

2022 Winter Drama and Arts at Pierce

Thanks for your interest in Winter Drama and Arts at Pierce! We've just had a terrific fall with these classes and are going to offer more to help keep the kids busy after school. Thanks for joining us. We hope the Winter Drama and Arts will inspire your child to feel engaged and valued, and maybe even challenged a bit. For 5th and 6th graders looking forward to joining us for *Annie*, the drama classes will be an excellent warm-up and we'll even give some attention to audition prep. The timing of these classes is such that they end right before *Annie* rehearsals begin.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at piercemusictracks@gmail.com. Thanks for sending us your kids!

Phil Schroeder

Below are the deep details about our program. At registration, you will be asked to affirm that you have read and agree to this info as the "Terms of Registration."

TERMS of REGISTRATION

DRAMA CLASS SCHEDULING AND LOCATIONS

Regarding the scheduling of our drama classes, we build classes based on the aggregate availability of registrants, combined with their age/grade. Simply put, if ten kids in 4th and 5th grade are available on Tuesdays, we'll build a class. At registration, we'll ask which days you CAN attend a class and we'll schedule accordingly. It's best if your child has multiple available days, but we'll work with whatever you've got. The most important thing is: if you tell us your child is available on any given day, you agree to accept a class assignment on that day.

Our Thursday drama class will be held at Pierce in the auditorium. Our Tuesday and Wednesday classes will be held at the American Legion/VFW facility ("the VFW") at 386 Washington Street, across from the Civil War monument and next to the preschool. We have used this space for three years when we need space that Pierce can't provide, and it is clean and safe. Children attending classes there will meet in the cafeteria after school for snacks, then be escorted by the instructor and cast supervisor to the VFW. When class is over, children may walk home as they normally would or can be escorted back to Pierce.

DRAWING AND SKETCHING CLASSES

Drawing and Sketching Classes (1 and 2) are offered only on specific days, and open to a maximum of 12 students. Our "1" class (Wednesdays) is introductory and is for anyone who loves to draw and wants to have some structure behind it. We use pencils and a sketchpad, no

messy paints or anything else. Our "2" class (Tuesdays) is for those who've completed our Fall Drawing & Sketching class and who are ready for more advanced concepts.

You are free to register for a visual arts class in addition to a drama class. If this is your choice, please register first for your visual arts class (to make sure you get in), then register for drama classes, selecting other days.

TIMES, ATTENDANCE, CHECK-IN, NO LEAVING CAMPUS, SNACKS

All classes run from 2:45 to 4:15pm. Students come to the cafeteria after school, eat a snack and at 2:45, we're off to class. They'll finish by 4:15. PSED students should check into PSED first and return to PSED when class is over.

Attendance is important! Like any theatrical or team venture, kids rely on their castmates being there, so please don't sign up if you don't plan to come. Leaving early isn't preferred but we know life happens. Please have your child let the instructor know right away if s/he will need to leave early that day.

There will be a Cast Supervisor in attendance each day to check students in. Students should report immediately for check-in and should NOT leave campus for Starbucks, Walgreens, CVS, etc. We do not check students out at the end of class, they are free to leave campus as they would at any other time. If your child has special check-in/out requirements, please let us know.

SNACKS

We no longer provide snacks for our programs; students should come with an after-school snack. Many students have specific food considerations which makes it best that we stay out of the snack-supply business, however, it's very important that they get some food, so please send it!

As mentioned, we do not check students out or have any accommodations for them to stay late. It is assumed that all children at Pierce know how to get home or how to meet a parent. If your child's situation is different (perhaps you don't live in the Pierce neighborhood), please let us know in advance so we can strategize.

COVID CONSIDERATIONS

Please get your kids vaccinated! This is our single best way out of this mess. The district has different rules for after-school programs regarding its "test to stay" protocols. In short, they're not available to your child if they are found to be a close contact in an after-school program. Your close-contact child would be subject to quarantine of up to ten days. We take all the precautions that the school takes, including masks worn indoors, distancing and more. We do

not direct kids to touch each other as part of their acting and there is no loud shouting or singing in proximity to others.

SPECIAL REQUESTS

We are often asked to "put my child with her friends," but please remember we don't know who your child's friends are. (Some will name the friends, but often those kids aren't registered.) So, there's not much we can do, and honestly, *we don't want to*. At Pierce, we're all friends, and a program like this works best when we expand our horizons.

If your child has a medical concern and being in a class with a known ally is crucial, we will absolutely honor that.

BEHAVIOR AND MEDICAL CONCERNS

First, please know that Pierce School does not provide after-school supervision or nurse services. We hire supervisors who are CPR certified and who are present to manage emergencies and behavior issues.

Behavior and discipline: Though we have had very few incidents of poor behavior, it happens...and when it does, the first response will be to pull the student aside for reminders and redirection. The second response will be to remove the student from the room for a "time out." If the situation warrants, the supervisor will dismiss the child immediately and we'll contact the parent to discuss the situation. We have a zero- tolerance policy for verbal or physical abuse that violates anyone's safety; should those occur, your child may be asked to leave the program and a refund will not be offered. Any extreme behavior will be reported to the Pierce Vice Principals.

Medical emergencies: You'll be asked at registration to disclose any medical or non-medical issues that may impact your child's participation as well as your instructions for treatment, if any. It is crucial that you provide us with any relevant information so that we can make appropriate decisions for your child's care. Any disclosures and instructions will be shared with cast supervisor(s) and instructors so that we can recognize a problem before it escalates and respond according to your instructions.

Our emergency response protocols are as follows:

- In the event of a real medical emergency, our first response is to call 911, then the parent.
- In the event of a minor emergency (stomachache, onset of illness), we'll contact the parent and/or send the child home.

Non-medical considerations: If your child has a special circumstance such as ADHD, which needs more attention than is typically offered in this setting, please notify us in advance and we'll work with you to create a plan for successful participation.

FEES AND REFUNDS

Winter Drama at Pierce is a PTO program taught by paid, non-parent instructors who are qualified to teach drama, visual arts, and work with children. Because we make a financial commitment to them, we cannot extend refunds after the start of classes, January 2, 2022.

The registration fee for our 7-week program is \$200 for all classes.

If we are unable to continue offering these classes because of state or school district restrictions around Covid-19 or similar, we will wait two weeks before deciding to discontinue the program. If discontinued, we will process pro-rata refunds to all families.

Fees are collected via credit card at time of registration. If you prefer to pay by check, need scholarship support or structured payments, please contact Phil at philschroeder@mac.com.

Pierce School Musical/PTO offers these programs to any child who requires financial support on a "no questions asked" basis. We want your kids, regardless of your ability to pay.