

2021 Fall Drama and Arts at Pierce

Welcome and Important Information

Thanks for your interest in Fall Drama at Pierce! I'm Phil Schroeder and I've been running Pierce School Musical since 2016 and I love this job. I can't be happier to be returning this year after our unprecedented year away from "normal," and while nothing is guaranteed, we're going to act as if it is and give the kids the best possible experience we can.

Pierce School Musical is a part of Pierce PTO, and Fall Drama and Arts is a program we hope will inspire your child to take some chances, see some changes and feel engaged and valued. These classes are designed to be fun, although each will require some amount homework between classes.

Our program takes us through early November after which we'll dig in on our Grade 7-8 Musical, *The Dreadful Dragon of Dartmouth – revisited!* offered in the winter months, and our Grade 3-6 Musical, *Annie*, offered in the winter/spring. More details to come on that.

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

Phil

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

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.

OTHER CLASSES

For those kids interested in the Playwriting class, it's only offered on Fridays, and only open to eight students (6th-8th grade), first-come-first-served based on registration time stamp. If you are not one of the first eight to register, we invited you to take a drama class instead.

The same goes with the Songwriting class on Mondays.

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 on other days.

WAITLISTS

Only the visual arts, playwriting and songwriting classes are limited in size. If you receive a notice that the class is full, you may write to Phil to request a waitlist spot.

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

All classes are 90 minutes (except Songwriting which is two hours) and include a short break. Monday – Thursday classes start at 2:45 and finish by 4:15. Friday classes will start at 2:00 and finish by 3:30.

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 manage check-ins, which will take place in the back of the cafeteria right after school. 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.

We do not provide snacks for this program; students should come with an after-school snack.

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 to be available each day who are CPR certified and are present to

manage emergencies and behavior issues so that instruction may continue. Our procedures are outlined below.

Behavior and discipline: A cast supervisor is present each day to assist with any students who have difficulty controlling themselves. 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 or that violate 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 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 know how you want us to respond.

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

Spring Drama at Pierce is a PTO-affiliated production taught by paid, non-parent instructors who are qualified to teach drama, the arts and music, and work with children. Because we make a financial commitment to them, we cannot extend refunds after the close of registration on September 8, 2021.

The registration fee for our 8-week drama classes, songwriting and playwriting classes is \$225. The fee for our 10-week visual arts classes is \$240.

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 making a determination 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.