

2018-19

# 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. Ohrenberger**

Location: Room 214

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

**Stage Crew Coordinator: Ms. Royster**

Location: Library

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

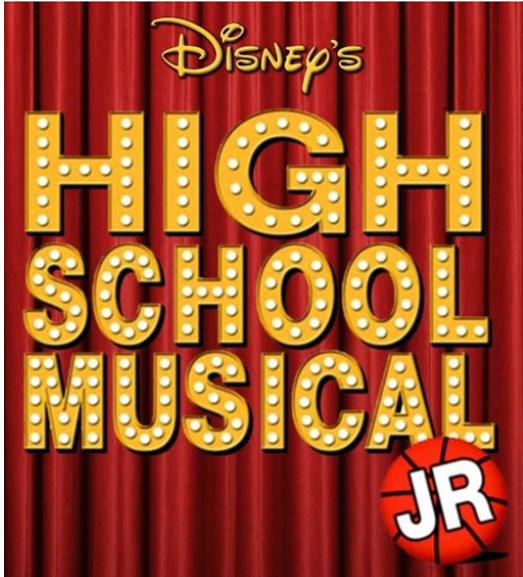
**Costume Designer: Mrs. McKay**

Email address: [stitchesbysue1954@gmail.com](mailto:stitchesbysue1954@gmail.com)

**Choreographer: Mary Haddad**

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

# The 2018-19 Season:



Disney Channel's smash hit movie musical comes to life on the Pierce stage in *Disney's High School Musical JR*. Troy, Gabriella and the students of East High must deal with issues of love, friends and family while balancing their classes and extra curricular activities. The show's infectious, danceable songs are sure to engage performers and audiences alike.

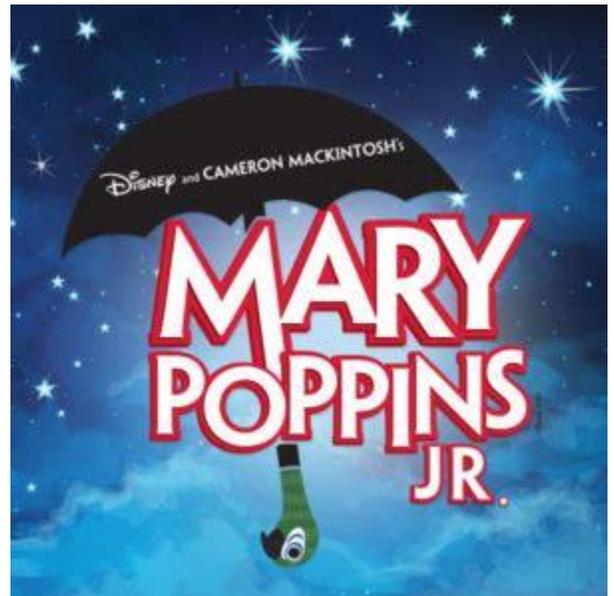
It's the first day after winter break at East High. The Jocks, Brainiacs, Thespians and Skater Dudes all find their cliques. Basketball team captain and resident jock, Troy, discovers that the brainy Gabriella, a girl he met singing karaoke on his ski trip, has just enrolled at East High. The couple causes an upheaval when they decide to audition for the high school musical. Although many students resent the threat posed to the "status quo," Troy and Gabriella's alliance might just open the door for others to shine as well.

**Jan. 17, 18 & 19**  
(snow date Jan. 20)

Based on one of the most popular Disney movies of all time and the Broadway musical that played for over 2,500 performances, *Mary Poppins JR* is sure to enthrall audiences and capture hearts in our "practically perfect" production on the Pierce Middle School stage!

The jack-of-all trades, Bert, introduces us to England in 1910 and the troubled Banks family. Young Jane and Michael have sent many a nanny packing before Mary Poppins arrives on their doorstep. Using a combination of magic and common sense, she must teach the family members how to value each other again. Mary Poppins takes the children on many magical and memorable adventures, but Jane and Michael aren't the only ones upon whom she has a profound effect. Even grown-ups can learn a lesson or two from the nanny who advises that "Anything can happen if you let it."

**JUNE**  
**6, 7, & 8**



# **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 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL JR. will be required to pay an additional \$37.50 fee to participate in the production of MARY POPPINS 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. Alves, the Assistant Principal ([kalves@miltonps.org](mailto:kalves@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](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. Ohrenberger at [mohrenberger@miltonps.org](mailto: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](mailto:susanmckay2@gmail.com)
- Questions about club registration and fees and should be directed to Mr. Alves at [kalves@miltonps.org](mailto:kalves@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 **Friday, Sept. 14, 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 **Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018** in the auditorium from 2:30 to 4:00
- ✓ There will also be an **OPTIONAL**, informal audition workshop on **Friday, Sept. 14, 2018** in the auditorium from 2:30-3:15 for anyone who is looking for a little extra support or advice

### At Thursday's audition workshop you will:

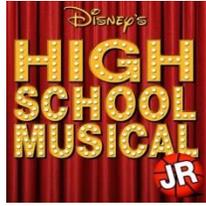
1. Learn how to sign up for an audition slot for either Monday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>.
2. Receive specific materials needed for auditioning
3. Get audition tips and learn about our audition procedures

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

**AUDITION WORKSHOP**  
**Thursday, September 13, 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.
- 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. 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/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 10, 14, 15 & 16. PERFORMANCES: Jan. 17, 18, 19 (snowdate—Jan. 20)]
- 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 clubs such as basketball, track, and cross country as these often conflict with set 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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**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 winter production of *High School Musical 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 “Milton Public Schools”.*

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