



January 24-25, 2025

Welcome to the Caledonia Kids Theatre family!

Congratulations on your student's audition into the cast of *Beauty and the Beast Jr!* We had the privilege of observing many gifted and talented individuals this year, making the casting process very difficult. Despite this, we are so excited that your child has chosen to be part of Caledonia Kids Theatre. We believe that theatre is a cornerstone for community, laying the foundation for new friendships, self-confidence and a desire to share artistic gifts with others.

For years, we have received compliments on how well we cast our performers. Regardless of who you are or your role, you will have fun and learn from this experience! Furthermore, we expect students to work hard throughout the season. We believe everyone is equally important to the success of this production, no matter their role. The musical would not be the musical without a chorus nor would it be without the lead roles.

General Rules:

- Each cast member and parent are required to sign and return the cast contract. It can be found on our website, www.caledoniayouththeatre.org. In addition to the contract, we follow the expectations and policies of Caledonia Community Schools. Being in theatre is a privilege and secondary to your education.
- We expect you to maintain passing grades in all of your classes and have acceptable attendance.
- If your child decides that theatre is not for them, you can receive a refund up to 2 weeks after our start (October 18). **After that, no participation fees will be refunded. You must send an email to caledoniatheatrestaff@gmail.com confirming you are no longer participating and contact the Resource Center for a refund.**

Rehearsal Expectations:

- In this theatre program, everyone is treated fairly and with respect. If we hear of any cast member belittling one another, it will be addressed immediately. Should the problem continue, he or she will be removed from the program. Our motto is “save the drama for theatre” and we would like to keep all of ours on the stage.
- We expect students to attend their assigned rehearsals. A revised calendar will be sent via email. The calendar has a breakdown of chorus and lead rehearsals as well as location and times. Primary lead roles are expected to attend all rehearsals. We will not tolerate students leaving rehearsal without permission.
- If you plan to be absent for an illness or any other reason, it is the parent’s responsibility to email the producer at caledoniathreatrestaff@gmail.com. While we do our best to stick to the rehearsal schedule, some dates and times may need adjustment. We will do our best to give enough notice of any change.

Rehearsal outline:

- For the first few weeks we will focus on music with. A music link will be emailed. Please begin listening to the music immediately and daily!
- Our general rehearsal schedule will be to work with our 5th and 6th grade performers from 2:45pm-4pm until our elementary students join us at 4pm. We then will work on full company singing, dancing, blocking, etc.
- Each cast member will also receive a script. The script should come to every rehearsal. In the event you misplace your script, a new one will be issued to you for \$10. Students with lines are expected to do most of their rehearsing and memorizing at home. Reading and rehearsing with family members is a helpful way to memorize lines. Please help when you can. We will be “off book” by the end of Christmas break.
- After the first few weeks, we will introduce choreography and blocking.

Other requirements:

- Each student is responsible to provide portions of their own costume. We do not expect families to spend too much money or time creating their costume. Please utilize second hand stores (Goodwill, Salvation Army, etc). If you are unable to provide what is asked of you in the costume letter, please contact us immediately.
- Emails will be sent home weekly to the email address provided when registering through the Resource Center. Please let us know ASAP if you have not received an email by next week. Also, if you would like a second email added for communication, please inform the producer of that as well. The calendar will be emailed as well as other important information.

Calling all volunteers!:

It takes a lot of manpower to make this production a success. There are several areas where we are looking to fill volunteer and coordinator positions. For example, we have one day designated to building our set:

-Saturday January 11 & January 18

We will add time in our weekly rehearsal schedule for parent help if more work is needed in addition to our set scenery day.

If you are strong and have power tools, please feel free to join us! If you can paint and create, we would love you there! If you are not handy or creative at all, we would still love you there! Stay tuned to our emails for more information!

There will also be sign up links sent out closer to our performances with opportunities to volunteer on performance days as well as food donations. If every parent will sign up for at least one volunteer spot, we will be set! Please look for these sign-up opportunities and volunteer where you can help us put on this amazing performance.

Final notes:

We believe it is important for kids to participate in and be formed by multiple types of activities. Our rehearsal schedule is built to allow students to participate in other activities as well.

We are flexible with our cast when it comes to other activities. However, if your child is in another sport or activity, we expect this commitment communicated with their coach and make plans to attend both practices. We also expect this communicated with us.

All rehearsals are mandatory after Christmas break! All cast members are expected to report to every rehearsal after Christmas break! **No exceptions.** There are several elements that go into our final preparations for the show, including microphones, lighting, props, costumes and changes in blocking due to scenery.

Thank you again for allowing your student to be a part of the Caledonia Middle School Theatre Program. We look forward to the next couple of months and are excited to bring you an amazing performance.

Sincerely,

Lorna Hullinger, Amy Spees, Monique Brennan & Mallory Waayenberg