

Pioneer Heritage Middle School
Theatre Department

Anton Bucher, Director
Nichole Aryanpur, Director
Kate Wilson, P3 Booster Club President

IJTS Troupe
#88733

PHMS Panther Players

Theatre Handbook

2011—2012

Bringing Students into the Spotlight

School Information

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Preface

This Theatre Handbook is essential! It is written to meet the needs of our theatre program at PHMS. You need to have one place where all the information for the coming year is located. You now hold in your hands ONE place to find the rehearsal schedule, policies, and productions that we will be doing through out the course of this school year, 2011-2012. This is powerful stuff! Use it wisely!

Our Theatre Program at PHMS is in a unique situation.

The other performing Fine Arts at the school - Orchestra, Choir, and Band - are tied to the *classes* being taught during the day in school. The child in the Brass Instruments course that is held third period is also part of the Concert Band - and they have regular concerts that are performed at the school, as well as their UIL events and competitions that are held throughout the year. If your child is in Band, you KNOW that they will be in certain performances, events, etc. The same goes for the folks who have children in Orchestra or Choir.

Theatre is NOT like this. Your child may not be cast in the current play that is in production. In the winter, UIL Theatre rules limit productions to 20 students *total*. Last year, I wrote - "I could not get more students involved if I desired." I then found a way around that, and actually had more than the 20 students involved ... BUT that is limited to the ReACTion class, and I can talk to you about that more somewhere else. CONTINUING - Some students are in Theatre to NOT be on the stage - they enjoy the crew work, being backstage, and being part of something larger than them. But Mom and Dad will never actually see them perform. One year, one of my student drama club officers was not able to be involved in a major production because of outside commitments, but her mother was at almost every rehearsal helping out! On the other hand, I can't tell you how often I have had a student in a production that is *not* in my class at all!

That is a unique situation. That's the difficulty I have had in trying to get this Handbook put together. All of the fine examples that I have been given by my fellow teachers talk about the classes and shows. Some of you reading this may have children *only* in the shows, while others have children *only* in class.

SO ... please peruse this Handbook, but keep in mind that I am attempting to reach the greatest audience possible! Know that ALL parents are VERY important to the program - both classes and production. Theater is going to stretch your students in ways that only the Fine Arts can. Imagine the education that is happening for the student who is involved in a Shakespeare production while in sixth grade, or in a classic musical like *The Pirates of*

Penzance (the 2006 Spring Musical), or studying Theatre History in class, or enjoying the jokes of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

This year, 2011-2012, is exciting. I have called this our *Getting into the Spotlight* at PHMS. My goal is to get more students on the stage this year than ever before. And the context will be different. Instead of after-school rehearsals (for the first semester), every theatre class will be responsible for putting on *their own show*. That's right - there will be a class show for each class, even for theatre I classes. The downside - a student has to be actually IN a theatre class in order to be on the stage. BUT ... we have a way around that too! Mrs. Aryanpur, along with the Thespian Club officers, will be running the drama club this year - and that will be open to everyone, and will be the focus of a lot of acting workshops and field trips. And then in the Spring ... the musical ... As of this writing, the boosters and I are trying to decide between two different shows. Either way, this is going to be the show that will be open to all the students on campus, whether you are in theatre or not! We will hopefully know soon, so I can make the announcement ... stay tuned!

Thanks for your time and effort. And we will be needing your effort. The shows here at PHMS only succeed due to the great parents that we have here, and their involvement in the shows. It is greatly appreciated. I know that YOUR child will be blessed because of the time that you invest in their theatre career. I will as well.

Anton Bucher
Theatre Director, PHMS
Director, International Junior Thespian Society, Troupe #88733

And for

Nichole Aryanpur
Theatre Teacher, PHMS

From the Booster Club President:

We would like to welcome you to Pioneer Heritage Middle School Theatre! We are so excited that your child is interested in our amazing theatre program! PHMS Theatre has a reputation of being a step above a typical middle school theatre. Our director, Anton Bucher, has the experience and the vision to put on shows that are usually reserved for high school level and above. Frisco Style magazine recently showcased Mr. Bucher in an article. We also have the addition of Nichole Aryanpur. Nichole's talent and experience as a teacher/director will be another creative asset to our theatre this year!

We are planning a very exciting year of theatre! All theatre students can audition and participate in a show! We have many backstage jobs for kids as well like stage managers, techs, set design, props and costumes, ushers, concessions, ticket sales, etc. Mr. Bucher makes it his goal each year to allow each and every student to "shine". It is a truly rewarding experience for all involved.

Along with student involvement there also is a GREAT need for parent involvement. It takes a great deal of backstage help to put on these incredible shows. Pioneer Panther Players Parents (P3) is our parent organization. We need P3 volunteers for: our ticket sales team, our food/concession team and set design and building. We also require at least 2 parent volunteers backstage at every dress rehearsal and at every show. These parents are called "wranglers". You can imagine how excited the kids get backstage. Also if you have a special talent and would like to contribute (painting/set design, photography, sewing, videography), we are in need of volunteers in these areas as well.

Participation in PHMS Theatre this year promises to be a truly rewarding experience for your child as well as for you. There is something to be said about being there to witness the "magic" of theatre first hand. You will be amazed at what your kids are capable of after a year at PHMS Theatre! You will also make some fantastic friends and memories with your kids along the way!

Please contact me or our Secretary and Volunteer Coordinator, Cheri Palsson if you would like to join P3! Cheri: cheri@remcrealty.com

Sincerely,
Kate Wilson
P3 President 2011/2012
(214)505-0028
Kate.p3booster@gmail.com

The Legal Page

This page give examples of the two forms we will be using that cover the legal issues that we have in doing theatre. Each student will fill this out at the start of the school year in class, as well as in every production:



Media Release Permission Form

I give Frisco ISD my permission and consent to photograph (by video photography or still photography and with or without sound track) the image, voice, and name of my child for use in media products (including Frisco cable channel 17, district and/or campus web page) and to use such images and recorded sounds in the context of educational enhancement, media competitions, and reward for a job well-done.

Sample

Student Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____

The other legal issue is parent volunteers. We would like to have all parent volunteers vetted through the background check that FISD requires. This will allow you to help us out, no matter what situation arises – like coming on a field trip, or helping sort out costumes.

Below is a portion of what you will see on the website:

Pursuant to Texas Education Code Section 22.083-22.086 Texas public school districts may obtain criminal history records on any volunteers. I hereby am informed and understand that this school district shall obtain criminal history record information.

I understand that I may be disqualified from volunteering with this school district if I have been convicted of a felony or any offense involving moral turpitude or for not disclosing any conviction.

I understand that this criminal history record search may include local, state and national law enforcement agency records and hereby expressly release any law enforcement agency, record holder or individual from any and all liability for releasing any and all information these agencies or individuals may provide. If there is a need for further clarification of my identity, I agree to provide additional information including but not limited to, photographs and fingerprints.

I confirm that I have been informed that under the Fair Credit Reporting Act I may review and confirm any negative criminal history data that has been deemed to adversely impact the decision to offer employment. I understand I will be provided the name, address, and telephone number of the reporting agency as well as the nature and substance of the criminal record information and the source. The review and confirmation must be obtained from the providing agency.

The volunteer application link can be found on the district website or the PHMS website.

Proper Etiquette Sheet:

Being a member of an acting company

(Please Keep for Reference)

BEFORE YOU CHOOSE TO BE PART A PANTHER PLAYER PRODUCTION, YOU NEED TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

PROFESSIONAL ATTITUDE FOR CAST AND CREW

- * Check the callboard daily.
- * Attend all calls for rehearsal and crew.
- * Rehearsals and crew calls are **never** missed without prior permission.
- * Check the Show Schedule and clear all dates indicated.
- * Any absence must be cleared **in advance** with the director. (This means *asking* if it is okay to miss – not telling the director that you are going to be gone.)
- * Absences due to illness or other serious emergencies will be excused if you notify the director the day of the absence or bring a parent note the returning day.
- * Two unexcused absences or four tardies **may** result in automatic dismissal from the company.
- * All line deadlines are to be strictly honored.
- * All cast and crewmembers will assist in building of the set and the collection/making of props.
- * All cast and crewmembers will assist in the strike at the conclusion of the run.
- * All cast and crewmembers are responsible for the maintenance of the auditorium, shop, storage areas, and dressing rooms and for cleaning up after themselves and returning equipment/tools/supplies to their proper place.
- * Conversation backstage, either in rehearsal or performance, should be restricted to matters concerning the production. Repetitive requests to be quiet will result in you being sent home from rehearsal and/or removed from the show permanently.

YOU AND YOUR APPEARANCE

- * Actors, please check with your director before any haircuts, dye jobs, tanning etc. that will change even minutely the look with which you auditioned and were offered the role.
- * Actors, be open to discuss with your director changes that may be necessary to better physically characterize your role. This may include a different hairstyle and or color; using a self-tanning lotion; remaining out of the sun to keep skin natural in color; an exercise regime, etc.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

*When a student is involved in a production, whether cast or crew, their parents or guardians are agreeing to volunteer for **at least** two rehearsal or production dates. This can mean anything from helping out backstage at a performance to crowd control during rehearsals. PLEASE BE AWARE THAT WHEN YOUR CHILD IS CAST, YOU HAVE BEEN TOO! OUR PRODUCTIONS ARE DEPENDENT ON PARENT HELP!

Sample Play

Contract

We are going to use a system of demerits to keep track of the cast. With such a large group, it is even more important to be able to count on responsible behavior for success and safety. If you accumulate a total of ten demerits, you will be removed from the production.

Demerits will be given for the following reasons:

- Absence without notice 5 demerits each rehearsal
- No script, no pencil 1 demerit each rehearsal
- Gum 1 demerit each rehearsal
- Inappropriate rehearsal attire 1 demerit each rehearsal
- Horsing around, bad language or behavior 1 demerit each time corrected
- Cellphone distraction during rehearsal 1 demerit each time corrected
- Using script after deadline 2 demerits each rehearsal
- Unexcused tardy 2 demerits each rehearsal
- Late pick-up 2 demerits each rehearsal
- Failure to clean-up after yourself 2 demerits each rehearsal
 - Costumes, food, prop, etc.
- OTHER issues may be added as deemed appropriate by the director

It is the responsibility of the student to contact the director if they will be absent. If a student is sick, please call or email me before 3:00pm.

Mr. Bucher: 469-633-4795

buchera@friscoisd.org

A rehearsal schedule was given with this contract. Please take note of the times of each rehearsal. It is imperative that cast and crew members show up on time and leave at the appropriate time. (Directors and students are equally busy and need to get home.)

Students need their scripts, pencils and highlighters in order to be successful! Please be off-book by the deadline and do not lose your script.

Costumes, set pieces and props are expensive! Please respect both our property and your own so that we can have a great show!

More information will be coming home soon with your student. Please feel free to contact me if you ever have any questions. Thanks for your continued support of PHMS Theatre!

I have read the rules with my parents and understand the expectations. I understand the accumulation of 10 demerits will result in my removal from the cast/crew.

Student Signature

Sample

Parent Signature _____

Date: _____

Week #	Week of:	Date Notes	Theatre I	Theatre II/III	ReACTION
Week 1	8/22		Introduction	Introduction	Introduction
Week 2	8/29	(1) Parent Meet	Theatre Basics	Theatre Basics	LypSync
Week 3	9/5	(5) No School ; (9)LypSync	Pantomime	Musical Writing	Musical Writing
Week 4	9/12		Improv	Musical Writing	Musical Writing
Week 5	9/19		Improv	Musical Writing	Antigone/Cyrano
Week 6	9/26		Hamlet	Improv	King And I/Othello
Week 7	10/3		IBE	Hamlet	Hamlet/Auditions
Week 8	10/10	(10) No School; (13) FT - Hamlet	IBE	Hamlet	GGMBM
Week 9	10/17		Musical Madness!	Winter Show/Writing	GGMBM
Week 10	10/24		Musical Madness!	Winter Show/Writing	GGMBM
Week 11	10/31		Musical Madness!	Winter Show/Producing	GGMBM
Week 12	11/7	Heck Week - GGMBM	Musical Madness!	Winter Show/Producing	Perform! GGMBM
Week 13	11/14		Musical Madness!	Winter Show/Producing	R&G
Week 14	11/21	Thanksgiving Break			
Week 15	11/28	(29&30) Theatre I Show	Perform!	Winter Show/Rehearse	OAP
Week 16	12/5	(5) Winter Show; (8) FT - SITR	Wizard of OZ	Winter Show/Perform	OAP
Week 17	12/12	(15) FT - Wizard of Oz	Wizard of OZ	Wizard of OZ	OAP
Week 18	12/19	Winter Break Week 1			
Week 19	12/26	Winter Break Week 2			
Week 20	1/2		Improv	Improv	OAP
Week 21	1/9		Improv	Improv	OAP
Week 22	1/16	(16) No School	Duet Scene	Monologue/Auditioning	OAP
Week 23	1/23		Duet Scene	Monologue/Auditioning	OAP
Week 24	1/30	(1&3) Denton OAP	OAP	OAP	OAP
Week 25	2/6	(8&9) Frisco OAP	Children's Theatre	Children's Theatre	OAP
Week 26	2/13		Children's Theatre	Children's Theatre	Children's Theatre
Week 27	2/20	(20) No School	Children's Theatre	Children's Theatre	Children's Theatre
Week 28	2/27		Stage Combat	Stage Combat	Children's Theatre
Week 29	3/5		Stage Combat	Stage Combat	Children's Theatre
Week 30	3/12	Spring Break			
Week 31	3/19		Theatre Tech - Overview	Theatre Tech - Overview	Musical Prep
Week 32	3/26	STAAR 7&8 gr	Theatre Tech - Set Design	Theatre Tech - Set Design	Musical Prep
Week 33	4/2	(6) Bad Weather Make-up	Theatre Tech - Costume	Theatre Tech - Costume	Musical Prep
Week 34	4/9		Theatre Tech - Make up	Theatre Tech - Make up	Musical Prep
Week 35	4/16		Theatre Tech - Electrical	Theatre Tech - Electrical	Musical Prep
Week 36	4/23	STAAR week	Theatre Tech - Final	Theatre Tech - Final	Musical Prep
Week 37	4/30	(30) No School	Musical Prep	Musical Prep	Musical Prep
Week 38	5/7	Musical Heck Week	Musical Prep	Musical Prep	Musical Prep
Week 39	5/14	Musical Heck Week 2	Final Project	Final Project	Final Project
Week 40	5/21	(25) Bad Weather Make-up	Final Project	Final Project	Final Project
Week 41	5/28	(28) No School	Last Week of School	Last Week of School	Last Week of School