

Spring Musical FAQs

Seussical the Musical | Spring 2027

We are so excited for another spring musical! We know that participating in a production can come with lots of questions, especially if this is your first time auditioning. We've put together answers to some of our most frequently asked questions to help students and families know what to expect.

Auditions: December 15, 2026
Callbacks: December 17, 2026
Performances: April 10 & 11, 2027

Before You Audition: Three Important Things to Know

We want our spring musical to be a wonderful experience for everyone involved! Before auditioning, please make sure you understand these three important expectations:

1. **Be honest about your availability.** We build our rehearsal schedule around our actors' conflicts, so please list ALL potential conflicts on your audition form.
2. **Be available for all mandatory rehearsals and performances.** These dates are non-negotiable and essential to the success and safety of our production.
3. **Be willing to accept any role you are assigned.** Auditioning means committing to participate in the role you receive, whether it's a leading role, supporting role, or ensemble.

We are excited to work with students who are enthusiastic, dependable, and ready to be part of a team!

REHEARSALS & SCHEDULING

Do we really have to be available for all of those dates on the audition form?

Don't be intimidated by all of the dates listed on the audition form!

We create our rehearsal schedule based on the availability of our actors. This means **we will NOT rehearse every day**, and students will not necessarily be called to every rehearsal.

The days and times you rehearse will depend on your availability, the role you receive, and which scenes or musical numbers we are working on.

We know this isn't quite as straightforward as an activity that meets for two hours on the same day every week. However, our hope is that this approach allows us to create the most efficient rehearsal schedule possible while minimizing conflicts for everyone involved.

We LOVE well-rounded kids! We love that our students participate in sports, clubs, church activities, music lessons, and other extracurricular activities. We want our musical to be something students can participate in *alongside* the other things they love, rather than having to choose between them.

The most important thing you can do is **be honest and thorough when listing your conflicts on the audition form.** The more accurate your availability is, the better we can plan!



When will rehearsals begin, and when will we receive the schedule?

Rehearsals will begin in **January 2027**.

The entire rehearsal schedule will be posted in January and will be accessible through the **Fine Arts website** and **Google Calendar**.

Because the schedule is built around the availability of our cast, we need everyone's conflicts before we can finalize it.



When are rehearsals usually held? Will I have to attend every rehearsal?

Regular rehearsals take place **primarily after school, with occasional Saturday rehearsals.**

Students are only expected to attend rehearsals when they are specifically called. Not every cast member will be needed at every rehearsal. For example, if we are working on a scene or musical number that doesn't involve your character, you likely won't be called to that rehearsal.

If you are not able to attend a rehearsal you are called for, it is your responsibility to learn the music and/or choreo via the resources in Google Classroom.

Our goal is to use everyone's time as efficiently as possible. We don't want students sitting around at rehearsal when they could be doing homework, participating in other activities, or spending time with their families!

What if I have conflicts with rehearsals?

We completely understand that our students have busy schedules! In fact, we build our rehearsal schedule around those commitments.

However, it is **extremely important that you list ALL potential conflicts on your audition form BEFORE casting takes place.**

Please do not leave off conflicts because you're afraid they might keep you from receiving a larger role. We would much rather know about your commitments ahead of time so we can plan accordingly.

We want you to participate in other activities, and we work hard to make that possible!

What we cannot accommodate is information being intentionally withheld. It is unprofessional to knowingly leave conflicts off your audition form and then announce them after casting. Doing so creates scheduling challenges for the entire production and may affect future casting decisions.

Our goal is not to penalize students for being involved in other activities. Our goal is to make sure we have accurate information so that we can create a schedule that works for everyone.

Please be upfront with us. We promise we would rather know now!

Are there any rehearsals that are absolutely mandatory?

YES! While we are flexible with almost everything else, mandatory rehearsals are non-negotiable.

Putting on a musical requires everyone to work together, and there are certain rehearsals and events when we absolutely need the entire cast present.

Mandatory commitments include:

- One full run-through before tech week
- Hair and makeup trials
- Headshots
- Cue-to-cue rehearsal
- Technical rehearsals
- Dress rehearsals
- All performances

Every cast and crew member must be available for the entirety of their mandatory commitments.

We do our very best to accommodate conflicts throughout the regular rehearsal process, but these dates are essential to the success of our production.

Please review the mandatory dates carefully before auditioning!



What is tech week, and why is attendance so important?

Tech week is when all the pieces of our production finally come together!

During regular rehearsals, we spend most of our time learning music, choreography, and blocking. During tech week, we bring together the performers, sets, costumes, lighting, sound, microphones, props, and backstage crew to create the finished show.

ALL cast and crew members are required to attend ALL rehearsals during tech week, even if they are not involved in every scene.

There are two major reasons this is so important:

1. SAFETY

A theatrical production involves moving scenery, changing lighting, backstage traffic, costume changes, microphones, props, and many people working together in a relatively small space.

Tech week is when we practice all of these moving parts together so everyone knows exactly where they need to be, what they need to do, and how to do it safely.

When someone is absent, we cannot properly rehearse the transitions and movements that involve that person. This can create confusion and potentially unsafe situations for the rest of the cast and crew.

2. EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE PRESENT TO DO THEIR JOBS

Theatre is an incredibly collaborative art form. During tech week, every person depends on other people being there so they can do their own jobs.

For example:

- The **sound crew** cannot properly adjust and perfect the mix for a performer's microphone if that performer isn't there.
- The **lighting crew** cannot accurately set and practice lighting cues if the actors aren't in their correct positions.

- The **stage crew** cannot safely practice scene changes if the performers and other crew members aren't there to rehearse their movements.
- The **performers** cannot practice timing, entrances, exits, and transitions if other people involved in those moments are missing.

Even if you feel like you're "just standing there" during a particular part of rehearsal, your presence may be essential to someone else's ability to do their job.

Tech week is not just another rehearsal. It is when we make sure our entire production is safe, polished, and ready for an audience.

We understand that students sometimes get sick, and illness is an excused absence. However, **a doctor's note is required for illness-related absences during mandatory rehearsals.** Please communicate with Mrs. Shockley as soon as possible if your child is ill.



What is strike, and am I required to stay?

YES! Strike is mandatory for ALL cast and crew members.

Strike is the process of taking down, cleaning up, and putting away everything used during our production. It takes place **immediately following our final performance on Sunday, April 11.**

Every cast and crew member will receive a checklist of responsibilities that must be completed before leaving. These tasks may include putting away costumes and props, organizing equipment, cleaning backstage areas, and helping return our performance spaces to their original condition.

Here's the most important part: WE WILL ALL LEAVE TOGETHER AS A TEAM!

Finishing your personal checklist does **not** mean you're finished working. If you've completed your assigned tasks, your next job is to find someone who needs help and jump in!

Strike is not about finishing your own responsibilities as quickly as possible so you can leave. It's about working together to finish the job as a team.

Please plan for strike to take up to TWO HOURS following Sunday's performance. All cast and crew members are expected to remain until the entire team has finished and we are dismissed together.

We've worked together for months to create this production, and we're going to work together to wrap it up.

And there's something fun to look forward to! After strike, we typically go out to dinner together as a cast and crew to celebrate everything we've accomplished. It's one of our favorite traditions and a wonderful way to wrap up the show with our theatre family!

We start together, we work together, and we FINISH STRONG together!

What is the rehearsal commitment for elementary students?

Elementary students will have **fewer regular rehearsals** than our older cast members. However, families should carefully consider the commitment required during tech week and performances.

Our spring musical is approximately **twice as long as our fall musicals**, which means the rehearsal and performance experience will look different from what elementary families may be accustomed to.

In particular, elementary students should be prepared for a long tech week. **Dress rehearsals will last until 8:30 PM.**

All elementary cast members are expected to attend mandatory rehearsals, including tech week.

We love having our younger performers involved, but we want families to understand the time commitment before auditioning so they can make the best decision for their child.

AUDITIONS & CASTING

Where can I find an accompaniment track for my audition?

You have several options!

- **YouTube:** Search for your song title followed by "instrumental," "karaoke," or "accompaniment track."
- **Your phone's music store:** You may be able to purchase an instrumental or karaoke version of your song.

Make sure you choose a track **without lead vocals** and that your track is ready to play when you arrive for your audition.

You will need to bring your own device to play your accompaniment. We will provide hookups for different types of plugs.

Helpful tip: Test your accompaniment track ahead of time! Make sure your 1-minute cut is ready, and you know exactly where your music starts and stops.

 What does a professional audition look like?

First of all, **you do not have to be an experienced performer to have a great audition!** We want to see your personality, hear your voice, and get a sense of what you can bring to the stage.

Here are a few tips to help you make a great first impression:

1. Dress for success.

Wear something that looks neat, polished, and allows you to move comfortably. You don't need a fancy outfit, but you should look like you've put thought into your appearance.

Avoid costumes, distracting accessories, or clothing that makes it difficult to move. Comfortable shoes are a great choice!

2. Introduce yourself confidently.

When you enter the audition room, smile, make eye contact, and introduce yourself. In theatre, this is often called your *slate*.

For example:

"Hi! My name is Jane Smith, and I'll be singing 'Notice Me, Horton' from *Seussical the Musical*."

Speak clearly, take a moment to get ready, and then begin your audition!

3. Know your material.

Your song should be completely memorized. Practice with your accompaniment track so you feel comfortable with the timing.

Don't just practice singing the notes. Think about what your character is saying and feeling. **We want to see you tell a story!**

4. Don't apologize or make excuses.

Avoid starting your audition with statements like:

- "I'm really nervous."
- "I'm getting over being sick."

- "I didn't have much time to practice."
- "I'm probably going to mess up."
- "I'm not very good at singing."

It's completely normal to feel nervous! Even experienced performers get nervous before auditions. You don't need to announce it or apologize for it.

If you make a mistake, keep going! How you recover is often more important than the mistake itself.

5. Be kind, respectful, and professional.

Your audition begins the moment you walk into the room. Be polite, listen carefully to instructions, and show us that you're someone who will be a positive part of our cast.

6. Have fun and be yourself!

We are cheering for you! We want you to succeed, and we are excited to see what you bring to the audition room. Come prepared, be confident, and let your personality shine!

What happens at callbacks? Does everyone receive a callback?

Not everyone will receive a callback, and that's okay!

Callbacks give the directors an opportunity to take a closer look at certain performers as we make final casting decisions.

Not receiving a callback does NOT mean you are not being considered for the show!

Sometimes we have already seen everything we need during your initial audition. Other times, we may need to see a performer again to make a decision about a particular role.

Please don't make assumptions about casting based on whether or not you receive a callback.

What if I've never been in a musical before?

That's okay! Everyone starts somewhere, and we love welcoming new performers into our theatre family.

You do not need previous musical theatre experience to audition. We are looking for students who are willing to work hard, try new things, take direction, and be part of a team.

Don't let a lack of experience keep you from giving it a try!

What if I want to be in the musical but don't want a big role?

That's absolutely okay!

Not everyone wants to be the star of the show, and that's one of the wonderful things about musical theatre. There is a place for all kinds of performers!

Ensemble roles are an essential part of any musical. Ensemble members get to sing, dance, act, create memorable moments, and help bring the world of the show to life.

In *Seussical*, the ensemble is especially important because the show is filled with colorful characters, exciting musical numbers, and imaginative storytelling.

You do not have to want a leading role to have a meaningful and exciting experience in our spring musical.

We want students who want to be part of the show, not just students who want to be the star of the show!

What do directors look for when casting?

Of course, singing, acting, and dancing ability are important in musical theatre. But they are not the only things we consider!

When putting together a cast, we also look at:

- **Preparation:** Did you come ready to audition and give your best effort?
- **Attitude:** Are you positive, respectful, and encouraging toward others?
- **Coachability:** Are you willing to take direction, make adjustments, and try something new?
- **Teamwork:** Will you contribute to a supportive and collaborative cast environment?
- **Availability:** Can your schedule accommodate the rehearsal needs of the role?
- **Character fit:** How do your voice, personality, and performance strengths fit the needs of the show?

Casting is about finding the right combination of performers to create the strongest production possible.

Talent matters, but so do work ethic, attitude, dependability, and the ability to work well with others.

What if I don't get the role I want?

Casting a musical is like putting together a giant puzzle. Every role is important, and our job is to find the combination of performers that best serves the entire production.

Not receiving a particular role does not mean you had a bad audition or that you aren't talented.

We encourage students to approach auditions with an open mind and a willingness to be part of something bigger than themselves.

There are so many opportunities to shine in a musical, and every cast member plays an important part in bringing the show to life!

If I audition, am I committing to accept any role I'm offered?

YES! Auditioning for the spring musical means you are committing to accept the role you are assigned.

We ask that students approach auditions with an open mind and a willingness to contribute to the production in whatever role they receive.

When casting a musical, we consider the entire production, not just individual roles. Every casting decision affects other performers and the overall balance of the show.

Please only audition if you are willing to accept and fully commit to the role you are given.

When will the cast list be announced?

The cast list will be released **via email** following the audition and callback process.

PARTICIPATION COSTS & PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Is there a cost to participate in the musical?

Yes. Some production-related expenses may be the responsibility of the actor's family.

Specific needs and costs vary depending on the role. Some items may need to be provided from home, while others may be purchased through GCS and reimbursed by families.

More information about individual requirements and expenses will be shared after casting.

We never want finances to be the reason a student misses out on participating in the musical! If you have concerns about being able to cover these expenses, please don't let that discourage you from auditioning. Reach out to Mrs. Shockley privately to discuss possible options. We want every student to have the opportunity to be part of this experience!

 Are parents required to volunteer?

Parent volunteering is encouraged, but not required!

Putting on a musical is a big undertaking, and there are many ways families can help make the production a success.

We are always grateful for parents who are willing to lend a hand, but volunteering is not a requirement for their child to participate.

SPOTLIGHT AWARDS

 What are the Spotlight Awards, and how does our musical participate?

Each year, we submit our spring musical for adjudication through the **Spotlight Awards**, Nashville's high school musical theatre awards program.

This is an exciting opportunity for our students and our production to be recognized for their work!

For *Seussical*, the following roles are eligible for consideration for the **Outstanding Lead Performer** award:

- Gertrude McFuzz
- Horton the Elephant
- JoJo
- Mayzie
- The Cat in the Hat

Students cast in these roles must keep the following dates available in the event they receive a nomination for Outstanding Lead Performer.

Lead Performer Intensive
May 1-2, 2027
8:30 AM-6:30 PM
Tennessee Performing Arts Center (TPAC)

Students nominated for this award will be required to participate in a weekend of workshops and auditions at TPAC and perform at the Spotlight Awards.

Spotlight Awards Ceremony
May 16, 2027

IMPORTANT FOR ALL CAST MEMBERS:

Our production may also be invited to perform at the Spotlight Awards as a cast. Because of this possibility, **ALL students auditioning for *Seussical* should keep May 16, 2027, available on their calendars.**

If you have a conflict with this date, please let **Mrs. Shockley know as soon as possible.**