

Pierce School Musical CAST Information

Welcome, and thanks for considering joining the cast of the Fall 2022 Grade 7 & 8 Musical, *Hitsville USA*. It's a brand new show about how the music on the AM radio dial shaped youth culture in the 1970s, and how the characters who were part of that experience – from DJs, to fans, to various other rascals – made the period even more vivid. This won't be a jukebox musical – we won't be singing Abba or Bee Gees songs – but the music of the era will find its way into the story and support the songs that drive the plot. So welcome along...it's gonna be a *groovy* ride!

SCHEDULE

There is a complete calendar for the production at the end of this document. You'll see that Casts A and B are consistent on Tue-Thur or Wed-Fri but will split the Mondays between them. This is to accommodate the many holidays during the fall term. You'll be allowed to select one or the other cast to suit your schedule, if necessary, but choosing either cast gives us more flexibility. There is no way to do this if you can't rehearse on Mondays, both casts will have some.

AUDITIONS

Audition materials will start to become available in August, certainly by August 15. As usual, you'll be asked to learn one of four songs from the show (recordings and lead sheets provided) and some scene work. Auditions will be from Sep 6 – 8. We'll have an audition prep session for all cast on Tuesday, Sep 6 after school, with actual auditions on Wednesday and Thursday. Casts will be announced via email on Thursday night and Friday is the first rehearsal for Cast A. Thus, some may not know until Thursday night if they begin work on Friday, but please be prepared.

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

Actors will meet in the cafeteria after school for a quick snack. We will no longer provide snacks. Because of many kids' specific dietary requirements, we've decided we need to leave the nutrition of your kids to you.

I will publish a rehearsal schedule each week and there will be times when actors may leave early. There will not be days when we don't need them; I will make sure to maximize everyone's time and honor their commitment by being ready to put them to work.

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.

Rehearsals are after school until 5:30 Mondays – Thursdays, and until 4:30 on Fridays. These will run a bit longer when we get into tech and dress rehearsals beginning on December 5, and I'll keep you posted.

REGISTRATION

Registration opens June 11 at 8:00am for cast. The fee is \$350 and starting this year, this will include videos of the show. We will sell 46 spots, i.e., two casts of 23. Don't be late!

Pierce School Musical is a PTO program taught by paid, non-parent instructors who are qualified to teach drama, music, visual arts, and work with children.

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 piercemusictracks@gmail.com.

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

REFUNDS

There are no refunds after September 6 when auditions start! Refunds will be given before that date if you need to withdraw, or later if your family is suddenly relocated overseas, but because we make big financial commitments to our staff, we ask that once you're in, you're really in.

BEHAVIOR AND MEDICAL CONCERNS

Behavior and discipline: Sometimes, kids have a bad day and act out. When this happens, our first response is to pull the student aside for reminders and redirection. Our second response will be to remove the student from the room for a "time out." If the situation warrants, the cast supervisor or director will dismiss the child immediately and contact the parent to discuss the situation, and the child may be released for the day. We have a zero-tolerance policy for verbal or physical abuse that violates anyone's safety; should those occur, your child will be sent home immediately and may be asked to leave the program; a refund will not be offered. As this is a PTO program, any extreme behavior will be reported to the Pierce Vice Principals.

Medical issues: We receive no information from the school about your child's health. 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 the director and cast supervisors 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, headache, onset of illness), we'll contact the parent and/or send the child home.
- Of course, if a child demonstrates any Covid symptoms, they will be sent to the nurse's office (if open) or home, and we'll call you immediately.

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. If your child is prone to less-manageable outbursts, including physical altercations, we do not have the resources (and the school will not provide them) to create a successful and safe experience for everyone.

Covid specific: We follow the school district's mask guidelines. There are occasions where we use more masking than the school, in consultation with the principal or our Covid team. We will communicate this to all families in a timely manner and we do have extra masks on hand.

Waivers: You will be asked to check a waiver absolving us of liability in the event of medical emergencies, as is typical for programs like ours, Town sports, Art Barn and more.

COVID CONSIDERATIONS

We expect that Covid will be an ongoing concern for years. We strongly encourage vaccination. We also anticipate that a few students will be out for week here and there and will accommodate those absences without penalty.

If we are unable to continue offering the program because of state or school district restrictions around Covid, or similar, we will wait two weeks before deciding the fate of the current program. If discontinued, we will process pro-rata refunds to all families after our financial obligations to staff have been met.

Hitsville USA Full Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
September	5 Cast B	6 Aud Prep Cast B	7 Auditions Cast A	8^ Auditions Cast B	9 Cast A
	12 Cast B	13 Cast B	14 Cast A	15 Cast B	16 Cast A
	19 Cast A	20 Cast B	21 Cast A	22 Cast B	23 Cast A
	26 holiday	27 Cast B	28 Cast A	29 Cast B	30 Cast A
October	3 Cast A	4 Cast B	5 holiday	6 Cast B	7 Cast A
	10 holiday	11 Cast B	12 Cast A	13 Cast B	14 Cast A
	17 Cast B	18 Cast B	19 Cast A	20 Cast B	21 Cast A
	24 Cast A	25 Cast B	26 Cast A	27 Cast B	28 Cast A
November	31 Cast B	1 Cast B	2 Cast A	3 Cast B	4 Cast A
	7 Cast A	8* Cast B	9 Cast A	10 Cast B	11 Cast A

14 Cast B	15 Cast B	16 Cast A	17 Cast B	18 Cast A
21 Cast A	22 Cast B	23 24 25 Thanksgiving Holiday		
28 Cast A	29 Cast B	30 Cast A	1 Cast B	2 Cast A

December

	5 Cast B	6 B-Tech	7 A-Tech	8 B-Tech	9 A-Tech	10 Possible Sat rehearsal
	12 A-Dress	13 B-Dress	14 A-Dress	15 B-Dress	16 A-Show	17 A B Shows
Sunday	18 B Show	19	20 Cast Party	21	22	23

^Sep 8: casts posted by 8pm, Cast A begins the next day.

*Nov 8: school professional day; rehearsal will occur at VFW

Shows:

Friday, Dec 16, 6:30pm, A Cast

Saturday, Dec 17, 1:30pm, A Cast

Saturday, Dec 17, 6:30pm, B Cast

Sunday, Dec 18, 1:30pm, B Cast