

EDUCATION & EXPECTATIONS

At POPs, we believe in creating a place for children to discover and embrace their unique gifts while becoming the best version of themselves through the process of musical theater. We are dedicated to making it a safe place for students to be themselves while taking risks. We always say, "If it's wrong, make it strong," because every failure propels us forward to success and we will be there for our students when they need that reminder. Other core values we are dedicated to teaching are accountability, compassion, hard work, humility, collaboration, teamwork, the golden rule, the power of positive self-talk, gratitude, and **resilience**. And hey, it just so happens that we put on a professional production while we're at it. All this takes a village. We ask that you read and abide by the below expectations to ensure a successful, safe, and most importantly FUN process.

The musical theater process is not for the faint of heart or for those who aren't interested in building resilience. The rewards are profound but so are the life lessons. We are here for you and ask you trust that we are here to serve your children which doesn't always look the same as pleasing them.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM US:

- Lots of love and educational tools on helping young people navigate challenges, obstacles, disappointment, and success.
- Provide language and lessons that promotes compassion, positive thinking, solution-oriented mindset, hard work, and the glass is half full perspective.
- A nurturing, organized, and safe learning environment.
- Provide parents with materials being taught at POPs.
- Professional directors in story, song, and dance.
- To cast shows that will best serve the entire cast. Team before I.
- Professional educators and directors in their field that are vision holders of POPs mission.
- Hold a space for peer compassion and upholding the golden rule.
- Lessons and tools in how to be in a show like creating a cue sheet, how to write blocking in their script, character development, and more.
- Provide learning tools, sheet music via Dropbox, edited script via Dropbox, recorded harmonies/melodies of songs via Dropbox, and dance rehearsal videos via Dropbox.
- Hold students to a standard of excellence while embracing their journey.
- Excellence in email communications.
- Audition feedback and parent support.

WHAT WE WON'T DO

- Explain our casting decisions or change casting after it's been posted.
- Talk about your child with anyone or other children with you.
- Cast actors in lead/supporting lead roles based upon the number of shows they've done, monies donated, or referrals to other students.
- Cast them in a lead, supporting lead, or ensemble role with a history of poor attendance, negative attitudes, and displays of entitlement.
- Tolerate bullying, gossiping, or cyber bullying of any kind.

- Cast actors in leads simply because they have amazing vocals.
- Cast an actor in a lead role because a parent or student “thinks it’s time.”
- Cast an actor in a similar role or character because they’re friend has been cast as that.
- Condone or support expressions of entitlement through students or their parents.

CAST MEMBER BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

- ✓ **Leave every person and place better than you found them.**
- ✓ Treat others the way you want to be treated.
- ✓ Give, receive, and allow authentic creative expression.
- ✓ Display the highest standards of respect for self and others.
- ✓ Ask for what you need.
- ✓ Only speak positively about fellow cast members via social media, text, or in person. Bullying of any kind will not be tolerated and will immediately invite parent conferences for change.
- ✓ Pay attention and respectfully follow classroom rules.
- ✓ Be prepared – know your lines, choreography, staging and be off-book when required.
- ✓ No excessive talking and disruptive behavior. This is disrespectful to your instructors and fellow cast members and impedes the learning and rehearsal experience for all.
- ✓ There is no talking about other students or whispering to each other during rehearsals. We are a team that supports each other 100%. This enables everyone to be their most creative self.
- ✓ No exploring. Do not leave the rehearsal/theatre premises without supervision or permission. You must wait inside for your ride to pick you up.
- ✓ Clean up after yourself. We must take care of the space that we rent for rehearsals.
- ✓ There is no eating or drinking in costume – bring a large t-shirt to wear over your costume during tech week dinners.
- ✓ You must inform your instructor of any illness or injury before rehearsals begin or if they occur during rehearsal.

EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS

- ✓ Please be strong for your child and their rock when cast lists come out. There are so many factors that go into casting and each cast is decided with extreme care by multiple people who are dedicated to every child contributing to the whole.
- ✓ Unless you are a part of that process, know the technical needs of each role, the journey of each child, and the vision of each role cast then please do not make assumptions and make a judgement based upon the disappointment of your child. Refer back to the joy of closing night of the last production and the reason they wanted to do this show.

- ✓ Display support for your child and other cast members in the role that they have earned at all rehearsals and at all performances.
- ✓ Do not criticize other POPS cast members, teachers, staff or volunteers at any POPS rehearsal or performance. If you have a concern, please contact Julia Mirkovich (info@puttinonproductions.com) directly and discreetly.
- ✓ Help your child to abide by all the Cast Member Expectations set forth above by setting a positive example for him/her to follow, getting your child to rehearsal and tech week on time, fulfilling your financial obligations on time and fulfilling your volunteer responsibilities.

By signing this agreement below we trust that you understand our promise and your promise to us to abide by our expectations.

Parent Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____

Student Name: _____ Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please add any notes that you would like us to know (if any) about your child: