

5th Grade Musical Parent Zoom Meeting Notes - September 28, 7pm

Introduce SPEF & Upstage members

- SPEF Grace, Brionne, Melody
- Upstage - Adrian, Artistic Director & Founder - More than a decade working with SPEF
- Tara, Production Manager for South Pasadena
- Julie, Production Manager, Upstage

SPEF & the 5th Grade Musical History

- The musical is part of SPEF's Enrichment Programs, a 5th Grade tradition, bonding time
- The mission is for students to experience musical theater
- We use Jr. versions - for younger students, not as long, age appropriate content
- Why Seussical Jr.? It has a great message of kindness & inclusion
- The musical is great to meet students from the other schools before they enter SPMS

Calendar & Registration

- Registration is open Wednesday, **October 6, 9am** - Friday, **October 8, 12pm** midday
- Go to www.spef4kids.org or directly to <https://spef4kids.campbrainregistration.com>
- Rehearsals start **Wednesday, October 20**
- Rehearsals are **Wednesday & Friday, 3:30-5:30pm**
- Rehearsals will be at **SPMS**, then **SPHS** in January
- Performances are **Feb 4/5/6**

Volunteers

When registering, select your preferred volunteer committee. If unable to volunteer, select Volunteer Buyout (\$125). Expectation is that you will need to volunteer for 20 hours - if you're unavailable Wed/Fri during rehearsal, we need plenty of help the week of the performance eg tickets, backstage.

Volunteer Options:

- Costumes & Makeup
- Rehearsal Supervision
- T-shirt/Poster Design
- Props & Backstage
- Performance Support - Tickets, Ushers
- Chair or Co-Chair a committee
- Musical Volunteers on SPUSD campus will need to show SPEF proof of covid vaccination.
- If you can't volunteer, select Volunteer Buyout (\$125)

Rehearsal Structure

- All students that register get a role. No acting or theater or dance experience is necessary.
- We have Multiple teachers - Director, Musical Director, Choreographer, Production Manager.
- Musical Theater Process – Students will begin with theater games, vocal and movement warm ups, and do drama exercises.
- Auditioning starts on day 1, with behavior and ability being informally assessed. Students will have plenty of opportunity to show off their singing voice and dance moves.
- Encourage your student to speak up when asked which roles they prefer. This doesn't mean they will get the role. Our reality is there will be many more students cast as ensemble than in roles.

- The goal is that everyone does some type of rehearsal each day. Sometimes students will need to observe and give constructive feedback.

Performance Structure

- We will have a Live Performance
- Most likely Blue/Red casts, 2 performances each cast, eg Blue cast Fri night/Sat matinee
- Students will most likely wear skin-toned masks as part of their costume/hair/makeup
- We are hoping to have an audience - families, greater community if possible
- Based on current protocols, the audience will most likely be wearing masks. Proof of Vaccination (or for under 12s negative covid test) might be required based on guidelines from LA County Public Health & protocol for entry by visitors to SPUSD campus - We will know more as we get closer to Performance weekend
- We hope to add a Live Stream ticket option for those unable to attend in-person

Realities for Parents & Students

- Deodorant!
- This is a long process over several months, at least 60 hours of rehearsal time
- Your kid needs to commit now. If they are hesitant or don't really want to do it, then you will all be miserable come January
- Your student should join rehearsal **on time**, be collected on time, be supervised when waiting for rehearsal to start
- Your kid needs to be available Wed & Fri, 3:30-5:30pm, don't schedule other stuff during this time.
- Form Carpools & Walking buses - Use the time between school dismissal and rehearsal for homework, snack, especially Fridays. Also early dismissal Parent Conference week Nov17/19.
- SPMS is still in session until near 3pm - the earliest you should plan to arrive is 3:10pm or so.
- We want directors to direct, not discipline - Timeouts if needed
- Once we cast, please don't challenge how your student is cast - It is not about the part you receive – the entire cast is an ensemble.
- Volunteer, Sponsor - everything helps!

Any other Questions?

Email:

Brionne bcox@spef4kids.org or Grace gkung@spef4kids.org

Upstage

<https://www.upstageschools.com/>

SPEF

<https://spef4kids.org/programs/5th-grade-musical/>