



2023-24 MINNETONKA ELEMENTARY MUSICAL PARENT/PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK

GREETINGS, 4th & 5th GRADE FAMILIES!

It is our pleasure to introduce you to the 2023-24 Minnetonka Elementary Musical, *Willy Wonka KIDS!*

The production of a musical for Minnetonka 4th and 5th graders has been a tradition since 2012. Students from all six Minnetonka elementary schools come together to perform the same musical and share sets, costumes, props, lights, and microphones. Last year, over 200 Minnetonka 4th and 5th graders performed in *Seussical KIDS* on the Arts Center Main Stage. Our objective is to give students with an interest in theatre the opportunity to present a full realized performance of a Broadway musical. We believe the lessons learned in teamwork, practice, and self-confidence will be used by our students for a lifetime.

A musical is a wonderful opportunity for students to work creatively as a team and still shine in their own individual way. Every student involved has an important role, whether it's acting in the chorus, or performing as a lead character. The musical is an experience where many students find talents they didn't know they possessed, and students have the chance to work together and make new friends.

INTRODUCING THE 2023-24 MUSICAL: *Willy Wonka KIDS!*

This 30-minute adaptation is specially tailored for elementary-aged actors. The show features the enchanting songs and memorable characters from the 1971 film starring Gene Wilder, in addition to a host of fun new songs. Roald Dahl's *Willy Wonka KIDS* is a scrumdilyumptious musical guaranteed to delight everyone's sweet tooth.

REGISTRATION

This year, each cast (Lollipop, Peppermint, Gobstopper, and Wonka Bar) will be made up of students from each of the six Minnetonka Elementary schools. **Be sure to coordinate with your child's classmates/friends if they want to sign up for the same cast (Lollipop, Peppermint, Gobstopper, or Wonka Bar) before you register.** See performance schedule below.

Registration is open to currently enrolled Minnetonka 4th and 5th graders ONLY (and any homeschool families who participate in Minnetonka district activities).

PERFORMANCE DATES

Lollipop Cast - Performs 6/15 @ 1p

Peppermint Cast - Performs 6/15 @ 5p

Gobstopper Cast - Performs 6/16 @ 1p

Wonka Bar Cast - Performs 6/16 @ 5p

All performances take place on the Arts Center Main Stage at Minnetonka High School. Tickets for the performances will go on sale in the spring.

PARTICIPATION FEE

A participation fee of \$175 will be charged per cast member. This fee helps to cover some of the many expenses incurred in producing a musical and will also cover the cost of your student's musical t-shirt. This fee is due at registration. Scholarships are available. If needed, please contact Liz Barlow at 952-401-5712 before you register.

HOW TO REGISTER

1. Review the rehearsal/performance calendars for each of the four casts (Lollipop, Peppermint, Gobstopper, Wonka Bar) at www.minnetonkatheatre.com/elementary.
2. Carefully review the parent and participant handbook. (This document.)
3. Complete the registration for ONE of the four casts based on rehearsal/performance schedule. Enrollment is limited, so if you want a specific cast, don't wait too long to register.
4. Mark your calendars! First rehearsal for ALL performers is October 13!

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE MUSICAL

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER at www.minnetonkatheatre.com/elementary. Every student who registers will appear onstage in either an ensemble or a lead role.

Interested in an Ensemble Role? – No audition necessary! All students who register will be assigned a role in the ensemble. Ensemble members will attend a total of **11** practices (see calendar at www.minnetonkatheatre.com/elementary.)

Interested in a Lead Role? – Video audition is required (due December 15.) Leads (actors with speaking lines/solos) will attend all 11 ensemble practices in addition to **8** leads rehearsals (see calendar at www.minnetonkatheatre.com/elementary.) Instructions for submitting video auditions will be sent out in early October.

We have a fantastic team of professionals supporting our students backstage in the field of directing, music directing, scenic design, lighting and sound design, costume design, choreography, and stage management – as well as several trained high school interns and volunteers. We do not have backstage crew opportunities for elementary-aged students. We encourage students who may be interested in technical theatre to learn more about musical production by being part of the ensemble.

Remember, there are no small parts, only small actors! Please read the following pages carefully regarding attendance expectations for ALL participants.

ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCES

If your child participates in the musical, they may need to miss other activities. This is a big commitment for not only the student, but also the entire family. We will do our best to work around other Minnetonka district curricular and extra-curricular activities and events when possible. Students and families will need to keep track of their own schedule for musical rehearsals and other commitments. From October - March, students are allowed **two** absences from rehearsals for any reason. If a student has more than two absences, their role in the play may be re-evaluated and possibly altered and/or reassigned by the directing team. Before you register, please decide whether you are truly able to make the commitment to the elementary musical.

Please email minnetonkatheatre@minnetonkaschools.org as soon as possible to let us know if your student is going to miss a rehearsal.

FINAL WEEKS OF REHEARSAL (“RED” ZONE)

A high level of commitment is expected to make the Minnetonka elementary musical the best it can be. During the final weeks of rehearsal from April - June, absences are only permitted in the case of extreme illness or family emergency. It is vital to the success of the musical that every participant be present and work together during this time. If a student is absent during this time, their role in the play will be re-evaluated and possibly reassigned by the directing team. It is frustrating for the directors and to fellow cast members when actors are missing. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Please do not request to miss a rehearsal or part of rehearsal during the **“red zone”**. Every family is busy with many activities and sports, but if you choose to participate in the musical, rehearsals and performances must be a top priority from April-June. Here are just a few examples of things that will need to be rescheduled during these final weeks of rehearsal and performance:

Private music lessons, sporting events – tryouts, practices, and/or games, family vacations, dance rehearsals/recitals, music rehearsals/recitals, events related to parents’ work, doctor appointments (non-emergency), family gatherings.

FAQS REGARDING ATTENDANCE

1. What if my child gets sick and has to miss more than the allotted 2 absences?

Of course, sometimes illnesses and even surgeries do happen. Exceptions to the attendance policy can be made in these rare cases. However, a student's role may or may not need to be changed, depending on the length of the absence. This isn't done as a punishment to the student. We have a limited number of rehearsals, and some parts need to be rehearsed more than others. For the success of the musical, sometimes alterations must be made. Decisions like this would be made on a case-by-case basis.

2. My child has another commitment the week of the play. Is it okay if he/she misses rehearsal?

Absences are not allowed in the final weeks before the musical during the "red zone". Many students and adults are working together to make this musical a success, and the absence of even one or two students during the last weeks of the play makes a huge difference. Exceptions will be made for emergencies only.

3. My child missed a rehearsal during the "red zone" – what does this mean? When the attendance policy is broken, your child may be removed from one or more scenes in the musical due to changes needed to be made in their absence. Decisions regarding the child's ongoing participation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Students should show exemplary behavior at every musical rehearsal and during performances, whether it be onstage or backstage. If a student demonstrates disruptive or otherwise inappropriate behavior during musical rehearsals or performances, their role in the play will be re-evaluated and possibly altered and/or reassigned by the directing team. This helps to ensure a positive experience for everyone involved in the musical.

QUESTIONS? Please email minnetonkatheatre@minnetonkaschools.org. Welcome to the show! We look forward to another exciting year of elementary theatre!