



CENTURY HIGH SCHOOL
2525 Viola Road NE
Rochester, MN 55904

September 2014

Dear Student and Parent/Guardian,

This fall Century High School's Panther Playhouse will present the play, ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** by William Shakespeare on November 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th. Participation in a theatrical production requires time, commitment, and dedication for students and their families.

In anticipation of this commitment, I want all students and their parents/guardians to read and understand the expectations involved with the play, ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** at Century High School. Participants in the theatre program follow the guidelines established by the Minnesota State High School League for chemical, alcohol, and tobacco awareness for sports and fine arts.

Most rehearsals will be after school from 3:15 - 5:30. There are a few exceptions. A complete rehearsal schedule will be handed out on September 19th, the first day of rehearsals.

After that day, the number of rehearsals a student will have to attend will depend upon the size of the role that he or she has in the production. The last few weeks the amount of rehearsals that all students need to be at will increase as we will begin doing complete runs of scenes and acts. Typically, rehearsals run later the last two weeks before we have our performances. **Please note that we will not rehearse during the MEA break, but will have rehearsal on Friday, November 8th, a day when students do not have school and Saturday, November 9th. All cast members are required to be at those rehearsals.** Those rehearsals will give us a special time to rehearse when we have not gone through the school day.

Attendance at rehearsals is required. If a student must miss a rehearsal, I must be notified as soon as possible. Please contact me through my e-mail, deroberge@rochester.k12.mn.us. If there is no notification, a student may be removed from the show. Absences from rehearsals the last two weeks before performances will not be permitted.

There is an activity fee for student participation in fine arts required by the district. Students pay the activity fee on line; the cost is \$100.00. The activity fee would not cover personal student costs. These costs may include but are not limited to: make-up kits, shoes, hair spray, and lotion. We try to minimize costs for students and their families but we do not cover costs for personal items as listed above. **A student is never eliminated from participation because of an inability to cover the costs of the activity fee and/or personal item costs.**

The audience is the final component of any show. Without our audiences we are incomplete. Likewise, we are dependent upon revenue from ticket sales to fund our productions. We will need parents and cast members to "sell the show" to relatives, friends and acquaintances. **Each cast member will be given 20 tickets to sell for the performances.** Tickets will also be available at the door. The Panther Playhouse has an excellent reputation, and audience members leave productions amazed at the quality of theatre produced at the high school level.

The audition packet should be reviewed by both the student and his/her parent or guardian prior to auditioning, then both need to sign the audition sheet. Please contact me at my e-mail address, deroberge@rochester.k12.mn.us with any concerns you may have.

Sincerely,
Deborah Roberge
Director

Theatre Expectations

1. Students should be at all required rehearsals for the length of time that is on the schedule. Work, whether employment or “tons of homework” is not accepted as an excuse to miss or leave rehearsal early. Likewise, any other club or school activity will have to be second to play rehearsal. In cases of illness, please e-mail Mrs. Roberge at deroberge@rochester.k12.mn.us. Excessive absences from rehearsal for any reason could result in removal from the show.
2. All cast members are required to be at set strike. It will take place immediately after our last performance. Failure to help at set strike could result in forfeiture of lettering requirements.
3. Anyone who auditions does so with the understanding that he/she is making progress towards graduation. Anyone with grades lower than a “C” will have to get approval from his/her grade administrator in order to be cast in the show.
4. The play should not be used as an excuse to fail to do well in your classes or miss school. With careful planning of time one can give the needed attention to course work. If a student is not needed on stage, he/she is expected to work on homework first, then lines, then use of a cell phone is permitted.
5. An actor should only come to the rehearsals where he/she is needed. Play rehearsals will not be used for socializing.
6. When a student auditions for a play he/she does so with the understanding that they have the time commitment necessary for rehearsals and preparation work needed to be completed between rehearsals. “Dead-lines” for memorization of lines, songs, dances and any other actor assignments is faithfully observed. Maximum use of rehearsal time can be made only if actors treat memorization and character study as individual work that should be done between rehearsals.
7. Any student who is in noncompliance with the Minnesota State High School League regulations for chemical, alcohol, and tobacco awareness will be removed from the show. Because we do not have a multi-week season of performances we do not have the option of first, second infractions for consequences.
8. Rehearsals are a process to pull a production together for public performance. Specific instances of what happens in rehearsal should not be discussed with people outside of the play. Others may misinterpret what is said and poor publicity may result. If asked how the show is going, simply say “Fine” or “Great”. It is for this reason that rehearsals are closed unless permission is given by the director.
9. Minnesota health department requires that each actor have his/her own makeup. It may not be shared. Each student is required to purchase a make-up kit if he/she does not have one.

10. Remember a “walk-on” is just as important as a lead. Likewise our productions would not be as enjoyable without our crew members. Acting is a group art; every contribution is important to the success of the play. Students will be respectful of others at all times.
11. Food and drink will be consumed in the cafeteria only. Students are encouraged to have a nutritious snack before rehearsal begins. Students may have water in the auditorium.
12. No one is allowed on the catwalk, the orchestra pit, or the light booth without permission of one of the directors. This rule includes the spiral staircase. Students must stay out of these areas for their own and the safety of others.
13. **HAVE FUN!! BEING INVOLVED IN YOU HIGHSCHOOL’S THEATRE PROGRAM CAN BE A REWARDING AND MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE!!!**



Audition Sheet

PLEASE PLACE A
CURRENT PHOTO OF
YOURSELF HERE!!

We have read & understand the “Expectations for Century High School Theatre Participation” for the fall play, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, and give our Student _____ permission to be involved.
(Student name as you wish for it to be in the program-please print. Parent signature Below serves as permission for name to be listed in the program in this way.)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Signature

Parent Name: _____ Home Or Work Phone #: _____

Address: _____ Cell #: _____

city zip code Parent email: _____

Circle year in school: 9th grade, 10th grade, 11th grade, or 12th grade

If you received a grade below C or an incomplete last grading period please explain why on the back of this page. I will have to get approval from an administrator to cast you in the show.

Height _____

Please check the size of role preference:

Lead or supporting role _____ Supporting role only _____

Please list any acting, speaking, or performance experience below. List the name of the show and the character you portrayed. If you have an abundance of experience, just list the last two years. Also please list if you have any objections for certain roles (i.e. kissing, physical movement, etc.)

Name of Show _____ Role Portrayed

Please check calendars carefully. List any preset rehearsal conflicts on the back. Ongoing conflicts are unacceptable. (i.e., piano lessons every Tuesday @ 4:00 PM) **Please note we will have rehearsal on Friday, November 7th, a day when students do not have school.**

A Midsummer Night's Dream
By William Shakespeare

Here is some information you need to know if you are auditioning for Century High School's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

- CAST: 22+ 9 girls 11 boys many parts may be played by either gender
- Auditions will be held in the auditorium on September 17th and 18st from 3:15 to 5:15 PM. Please be on time. You may audition on either day, but will be expected to remain the entire time. Please remember no food or drinks are allowed in the auditorium.
- The cast list will be posted on Google classroom *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as soon as possible, usually by the evening of September 18th.
- Rehearsals will begin on Thursday, September 19th. **All cast members are required to be there. Please adjust appointments, work commitments, or other obligations.**
- In addition, I will go over the theatre expectations so that there are no misunderstandings. We will play a few get acquainted activities, scripts and rehearsal schedules will be handed out and then we will have a read through with the entire cast.
- There is an activity fee of \$100.00. **You must register on line and pay the fee before you audition. Students on free and reduced lunch have the activity fee waived.** A rehearsal schedule will be handed out on that day. Please note that absences the last two weeks of the rehearsal period are not acceptable. **We will not rehearse during MEA break, but you will have a required rehearsal on Friday, November 8th & Saturday, November 9th in the afternoon. That is a day that you don't have school. No one is allowed to miss those rehearsals.**
- Here is a link to a script of the play: <https://www.folgerdigitaltexts.org/html/MND.html> Some students find it helpful to buy *No Fear Shakespeare* version of the play.

AUDITIONS

For auditions, please memorize a recipe directions. At the auditions, you will draw an emotion or an attitude. You will be given a few moments to practice your recipe using that emotion. For example, directions to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich as though you are very angry. After everyone has performed their recipes, I will put you in groups and assign a scene to your group. Your group will go off and practice, then come back and present the scene. After everyone has done that, you will be given an opportunity to read a different part if you wish. I don't want you leaving auditions feeling like you have been slighted in any way. Please don't worry about reading from the script without much practice that is why we rehearse for six weeks. When you read from the script, I want to hear your voice saying a certain character's words.

AUDITION TIPS

1. Be familiar with your reading, a good tie breaker is the person who appears the most prepared.
2. Sell yourself with enthusiasm and energy.
3. Eat a good lunch. A nervous stomach does better when it is full rather than empty.

4. Don't disturb the director during auditions, it breaks her concentration.
5. Have your audition sheet filled out completely, honestly, and signed by your parent/guardian. **Please know all conflicts and list them on your sheet.**
6. Be prepared to be at auditions for the entire period, however, you are only asked to come on one day. You may attend both days if you wish.
7. Have a neat appearance. Long hair and bangs should be away from your face. Hats are not worn during auditions or rehearsals. Wear clean, comfortable, neat clothing.
8. Have fun!! Be a good listener when others are auditioning!!

Here is a link to the story synopsis. It's too long to add it here.

<https://www.sparknotes.com/shakespeare/msnd/summary/>