphere as stress free as possible.

Audition dates for the spring musical will be announced when we announce the show. Musical auditions consist of reading a scene with one or more people AND a singing audition. When selecting an audition song, students should select a song in the style of the show. For example, if auditioning for a Disney musical, you wouldn't want to sing a rap or a rock song. Song choice can make or break an audition. We will discuss this further during club day prior to auditions. While we would prefer that students sing without music, they are permitted to use their phone with earbuds if needed. Most choose to sing without them.

Meeting and Rehearsal Times: Drama Club officially meets every other Wednesday during school at 9:35am on Club Days. After school rehearsal days are Monday & Wednesdays after school from 3:00-5:00 P.M. in the cafeteria. The first rehearsal will be announced when we post the cast list. The only time these rehearsals will be cancelled is if there is no school, a snow day or an early dismissal. This year we will be trying something new for the fall play rehearsals. Rather than having everyone show up every day, we will be specifying which actors are needed on each day. This should help eliminate down time for cast members if we aren't working on their scene that particular day. Doing this forces the production staff to be more organized, and it also means that the cast needs to pay close attention to what day they are needed. Too many unexcused absences will force us to consider a replacement for your part. Extra rehearsal times will be announced as needed. The week leading up to the show is called tech week. During tech week we rehearse from 3–7pm.

Membership: We have a \$25.00 yearly membership which covers participation in the fall play and/or spring musical, spring musical T-Shirt, and the end of year cast and crew party. This helps defray the costs of some of the items we need to purchase such as performance rights, props, costumes, and sets.

Additional Fees: During tech week, our rehearsals run longer than usual. Because of this, we feed the kids after school. We have tried several ways to accomplish this. We have found that the most reliable

and efficient way is to have the meals catered by outside vendors. All cast and crew members must pay their meal fee before tech week begins. The fee is \$25 for tech week meals. This breaks down to \$5 per day to feed each cast and crew member a balanced, delicious meal.

If any of these fees present a hardship to your family, please let us know. We don't want a student to miss out on a great experience due to these fees.

Volunteers: As you know, none of this would be possible for the students without parents donating their time and talents to the Drama Club. **We are hopeful that you will consider helping the club.** Please note that this does not mean that you do not have to attend after school rehearsals. This would be for times closer to the show like helping with tech week meals, selling tickets before performances, concessions and basket sales. Please consider volunteering, we can use as much or as little time as you are willing to give.

Other Crews within the Club: Although we encourage giving acting a try, if a student does not feel comfortable on stage there is plenty to do backstage. The following is a list of the different crews available for sign-up to get involved in. They are vital to the success of the shows as they provide critical support. Sign-ups for crews will be during in school club days.

Stage Crew: Limited after school rehearsals. Students need to be at all tech week rehearsals and every show.

Set Design Crew: This crew works after school on Tuesdays painting and building the sets. These students also make great stage crew members since they are familiar with the sets.

Costume/Hair & Make-up Crew: Limited after school rehearsals. Will help making and organizing costumes as well as do hair and make-up for the cast for all shows.

Lighting/Sound Crew: Practice time during tech week only. Students need to be at all tech week rehearsals and every show.

Communication: When we have a lot of information to get out we will send out an email. For day to day updates, we use the REMIND app. Information on subscribing to our REMIND group is on the drama club website under "Parent Information." We encourage parents and students to subscribe to our group.

An Important Note: Since we have a large group of young teens, we thought it would be a good idea to spell out our expectations while at drama functions whether that be after school rehearsals or performances.

- All paperwork and permission slips must be turned in before attending any after school events.
- Do not leave school property while under Drama Club Supervision.
- Do not roam the school during after school rehearsals.
- Clean up after yourselves and take all items with you when you leave.

As you may have noticed many of these have to do with respecting each other, the facility and yourselves! We have a good track record and we would like to keep it that way while providing a safe and productive experience!

If you ever have a question or concern about anything drama club related, please feel free to email the club at pennmiddledrama@gmail.com or call me directly at 412-780-3640.

Sincerely,
Sharon Wiant
Drama Club Sponsor

