

September 1, 2009

To the parent or guardian of a theatre student:

First, thank you! Your support is integral to the arts and we can't do it without you. Accordingly, I want to be sure that you understand the possible level of time commitment in advance.

First, almost NO student will be at ALL of these rehearsals. With advance knowledge it is possible to be in Court Singers, Madrigals, cheerleading, marching band and other activities and still be in the fall play. Fall sports with daily after school practices, however, would be pretty impossible, at least for this play. Here is a general schedule:

#### Rehearsal times

M – Th 2:50 – 5:30, 9/28 – 10/15

M – F 2:50 – 5:30, 10/19 – 11/6

#### Tech week

S 11/7, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. – technical work, volunteers and tech crews

Su 11/8 – noon – 6 p.m. – cue to cue, **everyone needed**

M & T 11/9 – 10 2:30 – 9:30, **everyone needed** \*

W – S, 11/11 – 14 – 5 – 9:30, **everyone needed**

W – F, 11/18 – 20 – 5 – 9:30, **everyone needed**

Su 11/22 – noon – 4, everyone needed

\*we may adjust to a night or afternoon schedule depending upon music conflicts

Technical positions generally tend to work in a more relaxed schedule until tech week.

It is impossible to accomplish rehearsals if even one person is missing from a scene, so I ask that all appointments and events be scheduled outside of rehearsal time. The specific schedule will be created once all cast conflicts have been collected, so please ask your student to put all conflicts on the audition sheet they will receive at auditions

Obviously this is a serious time commitment, so we encourage students to bring their homework to rehearsals; there is usually down time for all but the largest of roles, and we do insist upon a C average to participate. Also, some snacks to carry them through the afternoon hours are a great idea. We have work days as well to work on the stage and set for several Saturdays, but that is voluntary and open to anyone. Those days are listed on our web site at [www.unit5.org/nchs/drama](http://www.unit5.org/nchs/drama) .

There's one more thing. We are going to enter this show in the Illinois Theatre Association's State Festival showcase. If we are chosen we would perform the play at the State Theatre Festival at ISU January 8 & 9. Should that happen, we would have rehearsals between Christmas and New Year's, plus the days before and during the Festival. **Even if your student cannot be in town during Christmas break, they can still be in the play.** We will recast any roles we need to from the remaining cast members. I just didn't want this to be a surprise in December!

Finally, we'd like to ask you to join in! I invite you to a **theatre parent meeting at NCHS, Room 39, from 6 – 7 p.m. on Tuesday, September 15.** We will discuss volunteering, how to get production photos of your student, and answer any questions you may have. There are many parts for parents to play, from helping provide dinners during tech week, to taking tickets, to helping with costumes or publicity. This is also a great way to establish contact with parents, so please come even if you can't volunteer.

If you have questions or comments I encourage you to contact me at [vernonk@unit5.org](mailto:vernonk@unit5.org) or call the school at (309) 728-5000 ext. 4904. There is a wealth of information at the web site at [www.unit5.org/nchs/drama](http://www.unit5.org/nchs/drama) as well, including this letter.

Please sign and print your name on this letter. I am insisting that all students have a signed copy of this note attached to their audition form in order to be considered for casting in the fall play. Thank you again for your support, and I look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,

Ms. Kevin Yale Vernon

Director NCHS Theatre Dept.

Sean Kerr, Technical Director

Beth Topping, Assistant Director

Yes, I have read the above and I am aware of the possible time commitment if my child is cast or performs a technical position in the fall play.

Student's name

Parent or guardian signature

Parent or guardian printed name