

Drama Club Handbook 2021 - 2022



Welcome

Mr. Buvala, Mr. Makropoulos, Mrs. Schuller, Mr. Turlakes and I are excited to announce that we will be performing the classic musical Dr. Dolittle, JR.

There are a few important facts and dates for everyone to know. Please be aware of them.

1.) There are two days for auditions. The first day is for acting auditions and the second day is for vocal auditions. It is expected that students attend both days.

2.) We will be performing at Stagg High School. Stagg has a beautiful state of the art theatre and they are wonderful hosts to all of us. We have our first practice there on Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, Monday, January 17, 2022. Please plan accordingly.

3.) There will be a parent meeting to answer any questions about the musical and drama club. We would also like to gather some parent participation and support. As every year, the drama club is successful because of the wonderful dedication of the students and parents. We could not put any of this together without your assistance. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 26 at 4:00PM. This is directly after an all cast rehearsal. The kids can stay for it also, so that they are aware of what we need from them.

4.) I want to accommodate all students to get as many participants in the play as possible. If you do not get a part, as they are limited, please come to stage crew, or any of the other crews. As many students will tell you, those crews make the production such a resounding success. It's also a ton of fun!

Mr. Buvala will be charge of art direction and set production. Mr. Makropoulos will be in charge of sound and lighting. Mrs. Schuller will be in charge of vocals. Mr. Turlakes will be the assistant director. We have high expectations for all those who participate in drama. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please email me.

Break a leg,
Mr. Graham

kgraham@palos118.org

Dr. Dolittle Auditions

Auditions for the Dr. Dolittle play will be held Wednesday, October 20th and Thursday, October 21st from 2:40 - 3:45 PM. The reason that we have two auditions is so that I may see you sing and act. **It is imperative that you attend both auditions.** If you need to leave early or come late, you need to see me to make arrangements. The after-school activity bus will be able to take you home on these dates.

The parts available in the play are:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Doctor John Dolittle: A country doctor• Madeline Mugg: Dolittle's Irish friend and animal lover• Tommy Stubbins: a 10-year old local boy• General Bellows: a local landowner and magistrate (judge)• Emma Fairfax: General Bellows' niece• Albert Blossom: A circus owner• Gertie Blossom: Albert Blossom's wife• Berta, Vladimir, Mavis: Circus folk• Straight Arrow: Dolittle's colleague on Sea Star Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bailiff: officer of the court• Polynesia: a parrot• Herbert: a hedgehog• Jip: a dog• Dab-Dab: a duck• Toggle: a horse• Sheila: a fox• Pushmi-Pullyu: a two-headed llama• Rufus: a dog• Chee-Chee: a monkey• Sophie: a seal• Villagers of Puddleby-On-The-Marsh/Sea Star Island Warriors/ Circus Folk
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*Ensemble - This is a theatrical term for a chorus member. This means that you are part of a group who act as backup singers and dancers. This is not to say there aren't individual lines for those roles, it just means that you are a part of a group and may not have a character name. It is possible that some parts designed for a male actor could be played by a female and vice versa. Changes to scripts/names will be made after casting occurs if necessary. This is a large cast; everyone will be spending quite a bit of time on stage!

Auditions FAQ

What can I expect?

In the auditioning process, it's a lot of hurry up and wait. When you come to auditions on the first day, you will sign-in, and grab a number. Please hold on to all of your paperwork, and take a seat. I (Mr. Graham) will welcome you into the theatre and tell you what you can expect for auditions. You will receive a cold-read sheet and be given 10 - 15 minutes to read over the lines, choose a role that you wish to audition for, and practice the lines. I will then begin to call up students by number, and you will have the opportunity to read the lines to me. The audition song will be "America the Beautiful". It will be posted to the main Schoology page before auditions. You have the opportunity to rehearse the song before the Thursday audition. Line-auditions will be Wednesday and vocal (singing) auditions will be Thursday. **YOU MUST BE AT BOTH.**

Any tips for me?

Absolutely. I have two. First, every moment that you are down in the little theatre, you are auditioning. No, you may not be directly in front of me and auditioning your lines, but the way you communicate with others and the way you behave will all go into consideration for roles. Since all actors, staff, and crew members work closely together, it is important that you conduct yourself in a mature and friendly manner to all those around you. Second, when you are actually in front of me reading your lines or singing give it your all. Don't hold back. Become the character you are auditioning for and don't be afraid! These auditions are long, and some of the rehearsals are too.

Can I bring a snack?

Of course you can bring a snack. Right after school, you must come to the little theatre, sign-in (so we know that you are here), go upstairs to the cafeteria, and then you can have your snack. Unfortunately, we cannot eat in the little theatre, because it attracts unwanted insects. What do I do with all of the paperwork? Please hold on to all of the paperwork until Tuesday. When you come up to audition, your paperwork will be taken from you then. Please come prepared with all of your paperwork filled in and signed. This shows that you are responsible for completing tasks!

Cast Rehearsal Schedule

The rehearsal schedule is extremely important to the success of our production. Therefore, students are required to attend **ALL** rehearsals that their character requires. *There will be exceptions made for students who are absent due to illness.* If a student has a commitment that was scheduled before receiving the handbook, then they should see Mr. Graham immediately so we can decide if we can work around the scheduling conflict. I want as many students to be able to be part of this experience who want to participate, but each student needs to be able to attend enough rehearsals so that our time is used wisely. Drama is a commitment.

- Students will not be able to participate in other South extracurricular activities that conflict with the drama rehearsal dates.
- Students who miss a rehearsal will receive a warning the first time and will be asked to remove themselves from the cast if a second incident occurs.
- Punctuality is also an important factor regarding the success of a performance. We have a limited amount of time to learn the material, so we need to make good use of the time that we do have. If rehearsals do not begin on time due to a cast member being late, please note that we may run late for that rehearsal.
- **Please be aware of when your character is supposed to be at practice! You are responsible for being on stage when your character is in a scene.**

The rehearsal schedule is subject to change as the performance draws closer. Please feel free to contact Mr. Graham if you have any questions or concerns about the rehearsal schedule.

October

Date:	Wednesday, October 20	Time:	2:40 – 3:45
Rehearsal Type:	Acting Auditions		

Date:	Thursday, October 21	Time:	2:40 – 3:45
Rehearsal Type:	Vocal Auditions		

Date:	Monday, October 25	Time:	2:40 – 3:45
Rehearsal Type:	Table Read (Read Through)		
Songs	All		
Actors Called	All Actors		

Date:	Tuesday, October 26	Time:	2:40 – 3:45
Rehearsal Type:	Table Read (Read Through)		
Songs	All		
Actors Called	All Actors		

Date:	Tuesday, October 26	Time:	4:00– 4:30
Rehearsal Type:	Parent Meeting		

Date:	Thursday, October 28	Time:	2:40 – 3:45
Rehearsal Type:	Blocking - Scenes 1 and 2		
Songs	My Friend the Doctor		
Actors Called	Madeline, Tommy, Dolittle, Bellows, Polynesia, Jip, Herbert		

November

Date:	Monday, November 1	Time:	2:40 – 3:45
Rehearsal Type:	Blocking - Scene 3		
Songs	The Time of Our Lives		
Actors Called	Dolittle, Madeline, Tommy, Dab-Dab, Polynesia, Toggle, Emma, Pushmi-Pullyu		

Date:	Tuesday, November 2	Time:	2:40 – 3:45
Rehearsal Type:	Blocking – Scene 4 and 5		
Songs	I’ve Never seen Anything Like it (Parts 1 and 2)		
Actors Called	Blossom, Dolittle, Pushmi-Pullyu, Madeline, Tommy, Polynesia, Gertie, Berta, Vladimir, Mavis, Sophie		

Date:	Thursday, November 4	Time:	2:40 – 3:45
Rehearsal Type:	Blocking – Scene 6 and 7		
Songs	Like Animals, Fabulous Places		
Actors Called	Dolittle, Bellows, Baliff, Rufus, Madeline, Tommy, Polynesia, Chee-Chee, Jip, Emma, Toggle		

Date:	Monday, November 8	Time:	2:40 – 3:45
Rehearsal Type:	Blocking – Scene 8 and 9		
Songs	Save the Animals, The Voice of Protest, Finale		
Actors Called	Dolittle, Madeline, Tommy, Polynesia, Chee-Chee, Jip, Emma, Straight Arrow, Bellows		

Date:	Tuesday, November 9	Time:	2:40 – 3:45
Rehearsal Type:	Vocals		
Songs	All Songs		
Actors Called	All		

Date:	Thursday, November 11	Time:	2:40 – 3:45
Rehearsal Type:	Blocking – Scene 8 and 9		
Songs	Save the Animals, The Voice of Protest, Finale		
Actors Called	Dolittle, Madeline, Tommy, Polynesia, Chee-Chee, Jip, Emma, Straight Arrow, Bellows		

Date:	Monday, November 15	Time:	2:40 – 3:45
Rehearsal Type:	Run through and clean up		
Actors Called	No ensemble cast – actors as needed		

Date:	Tuesday, November 16	Time:	2:40 – 3:45
Rehearsal Type:	Vocals		
Songs	All Songs		
Actors Called	All		

Date:	Thursday, November 18	Time:	2:40 – 3:45
Rehearsal Type:	Run through and clean up		
Actors Called	No ensemble cast – actors as needed		

***No Rehearsal the week of November 22-26 for Parent Teacher Conference and Thanksgiving Break**

Date:	Monday, November 29	Time:	2:40 – 3:45
Rehearsal Type:	Run through with ensemble		
Actors Called	All		

Date:	Tuesday, November 30	Time:	2:40 – 3:45
Rehearsal Type:	Vocals		
Songs	All Songs		
Actors Called	All		

December - All actors and stage crew should be at every rehearsal

Date:	Thursday, December 2	Time:	2:40 – 3:45
Rehearsal Type:	Run through and clean up		

Date:	Monday, December 6	Time:	2:40 – 3:45
Rehearsal Type:	Run through and clean up		

Date:	Tuesday, December 7	Time:	2:40 – 3:45
Rehearsal Type:	Vocals		
Songs	All songs		
Actors Called	All		

Date:	Thursday, December 9	Time:	2:40 – 3:45
Rehearsal Type:	Run through and clean up		

Date:	Monday, December 13	Time:	2:40 – 3:45
Rehearsal Type:	Run through and clean up		

Date:	Tuesday, December 14	Time:	2:40 – 3:45
Rehearsal Type:	Vocals		
Songs	All Songs		
Actors Called	All		

Date:	Thursday, December 16	Time:	2:40 – 3:45
Rehearsal Type:	Run through and clean up		

Date:	Monday, December 20	Time:	2:40 – 3:45
Rehearsal Type:	Run through and clean up		

***No Rehearsal December 21- January 4 for Winter Break. Make sure you're going over your lines and blocking over Winter Break! THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT!!**

January

Date:	Wednesday, January 5	Time:	2:40 – 3:45
Rehearsal Type:	Run through and clean up		

Date:	Thursday, January 6	Time:	2:40 – 3:45
Rehearsal Type:	Run through and clean up		

Date:	Monday, January 10	Time:	2:40 – 3:45
Rehearsal Type:	Run through and clean up		

Date:	Tuesday, January 11	Time:	2:40 – 3:45
Rehearsal Type:	Vocals		
Songs	All Songs		
Actors Called	All		

Date:	Wednesday, January 12	Time:	2:40 – 3:45
Rehearsal Type:	Run through and clean up		

Date:	Thursday, January 13	Time:	2:40 – 3:45
Rehearsal Type:	Run through and clean up		

Rehearsals at Stagg

Date:	Monday, January 17	Time:	9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Rehearsal Type:	Dress Rehearsal at Stagg		

Date:	Tuesday, January 18	Time:	2:40 – 6:00 PM
Rehearsal Type:	Dress Rehearsal at Stagg		

Date:	Wednesday, January 19	Time:	2:40 – 6:00 PM
Rehearsal Type:	Dress Rehearsal at Stagg		

Date:	Thursday, January 20	Time:	During the School Day
Rehearsal Type:	Preview Performance for East and West at Stagg (TBD)		

Date:	Friday, January 21	Time:	6:00 PM Show
Rehearsal Type:	Opening Night at Stagg		

Date:	Saturday, January 22	Time:	6:00 PM Show
Rehearsal Type:	Closing Night at Stagg		

Rules and Consequences

I would like everyone to have a rewarding and enjoyable experience in participating in the musical. We put on a musical for several reasons, one of which is to have FUN! Unfortunately, we cannot have fun if some students choose not to behave themselves. Therefore, I ask each parent and student to carefully read over the rules and consequences that will be upheld during rehearsals and performances. Please note that at the end of this handbook there is a form for both the parents and students to sign regarding the rules and consequences. Students will not be allowed to audition for the musical if they do not bring this form back to me with the signatures by the audition date (Wednesday, October 20th).

Rules:

1. All school rules are to be followed.
2. Students are to be polite, respectful, and courteous to the director, faculty, parents and each other. If a director, a parent, or a faculty member asks or tells a student to do something, the student is to follow those directions without an argument. If the student has a problem or a concern with what someone is asking them to do, then the student should speak to Mr. Graham about the issue immediately after the rehearsal. We want to protect the rights of students and be fair, yet still realize that there are authority figures that need to be treated with respect.
3. Cast and crew need to arrive at rehearsals on time. Please note that if a student arrives late to a rehearsal that may cause that particular rehearsal to run late for everyone.
4. You need to attend all rehearsals for your character.

Consequences:

1. Warning
 2. Parent will be contacted
 3. Removal from the musical
- Please note that if a student is unexcused from a rehearsal twice, they will be removed from the musical at that time. The parents will be notified.
 - Please also note that participating in the musical is a privilege. If a student cannot conduct himself or herself appropriately, then Mr. Graham has the authority to remove that student from the musical without going through the three-consequence procedure. This will only be done when a student's behavior has gone beyond acceptable. At this time, a student will lose their privilege to participate in the musical.
 - Please note that if a parent cannot be reached after several attempts that the student may automatically be removed from the cast.
 - Please feel free to contact Mr. Graham if you have any questions or concerns.

Stage Crew

The tentative schedule for rehearsals is attached. All dates and times are subject to change. Any crew members that will be missing a meeting should make their best attempt to notify Mr. Buvala prior to the meeting. All crew members are expected to attend the Little Theatre meetings unless previous arrangements are made.

Please contact Mr. Buvala if you have any questions or conflicts about the work schedule. I want as many students to be part of this as would like, so if a student lets Mr. Buvala know ahead of time about scheduling conflicts, we can see if we can work anything out.

Rules and Consequences

It is very important that each student follows the rules to being in stage crew. We want this experience to be fun, rewarding, and SAFE for everyone! Please remember that in stage crew, students may sometimes be working with equipment that, if not handled carefully, can be dangerous. Parents, please note that the students will be supervised at all times with stage crew equipment. It is also important for students to realize that everyone needs to help clean up after work times and rehearsals. We want to leave the school in the same condition that we found it.

Rules:

1. All school rules are to be followed. Even though stage crew does not always meet directly following school, we are still in the school building and need to be responsible for our actions. Please remember that hats are to be off in the building.
2. Students are to be polite, respectful, and courteous to all adults and each other. This included appropriate language with one another, hands-off policy, and following directions that an adult asks of a student without complaints. If the student has a concern with something that an adult asks them to do, they should speak to Mr. Buvala about the issue immediately.
3. Students who join stage crew only to socialize and refuse to do any work will be removed from stage crew as Mr. Buvala sees fit.

Consequences:

1. Warning
2. Parent will be contacted
3. Removal of student from stage crew

Please also note that if Mr. Graham or Mr. Buvala feels a student's behavior was deserving of immediate dismissal from stage crew, she has the right and will **not** follow the three consequence procedure. Stage crew is an extra-curricular activity that is a privilege for students to participate in. It does not remain their right to participate if they cannot behave themselves or choose not to do any of the work.

Stage Crew Dress

It is important that students remember to dress appropriately for stage crew. Because we do a lot of work where students can receive permanent damage to their clothing, I advise students to dress in old clothing that they do mind getting dirty. Also, be aware that students may not want to wear their best gym shoes. I would advise old shoes.

Alternating Schedules

Depending on the amount of students that would like to participate in stage crew, we may assign students to work alternate workdays and performances instead of attending every work time.

Performances

Only students who show a good work ethic, are punctual, and have good attendance will be able to work as stage hands for the performances. The decision for who will work stage hand for the performances is at the discretion of the director. At that time, the stage crew participants will be asked to wear all black so not to be seen when changing scenery in between acts.

Lighting and Sound Crew

Any student may sign up to participate in lighting and sound crew. They typically meet during your lunch in the band room with Mr. Makropoulos. This meeting will explain the activities of the lighting and sound crew. This is the appropriate time for students to ask questions concerning this activity. We want as many people to participate as who want to, so it helps if students do not participate in more than one function of the musical.

Theater Rehearsals

The lighting and sound crew is expected to follow the same rules as the cast/stage crew, which are stated previously in this handbook. If a lighting and sound crew member does not follow these rules, the director has the right to ask that student to remove him or herself from the musical. Please remember that being in the musical is a privilege, and that the student has to earn the right to participate. If a student does not think that they will be able to attend all of the crew meetings, then they should not sign up for this crew. This crew does not meet often enough to afford a student missing a rehearsal. Also, students who would like to be part of this crew must commit to all of the performances. If you cannot attend both of the performances, I would love for you to be an usher, but you cannot be on this crew. Due to time constraints and training necessary, this is an absolute.

Parent Permission Slip

Thank you very much for allowing me the privilege of working with you and your children. This is one of the most fun and rewarding activities at Palos South. By signing this form, you are giving your child permission to try out and participate in drama club. No child will be allowed to try out or join and participate in a drama club without this form signed. I have read this handbook and agree to follow the rules and consequences.

_____ Parent Signature

_____ Student Signature

_____ Student Name (Please Print)

Please briefly describe any theatre experience you (the student) have prior to this production:

Please check one of these two statements.

_____ I will be able to attend the parent meeting on October 26th.

_____ I will not be able to attend the meeting.

*** Please turn this in on the day that you audition ***