

Hello Pine-Richland Middle School Musical Parents & Students,

My name is Jamie Miller, and I'm so excited to be your 2023-24 Middle School musical director! Last year in my work on Legally Blonde I saw the true dedication of the students to their craft and I know this year will be the same! I am really looking forward to meeting each of you and making this year's musical just as wonderful.

A little about me. I was a musical theater major at Savannah College of Art and Design. I currently own Perform Pittsburgh Theater School, where I write, produce and direct multiple shows per year. I was also a gymnastics choreographer for the past 10 years at Jewarts gymnastics, leading me to open Mars Gymnastics to continue teaching the sport. I myself am trained in dance (ballet, jazz, tap, pointe) and tumbling. I teach voice, acting and gymnastics classes to ages 3-18 as my full-time job.

Before opening my school, I was part of a theatrical rock band who played many shows throughout northeast America. However, rock was not where I belonged. I belong in the theater, and I belong teaching children. Watching them hone their craft and surprise themselves with all they are capable of is what I truly love. It has allowed me to write over 30 shows in just three years, and to grow our small theater into a 7,000 square foot performing arts center.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to continue growing and to use my skill set in a public school setting. Pine-Richland has been more than welcoming, and I just know our new parents and students will be the same. Below is a little about the audition process and what we hope to see in the coming weeks before beginning our Spring Show. Thank you so much for your interest in the Middle School musical!

Jamie Miller
msmusical@pinerichland.org

PR MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL SCHEDULE

1. **FILL OUT ONLINE AUDITION FORM** The first step is to fill out the audition form online. This will give us a good idea of the number of participants as well as how much time we will need for auditions.

2. **SELECT YOUR AUDITION MATERIAL AND WATCH PRE-RECORDED MATERIAL**
Choose 16 bars of a song (usually a verse and chorus) to perform for us at your audition. That's right you can choose your own song! You will need to bring a device the day of auditions with your track cued to the starting point in the song. Aux cable and iphone adapter will be provided. (Songs can be played from youtube if you are on the schools wifi, be mindful of bad service.)

Watch the audition dance video and learn the routine. Read through the short scene and be prepared to read for any of the characters we ask.

3. **JOIN THE GOOGLE CLASSROOM- 2024 MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL - code tnt75zn**

4. **Join us for an audition prep class Wednesday Dec 13th 3-4:30 To review the dance, go through scenes, pick groups for auditions, and get to know each other!**

5. **CHECK THE GOOGLE CLASSROOM FOR YOUR AUDITION TIME**

Audition Days

MONDAY DEC 18TH 3-4:30

WEDNESDAY DEC 20TH 3-4:30

Once we have everyone planning to audition accounted for we will be breaking you into groups of 5 and you will be given a 15 minute time slot. During those 15 minutes you will perform the dance we taught, your song selection, and perform the short scene.

For this day you'll want to arrive 15-20 minutes early to stretch and warmup and be ready in the event we are ahead of schedule. Please use the 20 minute prior arrival time as the "on-time time", so we can stay on schedule.

VIRTUAL AUDITIONS

If your child can't make the auditions for out of town reasons you can submit a virtual audition. Please use this google drive link, create a dance video, a singing video, and an acting audition. Please name your videos your child's name then - dance or sing or act. You must submit all 3 areas to be considered for a lead role.

Google drive folder link:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BnquDPzwAJSCR2n1KTaRpe8T_IXVYAAAs?usp=share_link

WE MUST HAVE ALL VIRTUAL AUDITIONS BY WEDNESDAY 12/20 AT 4:30. If you do not audition for the musical in person or virtually you can still be a part of the ensemble but late auditions for Lead roles will not be accepted.

Show Reveal / Cast list Posting

The show reveal will be posted Friday Dec 29th at noon. With a cast list. The cast list is final. However we will be happy to answer questions from students about what they can do for next year to get a bigger role.

Rehearsals

We have approximately 28 scheduled rehearsals. With illnesses prevalent this year (and seemingly every year)) We will be casting understudies for lead roles. If you miss 7 rehearsals which is 25% of the rehearsals your understudy will take over and you will still be able to be in the show but will have a role in the ensemble. We hope this would never happen and that 7 is more than reasonable given all the dates are scheduled up front, however missing a quarter of the rehearsals, shows that the musical is not a priority which is unfair to the rest of the team.

Rehearsal Schedule

The first rehearsal (after auditions) will be :

Wednesday 1/3 from 3-4:30

We will then have practice every Wednesday and Friday until show day (UNLESS THERE IS NO SCHOOL) No practice if there is no school.

APRIL

Mandatory Tech days - April 3rd 3-5 / Friday April 5th 3-6 / April 6th 1:30-5:30 / April 8 3-4:30 / April 10th 3-5

SHOWS

Thursday 4/11 3:30 - teachers

Friday 4/12 7:00 (5:00 call time)

Saturday 4/13 3:00 & 7:00 (1:00 call time will keep students for award ceremony between shows)

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Communication

The following website is the best place to go for any new communications :

<https://www.pinerichland.org/msmusical>

Here you will find an audition form, a parent volunteer form, students can enroll in the **google classroom** using this code:

tmxpcql

Parents can enroll in :

The Remind app which will be for last minute notifications, or notifications that information has been added on the website. Here is the link, you must first get the app on your device

<http://www.remind.com/join/c882d2>

Google Drive

I will add a google drive folder with the music and choreography videos. Having the app on your device is the best way to make sure the files work for you. The google drive folder will be able to be accessed by students AND parents for rehearsal purposes, in the car, at home, etc.

Emails - I will be checking this once a day around 10 am. If there is a pressing matter affecting our day please send your email earlier in the morning. If you have to reach someone during the day please use the remind app.

Email address: msmusical@pinerichland.org

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Below is a list of rehearsal policies & procedures to follow to give your child the best experience.

1. No excessive jewelry may be worn to practice. Studs are fine, but because we're dancing that is the only jewelry allowed.
2. Hair should be pulled back
3. Phones, water bottles, and tennis shoes or jazz shoes should be worn to each practice. If you plan to buy jazz shoes (highly recommended, we recommend the slip on version from amazon in black)
4. Please arrive 5 minutes early to the auditorium for practice. Parents please arrive at least 5 minutes early to pickup from practice.
5. Please be positive supporters :). Kindness is key. Regardless of role, experience, wig, costume etc. never should you be talking negatively about another cast member. Drama that is hurtful will not be tolerated and is grounds for dismissal from the production.
6. Unless you are ill to have a leading role you **MUST** be able to attend ALL shows.
7. Students are not permitted to leave the backstage area at intermission or until they are dismissed from the show. I know you want to see your child but it's their job to keep the characters as celebrities of sorts and will be out afterwards for pictures
8. **HAVE FUN!** Above everything else I want this to be an exciting fun opportunity for you and your student. You are all here to learn, and together we will make this the best most fun positive learning environment possible!

ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

I, the undersigned, have received and read a copy of the within document, which outlines the Schedule, Policies & Procedures, and expectations for the 2023 Pine Richland Middle school Musical. By my signature below, I acknowledge, understand, accept, and agree to comply with the information contained herein.

_____ Students Name (Printed)

_____ Students Name (Signature)

_____ Parent/Guardian Name
(Printed)

_____ Parent/Guardian Name
(Signature)

PARENT VOLUNTEER HELP

CHECK IN/OUT - This parent would take role as the kids come in the door, and as they exit the door. This parent will be in charge of staying with children whose parents are running late for pickup, they would also assist in anything the kids need during rehearsals such as minor first aid, illnesses, early dismissal check outs, behavior issues (hopefully a non issue in middle school), setting up anyone needing virtual rehearsals, calling parents, etc.

We need one of these for each rehearsal, it does not need to be the same parent every time. Also this parent will need to agree to wait in an approved “attendance parent spot” that is not the auditorium as practices are closed to spectators.

SET DESIGN / CONSTRUCTION - INCLUDING TEAR DOWN

A separate schedule will be sent out concerning set design, it will be based off of our set design leaders schedule and will most likely be one evening a week. Tear down will be the same weekday evening following the show to get the auditorium back in working order.

ADS

CONCESSIONS

PHOTOGRAPHY

PROGRAMS

PROPS

LOBBY DECORATIONS

If you are interested in any of the following positions please write your name, phone, and email and we will be in touch.

AND MORE!!!!!!

Please fill out the google form on the website ASAP! The more the merrier, if we don't have enough volunteers cuts in certain areas may need to be made and we want to create the biggest and best show possible!!