

2017-18

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

Director: Mr. Deschenes

Location: Room 110

Email address: wdeschenes@miltonps.org

Assistant Director: Ms. Ohrenberger

Location: Room 214

Email address: mohrenberger@miltonps.org

Stage Crew Coordinator: Ms. Royster

Location: Library

Email address: jroyster@miltonps.org

Costume Designer: Mrs. McKay

Email address: susanmckay2@gmail.com

Choreographer: Heather Utsler-Smith

Email address: heatherutsler.smith@gmail.com

The 2017-18 Season:



**Congratulations
on a Sensational
Show!**

SOLD OUT!

The "Greatest Movie Musical of All Time" is faithfully and lovingly adapted by Broadway legends Betty Comden and Adolph Green, from their original award-winning screenplay in *Singin' in the Rain JR.* Hilarious situations, snappy dialogue and a hit-parade score of Hollywood standards make *Singin' in the Rain JR.* a guaranteed good time for performers and audience members alike.

Singin' in the Rain JR. has all the makings of a Tinseltown tabloid headline – the starlet, the leading man and a love affair that could change lives and make or break careers! In silent movies, Don Lockwood and Lina Lamont are a hot item, but behind the scenes, things aren't always as they appear on the big screen! Meanwhile, Lina's squeaky voice might be the end of her career in "talking pictures" without the help of a talented young actress to do the talking and singing for her.



**JUNE
7, 8, & 9, 2018**

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 participated in the fall production of SEUSSICAL JR. will be required to pay an additional \$37.50 fee to participate in the production of SINGIN' IN THE RAIN JR..

(Provisions will be made for any family with a financial hardship, but an application for a waiver must be made to Dr. Spaulding.)

- All questions about club fees should be addressed to Mr. Carter, the Assistant Principal (mcarter@miltonps.org or 617.696.7003).
- 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 (\$14), 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 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. Ohrenberger at mohrenberger@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 or communication regarding costumes should be directed to
- Mrs. McKay at susanmckay2@gmail.com
- Questions about club registration and fees and should be directed to Mr. Carter at mccarter@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.

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 **Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2018** 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, Jan. 29, 2018** in the auditorium from 2:30 to 4:00

At this audition workshop you will:

1. Learn how to sign up for an audition slot for either Thursday, Feb. 1st or Friday, Feb. 2nd.
2. Receive specific materials needed for auditioning
3. 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, January 29, 2018

2:30-4:00

Pierce Auditorium

Remember to arrange for transportation home!

Expectations for CAST and CREW of



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.
- 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. Ohrenberger (mohrengerber@miltonps.org). Ms. Ohrenberger may contact parents after 2 absences have occurred without written notice or explanation to determine status of membership.

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'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.** Please double check performance dates! 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. A specific rehearsal schedule will be distributed at the first rehearsal.

Attendance is mandatory and critical to the success of the production.

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

Instructor: William Deschenes
Assistant Director: Meghan Ohrenberger
Location: Auditorium
When: Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday
Time: 2:30-4:00 PM

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. If you would like to be in the cast or crew of the spring production of *Singin' in the Rain Jr.*, please fill out the registration form below and return it to the main office along with your payment.

PIERCE PLAYERS REGISTRATION

Name of Student: _____ Grade: _____

Address: _____ Homeroom: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Students are responsible for their own transportation

Checks should be issued payable to "Town of Milton".

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

