

SMS MUSICAL 2017-2018



Parent Handbook & Audition Packet

Strong School Drama Club

Director: Mrs. Fisher

Musical Director: Ms. Schilling



Please go over the information in this packet with a parent or guardian!

Before auditioning, you must be sure you can make a commitment to the cast and crew of this show. We all need to rely on each other to make this production a success!

READY...SET...CURTAIN UP!
(Read on)

Dear Drama Club Students & Families,

Congratulations for taking the first step towards joining the cast or crew for Strong School's production of *High School Musical Jr.*!

Enclosed you will find all the information you need to know before auditioning for our musical, including:

- Important dates and times (for meetings, rehearsals, performances, and auditions)
- Information regarding rehearsals
- A list of character roles in High School Musical Jr.
- Our Cast Contract
- Audition Form
- Audition scene and songs

VISIT OUR SHOW WEBSITE: WWW.D13DRAMA.WEEBLY.COM

- ★ Please **look over the materials** with a parent or guardian prior to your audition.
- ★ If auditioning to be a part of the **cast**, fill out the green and blue pages and place in the "Cast Forms" folder on Ms. Schilling's desk by Monday, October 23rd. Sign up for an audition on the Music Room Announcement Board
- ★ If applying to be a part of the **crew**, fill out the yellow and blue pages and place in the "Crew Forms" folder on Ms. Schilling's desk by Tuesday, October 31st.

Thank you for taking an interest in this year's production!

Good Luck!

Mrs. Erica Fisher
Director
efisher@rsd13.org

Ms. Erin Schilling
Music Director
eschilling@rsd13.org

GENERAL INFORMATION

Timeline:

Oct 24th-Nov 6th: Auditions

Nov 9th: Cast List posted on the bulletin board outside the music room & on the Drama website

Nov 16th: Scripts/CDs distributed & full-cast read-through (Stage Crew should stay as well)

Jan 4th: Rehearsals begin

April 9-13 & 23-25: Extended Rehearsals at Strong and Coginchaug

April 26 & 27: Performances at Coginchaug

Rehearsals:

Generally rehearsals will be on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays in the music room at Strong School.

Rehearsals will be broken up into two parts: music rehearsals, and scene/choreography rehearsals.

Music Rehearsals: run by Ms. Schilling from 2:15-3:00

Scene/Choreography/Stage Crew Rehearsals: run by Mrs. Fisher from 3:10-4:00/4:30

In order to have the most productive rehearsals, not every actor will be called to every rehearsal.

Due to my job at Memorial, I am not able to get to Strong until 3:05. If you are scheduled to have a rehearsal with me, and Ms. Schilling is not having a music rehearsal, you have the option of going to *Homework Hangout* in the library. If you decide to go to *Homework Hangout*, you must work silently, read, or study your script. **If you are asked to leave *Homework Hangout* for any reason, you may also be told that you may no longer be a member of the Drama Club.**

Once I've received everyone's paperwork with potential conflicts, I will be better able to put together a rehearsal schedule. The schedule is generally put out a month in advance as I try my best to work around the schedules of other school activities, ie. World Cooking Club, volleyball games, etc. As flexible as I try to be for rehearsals, if you are someone who is involved in every sport and every afterschool activity offered at Strong, you may be too busy to be committed to this show. Unless you are absent from school or have spoken to me in advance, you are expected to attend rehearsals for which you are scheduled.

Stage Crew Schedule:

Stage Crew will meet with Mrs. Fisher at Strong on select Tuesdays/Thursdays as well as at Coginchaug for a few nights in March and April. There will also be a few optional set-building days over April Break. The crew schedule will have to be more flexible than the cast schedule, due to the nature of us using some supplies from the high school and the frequent use of the auditorium.

Communication:

All handouts and schedules given to students in rehearsals will also be posted on the Drama Club website. Email blasts will be used sparingly, mainly for last minute changes or for individual communications. If your child is out of school on a rehearsal day, please email me at efisher@rsd13.org, as I don't have access to Strong's attendance list.

Pick-up Policy:

There is no rehearsal sign-out like there is at Memorial. Students are responsible for knowing how they are getting home, whether it be getting picked up at Strong, or walking to the library and being picked up there.

Behavior Policy

It is to be understood that the Drama Club is an extracurricular activity that the students are *choosing* to participate in. Therefore, appropriate behavior and adherence to District 13's Core Ethical Values are expected at all times, at all rehearsals. If a student continually demonstrates behavior that is a distraction to the rehearsal process, they will be asked to no longer participate in the Drama Club.

Costumes

Due to our limited production budget, families will be asked to provide the majority of costume pieces . More information outlining the specific items needed for each student will be given once parts are assigned.

Memorization

Memorizing lines is one of the major responsibilities for all actors. We're in this together! Actors who struggle with lines make it difficult for the entire cast to rehearse. All cast members should be "off-book" by March 13th.

Snacks

There will be a quick snack break before rehearsals begin.

EXTRA HELP:

We are always looking for parent volunteers! If you are able to help with any of the following, please write on the audition form.

- ★ Costumes- anything from sewing to using a hot-glue gun!
- ★ Supervising students during extended rehearsals at Coginchaug
- ★ Supervising students in the "green room" and backstage during performances
- ★ Sets/Props- building and supervising students
- ★ Lobby Display- Help take photos, organize cast photos/biographies to be displayed on show days
- ★ Makeup- Assist cast members with applying makeup and fixing hair before performances
- ★ Tickets- selling before the night performances
- ★ Cast Party- help supervise students
- ★ Other- if you have another skill or talent that you would like to share with us

AUDITION INFORMATION

Audition Dates & Times

Option 1 * Max 20 students*	Tuesday, October 24th 3:00 - 4:15 p.m. *Students may attend Homework Hangout before auditions*	Music Room
Option 2 *Max 6 students*	Wednesday, October 25th 6:45 - 7:15 a.m.	Music Room
Option 3 *Max 25 students*	Monday, October 30th 2:10-3:30	Music Room
Call-backs (upon director's request)	Monday, November 6th During FLEX	Music Room
Parts Posted	Thursday, November 9th	Music Room Bulletin Board Drama Website
Script/CD Distribution Full Cast Read-Through	Thursday, November 16th 3:10-4:15	Music Room

Audition Process:

Students should fill out audition forms and parent forms and place them in the "Cast Forms" folder on Ms. Schilling's desk by Monday, November 23rd. You then need to sign up for an audition day on the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board outside the music room. If none of these times work, you must email Mrs. Fisher to set up an alternate audition time.

On the day of your audition, you are to wait quietly in the hallway outside of the music room until you are called in for a private audition with Mrs. Fisher and Ms. Schilling. Once your audition is over, you are free to leave. **While waiting to be called in for your audition, you must sit in the hallway and work on something quietly.**

Scene:

All students must prepare the scene provided in this packet. It does not need to be memorized! You will either read against another auditioning student, or Mrs. Fisher.

Song:

Those students interested in a large role must also perform the song included in this packet- *Start of Something New*. There are two YouTube videos uploaded on the website that students should use in order to practice, one music track and one karaoke version. In auditions, students will sing with the karaoke track.

About High School Musical Jr.

It's the first day after winter break at East High. The Jocks, Brainiacs, Thespians and Skater Dudes all find their cliques. Basketball team captain and resident jock, Troy, discovers that the brainy Gabriella, a girl he met singing karaoke on his ski trip, has just enrolled at East High. The couple causes an upheaval when they decide to audition for the high school musical. Although many students resent the threat posed to the "status quo," Troy and Gabriella's alliance might just open the door for others to shine as well.

Character Breakdown

Troy Bolton, the most popular kid at East High, is the star of the basketball team who yearns to be more than what people want him to be. Troy discovers he loves to sing, but is afraid to admit it to his friends.

Will need to convey a range of emotions/character traits: athletic, independent, sometimes shy, smitten with Gabriella, a true leader... solos in ?

Gabriella Montez is the new girl in school. Gabriella is intelligent, pretty ("girl next door" type) and shy. She possesses a fantastic voice when she sings with Troy.

Will need to convey a range of emotions/character traits: intelligent, independant, shy, vulnerable

Sharpay Evans is the egocentric star of the school musicals. She is Ryan's older twin (and the alpha dog of the two) and has a mad crush on Troy. Sharpay has never met a mirror she didn't like.

Must be able to portray a diva, sing, dance, and be a part of many scenes

Ryan Evans is Sharpay's fraternal twin and a star in the making. This character loves singing, dancing and lots of attention. He follows Sharpay's orders, but wants to break free from her shadow.

strong dancer- partners with Sharpay in "Bop to the Top"

Chad Danforth is a hot-wired jock, second in command to Troy. He is focused on winning his school's basketball championship, but is slowly understanding that there might be more to this world, including his sparring crush on Taylor.

partner with Troy, sings a couple of solos, has a large number of acting scenes

Taylor McKessie, the head Brainiac of the school, is the president of the Science Club. She wants Gabriella to join the Science Decathlon team so they can finally win the competition. Taylor has a hidden soft spot for Chad, which might be why she is always making fun of him.

Must be able to act assertive & sing a solid solo

Jack Scott is the nerdy school announcer who trips over his own feet. He's very witty and has great comedic timing.

No singing solos

Kelsi Nielsen is a thespian rehearsal pianist and student composer extraordinaire. Underneath her shy demeanor, Kelsi has no tolerance for people (read: Sharpay) who use their talent only to be number one.

Small solo in "We're All in This Together"

Zeke Baylor is a basketball player on the Wildcats Team. He has two secrets: a crush on Sharpay and a love for baking!

has a few solos

Martha Cox is a proud member of the Science Club and is brainy with a secret love of dancing. She has a fun-loving side-kicky personality and becomes an adoring devotee of Gabriella.

Show off some break-dancing moves?

Coach Bolton is the stern basketball coach and Troy's dad. He lost the big game years ago and wants a second chance through his son.

Must act older than almost everyone else in the show... primarily an acting role

Ms. Darbus is the eccentric drama teacher. She is an amusing blend of Gertrude Stein and Ethel Merman. Passionate and disciplined, she is always trying to expose students to the enrichment and fun of theatre.

No singing solos

Ensemble roles: Jocks, Thespians, Brainiacs, Skater dudes, Cheerleaders

Ms. Tenny, Science Decathlon Moderator, Ripper, James, Susan, Cathy, Cyndra

Backstage Crew

Stage Crew members design and create the props and sets for the play. During performances, stage crew works backstage and only appears onstage to perform the finale with the entire cast. Those students interested in being a part of stage crew need to fill out the application form and but do not need to attend on audition days. After reviewing applications, Mrs. Fisher will email interested students and if necessary, will meet one on one with before school on a designated day.

HSM JR. AUDITION FORM: CAST MEMBER

Name: _____

Grade: _____

Team: _____

Are you willing to accept any role? (please be honest) Yes No

Which roles are you most interested in? (circle all that apply):

Option 1: Principal Character... Someone with a lot of lines/probably a solo

- | | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| Troy Bolton | Ryan Evans | Chad Danforth | Jack Scott | Zeke baylor |
| Gabriella Montez | Sharpay Evans | Taylor McKessie | Kelsi Nielsen | Martha Cox |
| Coach Bolton | Ms. Darbus | | | |

Option 2: Supporting Character... Someone with a few lines

Option 3: Part of the Ensemble: Jock Brainiac Thespian Skater Dude Cheerleader

Theatrical Experience: List ANY experience including- acting, singing, dancing, gymnastics, other- that should be considered. Brag about yourself!

Additional note to the director: Feel free to share any other personal information that you feel is important for me to know about you.

HSM JR. CAST CONTRACT

As a member of the cast:

- ★ I agree to attend all rehearsals for which I am scheduled
- ★ I will remain at rehearsals until the rehearsal is completed or I am excused
- ★ I agree to meet "off book" deadlines by having lines memorized
- ★ I will bring my script and a pencil to each rehearsal
- ★ I understand that I am part of a team effort, so I must have a positive attitude, even on days when I have a million reasons to not be open-minded and willing to work.
- ★ I understand that this show requires collaboration, and I agree to contribute my ideas and energy at appropriate times.
- ★ I understand that the Director will make final choices pertaining to my role(s)
- ★ I agree to do all that I can to make rehearsals the best they can be
- ★ I understand that during rehearsals I am to remain quiet until my part begins onstage
- ★ If I cause problems by disrupting the cast or the Director during rehearsal, I understand that I may lose my role in the show
- ★ I understand that all rehearsals and shows are a school function; thus, all school policies will be strictly enforced.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please list the names of 1-2 Strong School teachers who will speak highly of your work ethic, maturity, and commitment: _____

HSM JR. APPLICATION FORM: STAGE CREW MEMBER

Name: _____

Grade: _____

Team: _____

Which crew positions are you most interested in? (circle all that apply):

Costumes (design, organize, care for)

Stage Hand (move sets during rehearsals/show)

Props (design, create, organize/manage during show)

Sound/Lights

Set Design (design, create sets)

Hair/Makeup

Programs/Concessions

Are you willing to accept any stage crew position offered? Yes No

Theatrical Experience: What crew or theatre experience do you have? What skills do you have for your desired position(s)? In what ways are you creative?

Additional note to the director: Feel free to share any other personal information that you feel is important for me to know about you.

HSM JR. STAGE CREW CONTRACT

As a member of the crew:

- ★ I agree to attend all rehearsals for which I am scheduled
- ★ I will remain at rehearsals until the rehearsal is completed or I am excused
- ★ I will bring my script and a pencil to each rehearsal
- ★ I understand that I am part of a team effort, so I must have a positive attitude, even on days when I have a million reasons to not be open-minded and willing to work.
- ★ I understand that this show requires collaboration, and I agree to contribute my ideas and energy at appropriate times.
- ★ I understand that the Director will make final choices pertaining to my position(s)
- ★ I agree to do all that I can to make rehearsals the best they can be
- ★ If I cause problems by disrupting the cast or the Director during rehearsal, I understand that I may lose my position in the show
- ★ I understand that all rehearsals and shows are a school function; thus, all school policies will be strictly enforced.

- ★ I will be careful and safe when painting and using tools
- ★ I understand that while backstage I am to remain quiet
- ★ I will be gentle with all costumes, props, and set pieces

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please list the names of 1-2 Strong School teachers who will speak highly of your work ethic, maturity, and commitment: _____

REHEARSAL CONFLICTS

Please note: Not all Tuesday/Thursday rehearsals will be mandatory for all cast members, especially in January. If you are interested in doing another Strong activity as well, ie. Ski Club, please list below. Every effort will be made so that kids can do multiple school activities. If you will only miss part of a rehearsal, then indicate that as well. I will be using the information you provide here to create a rehearsal schedule. **April rehearsals will be mandatory for all cast members.**

AFTER SCHOOL COMMITMENTS/ CONFLICTS: from 2:00-4:30

Please list conflict & time

Monday	*Tuesday*	Wednesday	*Thursday*	Friday

* Monday, Wednesday, Friday rehearsals will only occur in April *

NIGHTTIME COMMITMENTS/ CONFLICTS: from 6:00-9:00

Please list conflict & time

Monday	*Tuesday*	Wednesday	*Thursday*	Friday

***There will be select optional stage crew meetings at night, and a few night rehearsals in April**

PARENT/GUARDIAN REGISTRATION FORM

I give my child, _____, permission to be a member of the Strong School Drama Club. My child will be picked up at Strong or Cuginchaug promptly by the time listed on the rehearsal schedule.

I give my permission for medical care to be administered in the event of an emergency.

If there are any allergy/medical conditions related to your child, please list below:

I also give permission for pictures or videos of my child to be posted on Strong School related websites & social media & submitted to the Town Times. **Please Circle One: YES NO**

Please list an emergency phone number where you or an emergency contact can be reached **during rehearsals** and your email address for non-emergency information ie. rehearsal schedules & reminders.

Contact name: _____ Phone #: _____

Parent Email: _____ @ _____

Parent Agreement:

I understand the commitments required for my child to participate in *High School Musical Jr.*, including attendance at all mandatory rehearsals and performances as defined by the rehearsal schedule, and agree to support my child's involvement in this activity by ensuring that they are in attendance when necessary.

(Print Parent/Guardian Name)

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

(Date)

Please write down any ways in which you might be able to volunteer and/or any questions or concerns you may have.

Audition Scene

Scene 10: Rooftop Garden – Wednesday, 12:30pm

(Lights up on the rooftop garden, Horticulture Club headquarters. It's a hidden oasis, filled with flowers in full bloom. TROY and GABRIELLA run on.)

GABRIELLA

How crazy was that?!?

(catching her breath)

Wow, so this is your private hideout?

TROY

Thanks to the Horticulture Club. I come up here when I want to be alone.

GABRIELLA

Must be tricky being the coach's son.

TROY

He's gonna freak when he hears about the singing thing.

GABRIELLA

You're worried?

TROY

Sometimes I don't want to be "the basketball guy." I just want to be, you know, me.

GABRIELLA

I know what you mean. At my other schools I was always "the freaky math girl." I hated it.

TROY

But you can't let people stop you from doing what you want to do, right?

GABRIELLA

Remember how cool kindergarten was? You'd meet somebody, and ten minutes later you were best friends.

TROY

Yeah, they didn't care if you could shoot hoops or solve equations.

GABRIELLA

Right. So you really want to do the callbacks?

TROY

Hey, just call me "freaky callback boy."

GABRIELLA

Thanks for showing me your top-secret hiding place. Just like kindergarten.

TROY

Be your best friend.

(TROY and GABRIELLA smile tentatively. Lights fade.)

