

Southwestern High School Musical

Once Upon A Mattress

2025-2026 Cast Expectations

This information should be read carefully and discussed with your parents and guardians prior to auditions. **THERE ARE CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS YEARS!** Student and parent/guardian's signature on the attached sheet allows us to see that you've both read and understood these expectations. **A completed signature form, completed audition sheet, and conflict list are required to audition.**

Introduction

The Southwestern High School Musical is a theater experience with high expectations. We work together to create a fantastic production while enjoying the excitement and learning experiences of a high school extra-curricular activity. We expect that this production of *Once Upon A Mattress* will be positive and high-quality in every way. The following information includes the expectations for all involved in this production.

Web Site Information:

Nearly 100% of the information needed to participate in this activity is available on the web site. When you go to the Southwestern home page, click on the Clubs and Activities heading and a drop-down list will appear. Select High School Musical to see all of the information available. Check the web site frequently. It is your responsibility to know the dates and times involved in this production, as well as the specifics regarding who is called for rehearsals. In addition, music/vocal audition materials are posted on Miss Huther's teacher page.

Audition Requirements

Auditions CAN BE a 3-4 day process!

You must be prepared to sing, dance, and read dialogue depending on the character you've chosen to audition for. You can only audition one time, so please be prepared.

We expect and require that your song/lines be fully memorized and rehearsed. **Be sure to act the song, rather than just sing it (this is musical theater).**

Dance auditions:

Wear comfortable clothing (shorts, athletic wear, yoga pants, t-shirts. NO jeans or pants or restrictive clothing) SHOES: wear dance or character shoes. Other smooth soled shoes, like dress shoes work well for those you don't have character/dance shoes.

Call-Backs The list of students who are called back will be posted outside of Ms. Beichner-Miller and Ms. Huther's door. Call-backs are NOT an indication of casting decisions. Not every student who gets called back will be cast. Some students not called back may be cast.

Casting

We can only cast as many characters as are called for in the script. We may not be able to cast everyone. Please realize that not being cast in the show is no reflection on your talent or performing skills. Countless factors go into casting a musical, yet at some point it comes down to the directors' choice. Directors are willing to discuss a student's audition with him/her and give feedback on where to improve. However, directors will not justify WHY they made their casting choices.

We encourage all students who audition to be willing to participate in other components of the production. **These roles are not secondary**; they are vital to the production process and a great way to be a part of a great community and production.

Cast List: The cast list will be posted in a timely manner after auditions take place. They will be posted online after 5 pm (on the Friday after auditions).

A Note to Parents: No role is "too small" and each individual student both on stage, in the pit, and backstage is vital to the success of the show. When casting is completed, we ask you to help your student understand his/her individual importance and value by supporting him/her in whatever role he/she receives, including roles in other aspects of the production. Every student is important and valued. Please build up your student by emphasizing their success in being chosen to participate.

Rehearsals and Attendance

Attendance is important and required for the success of the show.

Students must clear all absences with Mrs. Beichner-Miller personally **PRIOR** to the absence. Students may not leave rehearsal without prior written permission from Mrs. Beichner-Miller for safety and accountability reasons. Any unapproved absence is considered an unexcused absence. Students may be cut without warning and/or replaced in a song or scene due to unexcused absences. Tardiness and excessive absences will result in removal from the cast. (Three unexcused absences are considered excessive.) It is our expectation that you will make every effort to be at rehearsal when you are called. Please look carefully at the production calendar before you audition.

NO ABSENCES ARE ACCEPTED DURING THE FINAL TWO WEEKS OF REHEARSALS! This is a sport like any other and we must practice together to ensure a solid performance.

- ATTENDANCE WILL BE TAKEN AT THE START OF EVERY REHEARSAL!

- **FINAL TWO WEEKS: All students must stay for the entire rehearsal to help set up and clean up each night. Clear conflicts during those weeks from your schedule now. Conflicts during this time will affect casting.**

All cast and crew are required to participate in strike on Sunday after our final performance— **NO EXCEPTIONS**. Strike will begin at 10am and takes about 3 hours. Parents are needed to help with this vital final task.

- Directors commit to begin and end rehearsals on time. Parents must be on time when dropping students off and picking students up from rehearsal.

Behavior

In order for this to be the best experience possible for all involved we have several behavior expectations.

- Students must be prepared with their scripts, music, a **PENCIL**, water bottle, and appropriate attire and footwear at each rehearsal.
- **Never go barefoot at rehearsal.**
- **Students MUST be on time!** You should eat before or during a time that you are not on stage.
- No gum on stage!
- No cell phones during rehearsal and certainly **NEVER** on stage!!
- Professional, respectful, and safe behavior is required at all times. It is important that you listen to and respect all of the directors and volunteer staff. Follow all directions and rules given.
- **Kindness to other cast members or production staff is an expectation and requirement. Cruelty of any kind (including gossip) will not be tolerated. This applies to all electronic communication as well social media status. You may be dismissed for behavior that does not meet these expectations. We are a family and we will behave accordingly.**
 - **There is a one strike only policy in effect.**
- Your directors are in charge. You will listen and behave appropriately. When they ask you to do something, you will do it without complaint, eye rolling, or other rude behaviors.
- Public displays of affection are not appropriate at rehearsal.
- **There is a 100% zero tolerance policy toward drug or alcohol use by participants involved in the musical. This includes but is not limited to alcohol, narcotics and vaping. **Violators will be removed from the production immediately.****
- All students must keep up with their schoolwork. Failure to do so may result in losing your eligibility to participate in the show.

Make-up/Hair

- Please have a discussion with Miss Beichner-Miller before cutting or coloring your hair after casting has taken place!! It is important to the look of your character.

- Each cast member will be required to purchase personal items such as mascara, cold cream, cotton balls, and make-up sponges. This list will be distributed at a later date.
- We reserve the right to ask you to style/cut your hair in a specified fashion. Men may be asked to cut OR to grow out hair to emulate the style of the time period. Your signature indicates your willingness to abide by this expectation.

Costumes

Please be aware that dressing and costume needs for stage productions are completely different than dressing and clothing needs for every day. YOU ARE PORTRAYING SOMEONE ELSE FROM A DIFFERENT TIME AND PLACE! Many factors affect costuming choices. You may be asked to wear something that you do not personally like. An actor's responsibility is to communicate if a costume is restricting or painful in any way. Your signature indicates that you understand this and are willing to accept Ms. Beichner- Miller's costumer decisions. Together we will make sure you look your best on stage and that you look most like the character you are portraying.

All cast members are expected to take proper care of the costumes assigned to them to protect the items from being damaged. This includes properly hanging up all items after each rehearsal and performance.

--You may be asked to purchase a certain costume item/items. We try to keep the cost around \$50. Think of this as a uniform purchase.

Student and Parent Participation

To produce a high-quality musical, all cast, crew and families must be willing to volunteer in different areas to create a successful outcome. Yes, **parents, you too!** There will be parent volunteers needed during the performances themselves. Please read, fill out, and return the parent volunteer form as soon as possible. In advance, we thank you for your services!

Information Evening

We will begin with an informational meeting for **Cast, Crew, Pit AND Parents/Guardians after auditions in the HS Auditorium**. This is considered our first rehearsal and is mandatory for all cast, crew, pit, and a parent/guardian.

Cast Discipline

Should you make choices that are in conflict with the expectations detailed the following interventions will be taken:

1. A meeting with the Director and staff (Mrs. Beichner-Miller, Miss Huther, Ms. Brown and Ms. Lovecchio) to discuss your behavior/attitude choices and the consequences of these

choices. You will be asked to clearly state your understanding of the consequences and acceptance of our decision if your behavior does not change/improve.

2. A phone call to your parents to discuss the issue and our expectations for change. Further problems will be addressed by step 3.
3. Re-assignment to a different role, loss of a scene or dance number, or removal from the cast completely.

Note: Any drug or alcohol issues occurring at any time during the course of the musical or behavior that is damaging to cast, crew, or directors on any social media platform will be reported immediately to the principal for disciplinary actions and a loss of your role is not only possible but probable. The same goes for malicious or cruel behavior toward a director, staff, or cast.

Grades and Citizenship

As an extra-curricular activity, grade checks will be performed prior to casting and then regularly according to the set dates for SWCS. **Each cast and crew member** must be passing **ALL** of his/her/their classes as stated by the policies of Southwestern High School. Any failing grades will result in immediate intervention. Any students with a “D” will be followed closely.

Musical students are held to the same guidelines in the student handbook as any other sport.

NEW- the school is now requiring ALL students who participate to be in the building at 8 am. IF YOU DO NOT COMPLY, we are unable to allow you to practice or perform. PLEASE be on time (and not tardy) as we count on each one of you and often missing even one student would be detrimental to the show!

Questions and Concerns

If you have questions, concerns, problems or issues arise during rehearsal, please feel free to contact Mrs. Beichner-Miller at cbeichner@swcsk12.org or through the Remind App link we will be using. Thank you for your interest in the musical. We look forward to working on a great show!

Christine Beichner-Miller, Lead Director/Costume Designer

Sue Huther, Vocal Director/Technical Director

Jenny Brown, Art Director

Dana Lovecchio, Prop Mistress

You must sign the following form and return it to Ms. Huther BEFORE auditions. **Please keep the guidelines above and return only the signature page.**

We look forward to working with each and every one of you and know that this will be an amazing show because of your hard work and the dedication of our many volunteers and directors. Musical memories will last a lifetime and we are as excited as you! Please know that your directors are working tirelessly for you in order to create the best show (and show experience) possible. Respect them and their decisions and have fun!

I have read the above and understand all of the rules and procedures. By signing this I acknowledge that I will follow the rules and expectations.

X _____

Date: _____

(Student's Name)

I have read the above and understand all of the rules and procedures. By signing this I acknowledge that I have understand the musical procedures and will help my child follow the rules and expectations to promote a positive and memorable theater experience.

X _____

Date: _____

(Parent's/Guardian's Name)