

Union Grove Middle School's

2024-2025 production of

The Little Mermaid, Jr.

All 6th, 7th, & 8th grade UGMS students are welcomed to audition!

Practice sessions to help you
prepare for auditions are
September 8th, 2:00pm-4:00pm &
September 9th, 4:30pm-6:00pm,
in Room 316! You must come to
at least one practice session in
order to audition on the 10th or
11th.

Please see Shelia Gatlin (chorus room #316) or Mrs. Staples
(front office)

for very important information and paperwork explaining this
process.

Dear Students and Parents,

For the 2024-25 school year, Union Grove Middle School will be presenting the stage musical of The Little Mermaid, Jr. This packet contains very important information about the audition process and expectations.

Included in this packet:

- Synopsis
- List of Characters
- Participant Descriptions
- Rehearsal and Performance Dates
- Rules and Expectations
- Student Questionnaire
- Parent Questionnaire
- Teacher Recommendation Forms (2)
- UGMS Student/Parent Drama Contract

Audition Information:

- Read the Synopsis and Participant Descriptions, then decide how you would like to participate. All students are to turn in all required paperwork **at your audition**. The two teacher recommendation forms should be given to your teachers so they will have enough time to fill them out and get them to me by September 10.
- If you want to audition for the cast, you will need to attend one or both of the practice sessions where I will teach you the songs you need to sing for your audition. If you do not attend at least one of the practice sessions, you will not be allowed to audition. The practice sessions will be September 8th from 2:00pm-4:00pm and September 9th from 4:30pm-6:00pm. Before you leave the practice session, you will be assigned by lottery, a date and time for your audition. Student drop off and pick up will be at the cafeteria entrance of the bus loop.
- Auditions will be September 10th & September 11th from 4:30pm-8:30pm. You will audition on the date and time printed on your lottery ticket. For example: If your lottery ticket says September 10th @ 6:30, this means you will audition sometime between 6:30 and 7:30. As soon as you are finished with all phases of your audition, you may leave. Parents should not drop their children off before their audition and leave. Please wait! There will be no supervision for students arriving early or for students waiting for rides when they are finished. You need to bring the student and parent questionnaires and the student/parent drama contract **to your audition**. You may not request a particular date and time for your audition. However; Early or late audition times will be assigned to students involved in Fall UGMS Sports.
- **Audition results will be posted on the front door of UGMS and on my website on or before September 22th. The first rehearsal for those making the cast is September 23rd.**

Thank you,

Shelia Gatlin

Director of Chorus and Drama

Union Grove Middle School

Email: Shelia.gatlin@henry.k12.ga.us

Website: <https://www.henry.k12.ga.us/Domain/5589>

Synopsis

Out on the open sea, **PRINCE ERIC** pursues a mysterious voice despite the protests of his valet, **GRIMSBY** (*Fathoms Below*). Meanwhile, far beneath the waves, the crab **SEBASTIAN** has prepared a concert for **KING TRITON** that will debut his youngest child (*Daughters of Triton*). However, **ARIEL** has gone with her best friend, **FLOUNDER**, to the surface, where they learn about treasures of the world above from the seagull **SCUTTLE** (*Human Stuff*). Deep within her lair, the sea witch **URSULA** and her lackey eels, **FLOTSAM** and **JETSAM**, bemoan their exile and plot to regain power from King Triton using Ariel as bait.

At court, King Triton scolds Ariel for going to the surface and appoints Sebastian as her chaperone. Ariel retreats to her grotto and dreams of living on land (*Part of Your World*). Upon discovering her collection of human objects, Sebastian extols the virtues of ocean life (*Under the Sea*). In the midst of this revelry, Ariel pursues a passing ship until she encounters Prince Eric. Lightning strikes the ship, sending him overboard (*The Storm*). Ariel saves Prince Eric from drowning, brings him safely to shore (*Part of Your World – Reprise*), then disappears into the waves.

Back underwater, the **MERSISTERS** grill Flounder about Ariel's odd behavior (*She's in Love*). When King Triton learns of Ariel's contact with a human, he destroys her grotto. Flotsam and Jetsam find Ariel in despair and lure her to the sea witch's lair. Ursula offers to change Ariel into a human in exchange for her voice (*Poor Unfortunate Souls*). However, Prince Eric must kiss Ariel within three days or she will turn back into a mermaid and become Ursula's slave forever. Overcome by her dreams of the world above, Ariel makes the bargain.

On the beach the next morning, Prince Eric finds the mute Ariel and brings her home to the palace. Sebastian follows to protect Ariel but lands himself in jeopardy in the kitchen of **CHEF LOUIS** (*Les Poissons*). Ariel's silence prompts Prince Eric to find other ways to communicate, like dancing (*One Step Closer*), but he is still determined to find the mysterious voice. On the second day, Sebastian and the **LAGOON ANIMALS** serenade the couple (*Kiss the Girl*), but Flotsam and Jetsam cause a commotion that blocks their kiss. Grimsby arranges a singing contest on the third day to locate the owner of the mysterious voice and thus a bride for Prince Eric (*The Contest*). When Ariel breaks through the crowd and dances for Prince Eric, he realizes how much he loves her and begins to propose. However, Ursula barges in as the sun sets and the spell is broken, turning Ariel back into a mermaid and drawing her into the sea.

Sebastian rushes to warn King Triton, who agrees to hand over his trident and take Ariel's place as Ursula's slave (**Poor Unfortunate Souls – Reprise**). When Prince Eric attempts to rescue Ariel, Ursula loses control of her magic shell, and Ariel's voice is restored. Trident in hand, Ursula attempts to harness the power of the seas but creates a whirlpool that destroys her and the eels. With peace restored, Ariel returns the trident to her father. King Triton realizes how much Ariel cares for Prince Eric and restores her human form. He delivers her to the world above, where Prince Eric rushes up and proposes. As Ariel answers, Prince Eric realizes that it has been her voice all along (**Part of Your World – Finale**).

Theater Tips

- It takes an ensemble to make a show; everyone's part is important.
- Be respectful of others at all times.
- Bring your script and a pencil to every rehearsal.
- Arrive at rehearsal on time and ready to begin.
- Be specific! Make clear choices about your character's background and motivation for each line and action.
- To help memorize your lines, write them down or speak them aloud to yourself in a mirror.
- Don't upstage yourself. **Cheat out** so the audience can always see your face and hear your voice.
- Before each performance, tell everyone to "break a leg" – which is theater talk for "good luck"!
- Be quiet backstage and remember: if you can see the audience, they can see you – so stay out of sight.
- If you forget a line or something unexpected happens onstage, keep going! When you remain confident and in character, it's unlikely that the audience will notice anything is wrong.
- Remember to thank your director and fellow cast and crew.
- **Have fun!**

Characters

(in order of appearance)

SEA CHORUS – storytelling inhabitants of the sea

PILOT – driver of Prince Eric’s ship

SAILORS – crew of Prince Eric’s ship

PRINCE ERIC – a prince who would rather explore the ocean than govern a kingdom

GRIMSBY – Prince Eric’s valet

MERFOLK and **SEA CREATURES** – residents of King Triton’s kingdom

SEAHORSE – herald in King Triton’s court

KING TRITON – the King of the Sea and Ariel’s father

SEBASTIAN – an anxious crab and court composer for King Triton

MERSISTERS (AQUATA, ANDRINA, ARISTA, ATINA, ADELLA, ALLANA) – the daughters of King Triton and Ariel’s sisters

ARIEL – King Triton’s youngest daughter who longs to be human

FLOUNDER – a rambunctious young fish and Ariel’s best friend

SCUTTLE – a zany seagull and self-proclaimed expert on humans

GULLS – Scuttle’s friends and fellow seagulls

URSULA – a Sea Witch with a vendetta

TENTACLES – extensions of Ursula, perhaps poor unfortunate souls

FLOTSAM and **JETSAM** – electric eels and Ursula’s lackeys

CARLOTTA – headmistress in Prince Eric’s palace

CHEF LOUIS – head chef in Prince Eric’s palace

CHEFS – Chef Louis’s assistants

LAGOON ANIMALS – musical inhabitants of Prince Eric’s lagoon

PRINCESSES – neighboring royalty, vying for Prince Eric’s hand in marriage

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Participant Descriptions

Many people are needed to produce a successful musical! Here are some descriptions and definitions of the parts and jobs that are available in this musical.

PRINCIPLE ROLE: The lead character or characters that are the focus of the story.

MAJOR SUPPORTING ROLE: A character that has extensive interaction with the lead character.

MINOR SUPPORTING ROLE: A character that has a very small part consisting of at least one line or walk-on.

ENSEMBLE: The ensemble is a huge part of the show. The ensemble does a lot of group singing and dancing. They also provide background vocals for the other characters and appear as extras in many scenes.

CAST: The cast includes everyone listed above! All cast members dance, sing, and act.

CREW: A musical cannot be successful without an awesome crew. During pre-production, the crew will find props, make props, build the set, etc. The crew is responsible for making or finding every physical item the cast will need during the show. During the show, the crew is responsible for managing props and moving the set pieces on and off the set during scene changes.

PARENTS: Parents will be needed to assist with supervision during rehearsals and during the shows. Parents will also be needed for more complex things such as sewing costumes, hair styling and make-up, operating power tools, and assisting the crew with set construction.

COMPANY: The Company includes everyone listed above!!

UGMS The Little Mermaid, Jr.

Rehearsal and Show Schedule

Monday, September 23, 4:30-6:15, UGMS	Thursday, January 16, 4:30-6:15, UGMS
Tuesday, September 24, 4:30-6:15, UGMS	Saturday, January 18, 9:00-2:00, UGMS
Wednesday, September 25, 4:30-6:15 UGMS	
Monday, September 30, 4:30--6:15, UGMS	Monday, January 20, 4:30-6:15, UGMS
Tuesday, October 1, 4:30-6:15, UGMS	Tuesday, January 21, 4:30-6:15, UGMS
Wednesday, October 2, 4:30-6:15, UGMS	Thursday, January 23, 4:30-6:15, UGMS
Tuesday, October 8, 4:30-6:15, UGMS	Saturday, January 25, 9:00-2:00, UGMS
Wednesday, October 9, 4:30-6:15 UGMS	Monday, January 27, Tech Rehearsal, 1:30-8:30, FPAC
Tuesday, October 15, 4:30-6:15 UGMS	Tuesday, January 28, Dress Rehearsal, 4:30-8:30, FPAC
Wednesday, October 16, 4:30-6:15 UGMS	Wednesday, January 29, SHOW, 10:15am, FPAC
	Wednesday, January 29, SHOW, 7:00pm, FPAC
Monday, October 21, 4:30-6:16, UGMS	Thursday, January 30, SHOW, 10:15am, FPAC
Tuesday, October 22, 4:30-6:15, UGMS	Thursday, January 30, SHOW, 7:00pm, FPAC
Thursday, October 24, 4:30-6:15, UGMS	Friday, January 31, SHOW, 10:15am, FPAC
Monday, October 28, 4:30-6:15, UGMS	Friday, January 31, STRIKE and Load Out after show
Tuesday, October 29, 4:30-6:15, UGMS	Saturday, February 1, SLEEP!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! 🤪
Thursday, October 31, 4:30-6:15, UGMS	
Monday, November 4, 4:30-6:15, UGMS	
Wednesday, November 6, 4:30-6:15, UGMS	
Thursday, November 7, 4:30-6:15 UGMS	
Monday, November 11, 4:30-6:15, UGMS	
Tuesday, November 12, 4:30-6:15 UGMS	
Thursday, November 14, 4:30-6:16, UGMS	
Monday, November 18, 4:30-6:15, UGMS	
Tuesday, November 19, 4:30-6:15, UGMS	
Thursday, November 21, 4:30-6:15, UGMS	
Monday, December 2, 4:30-6:15, UGMS	
Tuesday, December 3, 4:30-6:15, UGMS	
Thursday, December 5, 4:30-6:15, UGMS	
Tuesday, December 10, 4:30-6:15, UGMS	
Wednesday, December 11, 4:30-6:15, UGMS	
Tuesday, December 17, 4:30-6:15, UGMS	
Wednesday, December 18, 4:30-6:15, UGMS	
Thursday, December 19, 4:30-6:15, UGMS	
Wednesday, January 8, 4:30-6:15, UGMS	
Thursday, January 9, 4:30-6:15, UGMS	
Saturday, January 11, 9:00-2:00, UGMS	
Monday, January 13, 4:30-6:15, UGMS	
Tuesday, January 14, 4:30-6:15, UGMS	

Please understand that I cannot make attendance exceptions for any other activity not related to UGMS/HS. If your student regularly visits another household on the weekends, please try very hard to make sure they can still attend the Saturday rehearsals. Missing a rehearsal has a negative effect on the entire cast.

Union Grove Middle School's
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RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

DISCIPLINE PLAN

- The The Little Mermaid, Jr Company will be held to a high standard for behavior at all times and in all locations. They are also expected to act like young ladies and gentlemen in their classes at school.
- **The 2nd phone call home** from Ms. Gatlin or any other adult on the production team will result in an office referral and dismissal from the The Little Mermaid, Jr Company.
- The 2nd assignment to In-School Suspension will result in immediate dismissal from The Little Mermaid, Jr Company.
- The 1st assignment to Out-of-School Suspension will result in the immediate dismissal from The Little Mermaid, Jr Company. If you have already been assigned OSS for this school year, you are not eligible to participate.

REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE

- **If you have a Principal Role or Major Supporting Role, this production is expected to be your first priority above any other school activity or team.**
- Rehearsal attendance by all cast members is critical. Ms. Gatlin is to be notified by email about absences due to illness or emergencies. Excessive absences can result in the loss of an assigned role and/or dismissal from the The Little Mermaid, Jr Company. If a student is involved in Fall or Winter UGMS sports, you may still be able to be involved! Parents can email Ms. Gatlin a detailed rehearsal plan by September 9, to include what days you will be able to attend rehearsal. **Ms. Gatlin will review your availability and decide on whether or not you should audition.** For example, if you play basketball for UGMS, you may be able to be part of the ensemble, but I would not offer you a leading role.
- After your 3rd late pick-up (15 minutes late) from a rehearsal, you will be dismissed from the The Little Mermaid, Jr Company.
- Crew members will be notified when it is time to start attending rehearsal.
- All company members are required to bring your script and a pencil to each rehearsal.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

- Each cast and crew members will have a **\$55 club fee** due September 30. This fee includes a script, access to rehearsal tracks, show t-shirt, and transportation and meals for show week. The fee can be paid through the Drama MySchoolBucks Store. Please wait until audition results are posted to pay this fee.
- All cast members will be required to supply your own under garments, such as colored tights, colored t-shirts, or camisole to match your costume, if these items become necessary. Cast members are also responsible for purchasing the requested shoes to match your costume. Please do not purchase anything now! I am still deciding what will best suit the needs for the show, as well as our wallets. The crew will be required to supply your own solid black pants and solid black shoes/socks for the show dates.
- Each cast member is responsible for supplying your own face make-up for the show. Do not buy anything yet. Some characters might require special effects make-up.

PARENTS

- I really need parental involvement in so many ways... ☺

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Student Questionnaire

Student Name: _____

Grade Level: (Circle One) 6 7 8

1. I am a...

(Circle one)

BOY

GIRL

2. I want to audition for...

(Circle your top three choices.)

Principle Roles

Ariel
Prince Eric
Sebastian
Flounder
Ursula

Major Supporting Roles

Grimsby
King Triton
Flotsam
Jetsam
Scuttle
Chef Louis
Aquata
Andrina
Arista
Atina
Adella
Allana

Minor Supporting Roles

Pilot
Seahorse
Seagulls 1, 2, & 3
Harp
Bass
Sax
Jellyfish 1 & 2
Newt
Carp
Plaice
Chub
Fluke
Chefs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8
Carlotta

Ensemble
Sailors
Sea Chorus

3. If you do not get the role you want, do you still want to participate in the role that is assigned to you?

YES

NO

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PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Student Name: _____

Grade Level: (circle one) 6 7 8

Parents!! Your answers will not hinder or help your child's chance of getting a part in the show.

1. I am able to help with supervision during after-school rehearsals and/or Saturday rehearsals and/or shows.

YES

NO

2. I know how to sew and I am able to help sew costumes and scenery/props.

YES

NO

3. I know how to operate power tools and I am able to assist with set construction.

YES

NO

4. I am available to help during school hours.

YES

NO

5. I am able to help back stage during one of the show times.

YES

NO

6. I give Ms. Gatlin permission to share my contact information with other parent volunteers.

YES

NO

Parent Name: _____

Best Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

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STUDENT AND PARENT DRAMA CONTRACT

- I understand that attending the study session(s), auditioning, and turning in the necessary paperwork does not guarantee that my child will be chosen as a part of The Little Mermaid, Jr Company.
- I understand that my child must participate in a study session in order to audition.
- I understand that my child must audition on the assigned date and time.
- I understand that my child must bring the student questionnaire, parent questionnaire, and student/parent drama contract **to the audition**. **Do not turn these into Ms. Gatlin ahead of time.**
- I understand that two teacher recommendation forms must be returned to me by September 14. Please politely remind your teachers that this is very important.
- I have read and understand the rules and expectations.
- I have read and understand the rehearsal and production schedule attendance policy.
- I understand that there is a \$55 club fee due by September 30. This can be paid through MySchoolBucks.

Parent (Print and Sign) _____

Student (Print and Sign) _____