

2022–2023

# PIERCEPLAYERS.

crew

cast

make-up

musicals

choreography

sets

lines

spotlight

bows

costumes

lights

*Founded in 1996, The Pierce Players is the after school drama club involving Pierce Middle School students from grades 6-8. Each year two shows are produced. Unlike many performing arts groups, the Pierce Players accepts any student who wishes to participate in the cast or crew. Through a rigorous rehearsal process and live performances, participating students are challenged to learn about theater arts, their community, and themselves.*

**For the most  
up-to-date  
information, visit:**

**[www.pierceplayers.org](http://www.pierceplayers.org)**

**Director: Mr. Deschenes**

Location: Room 110

Email address: [wdeschenes@miltonps.org](mailto:wdeschenes@miltonps.org)

**Assistant Director: Ms. Okoh**

Location: Room 135

Email address: [dokoh@miltonps.org](mailto:dokoh@miltonps.org)

**Stage Crew Coordinator: Ms. Royster**

Location: Library

Email address: [jroyster@miltonps.org](mailto:jroyster@miltonps.org)

**Choreographer: Mary Haddad**

Email address: [maryagneshaddad@gmail.com](mailto:maryagneshaddad@gmail.com)

# The 2022-23 Season:



## *The classic family musical*

Music by Richard Rodgers  
Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II  
Book by Tom Briggs & Louis Mattioli

Rodgers & Hammerstein's only musical written directly for the screen is now a critically acclaimed stage musical! Set against the colorful backdrop of an American heartland tradition, *State Fair* travels with the Frake family as they leave behind the routine of the farm for three days of adventure at the annual Iowa State Fair. Mom and Pop have their hearts set on blue ribbons while their daughter and son find romance and heartbreak on the midway. Set to a tuneful, memorable score, *State Fair* is the kind of warmhearted family entertainment only Rodgers & Hammerstein could deliver

**Jan. 19, 20 & 21, 2023**

(snowdate: Jan. 22<sup>th</sup>)

## *A rousing musical that thrills and inspires!*

Book by Harvey Fierstein  
Music by Alan Menken  
Lyrics by Jack Feldman

Disney's *Newsies JR.* is inspired by the rousing true story of newsboys in turn-of-the-century New York City. The musical features a Tony Award-winning score by Alan Menken and Jack Feldman and a book by Tony Award winner Harvey Fierstein. When powerful newspaper publishers raise prices at the newsboys' expense, the charismatic Jack Kelly rallies newsies from across the city to strike against the unfair conditions. Together, the newsies learn that they are stronger united and create a movement to fight for what's right. Including the now-classic songs "Carrying the Banner," "Seize the Day," and "Santa Fe," *Newsies JR.* is a timeless story full of spirit and heart.

**JUNE**

**1, 2, & 3, 2023**



# **A few things to know before joining** **the cast or crew of** **THE PIERCE PLAYERS**

## **1. COST**

***Participants in all after school clubs are charged a fee of \$37.50. This fee entitles participation in the cast and crew of ONE show. Students who participate in the fall production of STATE FAIR will be required to pay an additional \$37.50 fee in order to participate in the production NEWSIES JR. as well.***

(Provisions will be made for any family with a financial hardship, but an application for a waiver must be made to Mr. Fish, the principal.)

- All questions about club fees should be addressed to Ms. Gass, the assistant principal ([kgass@miltonps.org](mailto:kgass@miltonps.org) or 617.696.4570).
- The club fee is collected by the Milton Public Schools and is used to run all of the after school clubs at Pierce. The Pierce Players' productions (sets, lights, props, costumes, rentals, scripts, royalties, publicity, etc.) are funded exclusively by proceeds from ticket sales and fund-raising activities.
- Depending on the needs of the part, each performer will be asked to provide all or part of his/her costume. A detailed description of what is required will be given out near the beginning of the rehearsal process.
- Other future OPTIONAL expenses: T-shirt (\$15), tickets (\$10), messages in the program (\$10). Again, these purchases are NOT required.
- For your convenience a registration form is provided at the end of this packet

## **2. PROFESSIONALISM**

***The Pierce Players prides itself on the high quality of its productions. In order to achieve this level of quality, professional behavior and attitudes are expected from every student.***

- High expectations are set for both the cast and crew. During the course of the rehearsal process, the show becomes completely student-run.
- Positive attitudes are essential. The value of *participation* and being part of an *ensemble* are emphasized over an individual's specific role.

### 3. **COMMUNICATION**

***With over 100 participants, a complex rehearsal schedule, and a multi-faceted production, good communication is vital to the success of the club.***

- Because handouts and notices may not always make it home, visit [www.pierceplayers.org](http://www.pierceplayers.org) on a regular basis for updates and handouts.
- ALL absences and scheduling conflicts should be explained in writing. Prior notice is appreciated whenever possible. Communication about attendance should be directed to the Assistant Director, Ms. Okoh at [dokoh@miltonps.org](mailto:dokoh@miltonps.org)
- Reminders and notifications to parents/guardians will be sent to the email addresses on file in the main office via our PlusPortals system.
- Questions about club registration and fees and should be directed to Ms. Gass at [kgass@miltonps.org](mailto:kgass@miltonps.org)
- Email addresses are provided for all faculty advisors (see cover sheet). In most cases, email is the preferred method of communication as teachers are not always able to check voicemail throughout the school day.

### 4. **SCHEDULE and ATTENDANCE**

***Joining the Pierce Players requires a substantial time commitment. Be sure you can adhere to the rigorous rehearsal schedule BEFORE auditioning or signing up for crew.***

- In general, the Pierce Players rehearses *every* MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, and THURSDAY from 2:30-4:00 PM. (Even though you may not be *required* to attend every single rehearsal, you *should be able* to attend every rehearsal.)
- Tuesday rehearsals and extended rehearsals (2:30-5:30) are required 2-3 weeks prior to the performance.
- On other rare occasions, it may also be necessary to schedule meetings or special rehearsals on Tuesdays. Children cast in leading roles may also be required to attend a few Friday rehearsals.
- A detailed rehearsal schedule will be distributed at the first rehearsal. Please remember that absences from rehearsal negatively impact and inconvenience the entire cast and crew.

***IMPORTANT: If a prior commitment would prevent you from attending any one day on a regular basis, or any of the scheduled dress rehearsals or performances, YOU MAY NOT JOIN the Pierce Players. Once a child has enrolled in Pierce Players, he/she SHOULD NOT join another club or team (basketball, track, cross country, etc.) that conflicts with the Pierce Players schedule.***

Special circumstances may allow for minor scheduling accommodations. (For instance, if you had to attend CCD on Wednesdays at 4 PM and therefore had to leave rehearsal at 3:45 on Wednesdays, special permission might be granted. **We would expect that as we get close to the actual performance date that Pierce Players take precedence over all other activities.** Any such requests should be submitted *in writing* at your audition or first crew meeting.)

# Interested in Being on the CREW for The Pierce Players?

## Then do the following:

- ✓ Carefully read through this packet with your parents/guardians
- ✓ Be certain you are able to make the time commitment
- ✓ Submit your club application form and fee **to the main office**
- ✓ Attend the first crew meeting on **Tuesday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>** after school in Room 110 until 3:15 PM
- ✓ **Bring your signed contract to this crew meeting\***

At the first crew meeting, stage crew positions will be selected, and the rehearsal schedules will be discussed.

*\* You will be more likely to get the job of your choice if you show responsibility by attending the required meeting and returning your signed contract on time.*

## Possible Crew Positions:

**Stage Manager\*\***

**Assistant Stage Manager\*\***

**Curtain**

**Fly Rail Operator**

**Sound Board Operator**

**Light Board Operator**

**Spot Light Operator**

**Wardrobe Supervisor**

**Props Manager**

**Shift Crew**

***\*\*If you are interested in being the Stage Manager or Assistant Stage Manager, please see Mr. Deschenes or Ms. Royster ASAP since those jobs require attendance at all rehearsals. (Students with previous Pierce Players experience usually get preference for SM and ASM positions.)***

# Interested in Being in the CAST for The Pierce Players?

## Then do the following:

- ✓ Carefully read through this packet with your parents/guardians
- ✓ Be certain you are able to make the time commitment
- ✓ Submit your club application form and fee **to the main office**
- ✓ Attend the audition workshop on **Monday, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>** in the auditorium from 2:30 to 4:00

## At Monday's audition workshop you will:

1. Learn how to sign up for an audition slot for either  
Thursday, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> or Friday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>
2. Learn the dance for the Dance Audition on Wed. Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>
3. Receive specific materials needed for auditioning
4. Get audition tips and learn about our audition procedures

*Again, if you want to be in the cast, it is very important to attend the*

## **AUDITION WORKSHOP**

**Monday, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>**

**2:30-4:00**

**Pierce Auditorium**

*\*Remember to arrange for transportation home!\**

# Expectations for CAST and CREW



## Rehearsal Procedures:

- Arrive at rehearsal by 2:30 PM sharp and plan on staying until 4:00 unless otherwise instructed. Students MAY NOT rely on the late bus for transportation home. It is the responsibility of each student to arrange for his/her method of transportation in advance. No daily phone calls or text messages will be allowed during rehearsal.
- Sign in immediately upon arrival, so you get credit for attending rehearsal.
- Friends who are not members of the Pierce Players may NOT watch the rehearsals, nor are they allowed to loiter outside of the auditorium.
- Any time you are not rehearsing, you should be studying lines, reviewing blocking, or doing your HOMEWORK. The noise level must be kept down so that the rehearsal is not interrupted.
- Cell-phone use and texting ARE NOT ALLOWED during rehearsal, so transportation arrangements should be made before rehearsal. If a student is found using a cell phone during rehearsal, the phone will be confiscated and turned into the office on the next school day for a parent to retrieve.
- Food and drink are not allowed in the auditorium, including gum.
- Appropriate clothing and footwear are required at all rehearsals. (No flip-flops or Uggs-style boots)

## Attendance Policy:

Since each person's role, leading and chorus alike, is connected to and impacts others, attendance at each rehearsal is **essential**.

- Generally, rehearsals are scheduled for every Monday, Wednesday, AND Thursday.
- You will be expected at *every* rehearsal for which you are called. Carefully review your REHEARSAL SCHEDULE and make absolutely certain you understand which rehearsals you must attend.
- You must be able to attend *all* rehearsals, *all* dress rehearsals, and *all* performances.
- It is your responsibility to know if you are needed for each rehearsal, so study your rehearsal schedule carefully.
- You are not allowed to join another club or team that conflicts with the Pierce Players schedule.
- 3 missed rehearsals FOR ANY REASON may result in the loss of your part in the play.
  - This INCLUDES missing rehearsals because of absences from school, illness, detention, after school make-up work, doctor's appointments, CCD, meetings for other clubs, family vacations, etc.
  - Any missed rehearsal should be **explained in writing** by a parent or a guardian (in advance, whenever possible).
  - Attendance will be strictly enforced. Any extenuating circumstances must be discussed with Mr. Deschenes **in advance to see if it is possible to reach an arrangement**.
- Whenever possible, extra help sessions should be scheduled on non-rehearsal days.
- All correspondence regarding attendance issues should be directed toward Ms. Okoh (dokoh@miltonps.org).

## Conduct:

- Every student in the cast and crew is expected to behave in a mature, responsible, and respectful manner at all rehearsals and performances.
- Discipline problems will be referred to an administrator.
- *Anyone who engages in any kind of inappropriate conduct may lose the privilege of participating in the Pierce Players.*

## Please Note:

- Cast and crew members may be videotaped or photographed during rehearsals and performances. These videos and photographs may be used on the Pierce Players' website or other media.

*Please retain this sheet for your records.*



# CONTRACT

for  
Cast and Crew

*Please print all information CLEARLY*

STUDENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a parent/guardian's email address:

*(This is the address we will use to communicate with you with updates about the Pierce Players.)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Please print clearly—email addresses can be tricky, and it's very important that we have your email address correct.)*

Parent/Guardian's phone number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**Before signing, please make certain your child can fulfill his/her time commitment to the rest of the cast and crew. Attendance is mandatory and critical to the success of the production.**

- Please double-check dates of dress rehearsals and performances to ensure these dates are free of conflicts for your child. [DRESS REHEARSALS: Jan. 12, 17 & 18; PERFORMANCES: Jan. 19, 20 & 21 (snowdate: 1/22)]
- Rehearsals are held each Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday until 4:00 PM. During the two weeks prior to the show, Tuesday rehearsals will be added and *all rehearsals* will be extended.
- As a reminder, cast and crew members will not be allowed to sign up for other clubs such as basketball, track, and cross country as these often conflict with Pierce Players rehearsal times.

*During rehearsals and performances, photographs and video may be taken for various media outlets including the Pierce Players' website and local newspapers. Participation in the Pierce Players assumes permission for the publishing and/or broadcasting of these photographs and videos.*

**I have read, understand, and agree to *all* of the expectations including the attendance and prohibited items policy.**

X \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(student's signature)

X \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(parent/guardian's signature)

**\*\*Please bring this signed sheet to your audition or first crew meeting.\*\***

# Pierce Players

## REGISTRATION FORM

*The \$37.50 fee will allow students to access ONE Pierce Players Performance*

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**Director:** William Deschenes  
**Assistant Director:** Desiree Okoh

**Club Description:** The Pierce Players is the after school drama club involving Pierce students from grades 6-8. Each year two productions are produced. Unlike many performing arts groups, the Pierce Players accepts any student who wishes to participate in the cast or crew. Through the rigorous rehearsal process and live performances, participating students are challenged to learn about theater arts, their community, and themselves.

The fee to participate in each production is \$37.50. To be in the cast or crew of the winter production of *State Fair*, please register and pay the club fee.

To REGISTER and PAY the CLUB FEE (\$37.50) ONLINE:

1. Visit [www.miltonps.org](http://www.miltonps.org)
2. Scroll down and select "MPS ONLINE PAYMENT CENTER"
3. Select "Middle School Student Activities"
4. Fill out all fields and submit payment electronically  
(If paying online, you DO NOT need to submit the form below.)

**OR**

To REGISTER and PAY the CLUB FEE (\$37.50) BY CHECK:

1. Fill out the registration form below
2. Submit this completed form along with a check issued to "Milton Public Schools" to the Main Office

### **PIERCE PLAYERS REGISTRATION**

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

***Students are responsible for their own transportation***

**PLEASE REGISTER AND PAY ONLINE  
or SUBMIT THIS REGISTRATION FORM  
AND PAYMENT OF \$37.50 TO THE MAIN OFFICE.**