

Penn Middle School Drama Club 2019 - 2020

Welcome to the Drama Club! The following is a brief overview of what we will be doing and what will be expected of you as a club member.

This year we will be performing two shows, a fall play and a spring musical. This year our play is "A Christmas Story." 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 16 & 17, after school from 3:00 – 5:00pm. Students only need to attend one audition day and do not need to prepare anything for these auditions. Auditions will consist of reading a scene with one or more people. Once you have auditioned, you may leave. The cast list will be posted at the school outside of Mr. Simpson's office and on our website before the end of the week.

Audition dates for the spring musical will be announced when we announce the show later in the school year. Musical auditions consist of reading a scene with one or more people AND a singing audition. We will also have call backs which will consist of an additional singing audition (the song will be provided) and a dance audition. Callbacks are scheduled the Saturday after auditions. 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 days 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.

Club Days: Drama Club officially meets every other Wednesday during school at 9:30a.m. on club days.

Rehearsal: Rehearsals are held after school or on Saturdays. After school rehearsal days are Monday & Wednesdays after school from 3:00-5:00 P.M. in either the cafeteria or auditorium. The first rehearsal will be announced when we post the cast list. If there is no school due to a holiday or snow day, there is no rehearsal that day. Not everyone is called for every rehearsal. A rehearsal schedule is posted on the drama club website detailing who is called to each rehearsal. The week leading up to the show is called tech week. During tech week everyone is called to rehearsal and we rehearse from 3–7pm.

Attendance: Students are expected to be at all rehearsals when they are called. If there is a conflict, a parent must email the drama club, pennmiddledrama@gmail.com, at least one day prior to the absence. Approved absences are, personal illness, death in the family, religious services, or participation in sports activities (i.e. games or meets, NOT PRACTICE), or special prearranged circumstances with approval. Students are responsible for all missed work due to absences. A student will be replaced if there are excessive absences at the discretion of the director and/or club sponsor.

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 and 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 volunteering to help the club.** Please note that this does not mean that you have to attend after school rehearsals. We need parents to help with costumes, set construction, tech week meals, ticket sales, 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: Not all students want to perform and 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: Some 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. These students help creating and organizing costumes as well as do hair and make-up for the cast for all shows. Students need to be at most tech week rehearsals and every show.

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 send out we will send out an email. Day to day updates are sent out via 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 to receive the most up to date information regarding rehearsals and shows.

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 or roam the school during rehearsals or shows.
- 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 email the club at pennmiddledrama@gmail.com or feel free to call me directly at 412-780-3640.

Sincerely,
Sharon Wiant
Drama Club Sponsor