

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thank you for supporting your child's participation in *The SMM Drama Program*. As you know, we are busy gearing up for our production, but we wanted to take a moment to highlight some of the countless benefits of putting on a show with students. Having a regular creative outlet is not just part of a well-rounded education— it is essential for a child's emotional health and well-being. Producing a show brings the arts together and provides growth opportunities for all varieties of learners. Besides being incredibly fun, musical theater helps young people develop many skills necessary for success.

Self-Confidence: Throughout the rehearsal and performance process, young performers discover how to take creative and emotional risks and learn to trust their abilities.

Communication: During rehearsals, students will learn to articulate their thoughts and questions and carefully listen to directions to improve their performances.

Imagination: Theater is most dynamic when the imaginations of its participants are fully engaged. Students make countless interpretive choices in design and performance to create a detailed, fictional world for their audiences.

Critical Thinking and Problem Solving: The amount of work required to put on a show successfully makes all participants valuable troubleshooters. Whether inventing prompts to remember lines, adjusting staging to show off everyone's faces, or mastering a tricky scene change, students have countless opportunities to tackle challenges creatively.

Self-Discipline: Through timely attendance at rehearsals and learning lines, music, and choreography on schedule, students acquire valuable self-discipline techniques and become reliable and trustworthy members of the theater.

Public Speaking: Whether performing for their peers during rehearsal or for their school, parish & local community during a performance, students gain expertise and confidence speaking in front of a group.

Teamwork: Theater requires extensive creative input from all its participants. Students can begin to build positive qualities & skills by working together to rehearse, construct, promote, and perform their show. Every role, lead, or ensemble, whether onstage or behind the scenes, is vital for the show's success.

We are pleased to be able to offer students these valuable life skills through their participation in this program. We look forward to jumping into rehearsals! Of course, we're always looking for parent volunteers to help pull everything together. Please contact any program member if you'd like to lend a hand with our show. We need more help on the production team! Thank you for your continued support of your child during this educational experience.

Sincerely, The SMM Drama Program— Meggie Gribbin, Katie Knee, Jess Malatesta, & Kate Smith