

2020-2021 FREEPORT AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL **STUDENT INFORMATIONAL PACKET** **(GRADES 6/7/8)**

Dear Interested FAMS Musical Students and Families,

We are excited to offer this wonderful, theatrical opportunity for you! This is a very rewarding experience every year, and it is our goal to make this a memorable, learning experience for all involved. **Matilda, Jr.** will take place on February 12th and 13th.

(Alternate dates, if needed, depending on pandemic restrictions at the time of the original performance dates: April 9th & 10th.)

Please see the attached documents as you prepare for the audition process. Keep in mind that due dates, rehearsal schedules, and general procedures will be strictly followed.

Please also keep in mind that we all must remain flexible and able to pivot at a moment's notice this year due to the ever-changing situations beyond our control. All parents are responsible for providing necessary transportation (at the appropriate times) as well as any financial obligations throughout the entire process.

- *Auditions will be done remotely using Flipgrid.*
- *The audition window will be December 7th through December 9th.*
- *Students MUST have their auditions posted on Flipgrid by 7:00 PM on December 9th.*

Important Items to Keep in Mind:

- Please read all parts of this informational packet to ensure you (or your child) are committed to this production throughout the entire process.
- Follow the audition process as described on page 3. Each student may audition with up to **three** different characters and songs. Please ensure that *each* audition is a separate Flipgrid video. You may or may not be cast in the roles you audition with. It is possible that students are cast in a role for which they did not audition!

I'm looking forward to this great production. Any questions or concerns should be directed to me via email at koharchik@freeport.k12.pa.us. Good luck in preparing and "break a leg!"

Sincerely,

Mr. Koharchik & MS Musical Production Staff

MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL - GENERAL INFORMATION

General Play Information

- 1) We are hosting the musical performances in the Middle School Auditorium. Rehearsals will take place in the MS and HS Auditoriums, and a detailed schedule will be included.
- 2) The musical is Ronald Dahl's **Matilda, Jr.**
- 3) The cast list will be exact and will be determined based on the outcome of auditions.
- 4) ***Not every student who auditions will be cast in the MS Musical. To respect the audition process, there will be approximately 20-25 actors selected to perform on-stage. Other students will serve on Stage Crew and other roles as needed.***
- 5) The staff members for this year's MS Musical include:
 - a. Mr. Koharchik – Director & Producer, Set Designer
 - b. Mrs. Sypulski – Choreographer
 - c. Mr. Kovach – Stage Manager
 - d. Mrs. Koharchik – Costume Designer
 - e. Mr. Shipman – Staff

Audition Process

- **Step One:** All students that plan on auditioning must complete the Google Form linked below ***BEFORE*** their audition is uploaded into Flipgrid. You may complete this form immediately. You can access the form by the link below or by using the QR code pictured here.

- a. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfJjKs0eZsRJagADPiJ_h2camGz2xAstYoORvVq8lOQGpWbcg/viewform?usp=sf_link



Go into your phone (Android or iPhone) and take a picture of the barcode. As soon as you focus on the barcode the URL browser will appear.

- **Step Two:** After completing the above form, students should research *Matilda, Jr.* and determine what characters they may be interested in. There are several character breakdowns, including scene readings and music, which can be found using this link and QR code:

- a. https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KgJz1M0i1WQmo3HVPjVbRzkIQyia_BH0



- **Step Three:** Use this link to listen to the part recording of the songs you've selected for audition. Get to know them well.

- a. https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1FX-NTTdEguxdsLRN05ht3YZ7_8xf7jHM?usp=sharing



- **Step Four:** Use this link to access the backing track recordings that you will use for your audition. DO NOT audition with the vocal tracks from above. You MUST audition with the tracks that do not have anyone singing your part!

- a. <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1gqh0BB4vMIamMLOMq7pTJGquNVDUUhDR6?usp=sharing>



- **Step Five:** Visit <https://flipgrid.com/e1901401> and click the button that says "Log in with Google."



You MUST use your "@freeport.k12.pa.us" account – all other domains are blocked.

You will then be taken to the FAMS – Matilda, Jr. Auditions page.

- **Step Six:** Click the red button that says "Record a Response" and begin your audition after the countdown.

See the next page for what to include in your video audition!!

What to Include in Your Video Audition

The following material **MUST** be included in your audition. Please follow each step in this order to ensure a proper audition:

- 1) Clearly state your name and grade. (ex. *“My name is John Smith and I am in 8th grade.”*)
- 2) Clearly state what character you are singing for. (ex. *“I am going to sing the part of Matilda Wormwood.”*)
- 3) Start the backing track so that you can hear the music. You may use headphones or your computer speakers, or any other method. It is NOT necessary that the judges can hear the backing track, but it is essential that YOU can hear it and follow it properly.
- 4) Sing the ENTIRE song from the character you selected.
- 5) After the song is finished, prepare to give your monologue. (You may *PAUSE* the recording as you prepare for the monologue. If you pause the recording, be sure to restart it when you are ready to begin your monologue.)
- 6) Clearly state the number of the monologue you’ve selected. (ex. *“I am going to perform monologue #3.”*)
- 7) Perform the monologue clearly and with expression. Judges are not looking for your ability to read, but rather, perform! Do your best to *act* during the monologue, not just read it.
- 8) After the monologue, thank the judges, and end the recording. (ex. *“Thank you!”*)
- 9) Once the recording is finished, press the green “Next” button. You may then review the video if you would like to make sure that it is what you would like to submit. If it is not to your satisfaction, you may start over.
- 10) Once you have reviewed your audition video, click the green “Next” button again.
- 11) Type your first and last name in the “Display Name” box and click the blue “Submit” button. You should see “Success” and some fireworks. You are done!
- 12) *If you would like to audition for more than one character*, please repeat steps 1 through 11 with the second or third audition selections. You do NOT need to redo a monologue for any additional auditions; we only need to see you sing the part. Only **ONE** monologue per student should be submitted.

Tips for a Good Video Audition

Auditioning with a video is in many ways better than auditioning live. For one, you have the ability to redo the audition until it is the best performance possible. You can redo things as many times as you would like. However, if you are not careful with how you record, the video audition may not reflect your best work.

There are certain things that you can do to help improve the quality of your video audition.

- 1) Look your best! Do your hair and makeup and wear an outfit that is not distracting and enhances your character. If you have long hair, keep it out of your face. Clothing with stripes and plaids tend to jump around on camera. Select an outfit that is more neutral. Be creative, but don't "over-do" it.
- 2) Use natural light from a window on your face, but be careful not to have the window behind you. That is called "backlight" and can leave your face dark and like a shadow.
- 3) Place the camera slightly above your face, never below it. You may need to stack it on some books or a small box to keep it at a good level.
- 4) STAND when you audition and look up and into the screen. The minute you look down, we lose your eyes, and eyes are everything on camera.
- 5) Choose a background that is not too distracting or messy. Stand away from the wall so that there is not a shadow behind you.

Schedule

- 1) The rehearsal schedule is attached. It is imperative that all student members attend all rehearsals.
- 2) *Conflicts happen in life, so all students must ensure that any predictable conflicts are listed on the Musical Audition form on Google.* Unavoidable absences (medical and funeral) will clearly not be added to this form.
- 3) You will not receive any specific acting roles if you miss rehearsals from **February 6th through 13th**.

Other Responsibilities for Actors

- 1) Acting is a learned skill. It takes a lot of practice and hard work! Are you up for the challenge?
- 2) All actors are responsible for learning their character lines by the assigned dates. Student members can lose their roles if not prepared or have excessive and/or unexcused absences.
- 3) All student actors will be responsible for paying for certain items such as costume materials & musical t-shirts. Below is a preliminary breakdown of estimated costs:
 - a. REQUIRED - \$25 – Fee for all actors/actresses to cover costs of your costume (not including makeup/shoes)
 - b. OPTIONAL – Approx. \$10 – Musical T-Shirt
 - c. OPTIONAL - \$5.00 and up – Well Wishes and Program Ads
 - d. OPTIONAL - \$1.00 and up – Performance Night Gifts
- 4) Ticket Costs (General Admission Only) –
 - a. \$6.00 – Purchased online only

All correspondences should go through Mr. Koharchik at koharchik@freeport.k12.pa.us

M.S. MUSICAL

SCHEDULE

December 7 th – 10 th	Auditions (Conducted remotely via Flipgrid and Google forms)
Monday, December 14	Audition Results Posted online on Mr. Koharchik's Teacher Page (https://www.freeport.k12.pa.us/olc/113/class/7734)
Thursday, December 17	Mandatory MS Musical Family Meeting on ZOOM 7:00 pm (for all students cast) (Zoom Meeting ID: 967 3078 7841; Password: 322070)
Monday, December 21	3:00pm-4:30pm (read through of musical on Zoom. Code to be provided once cast.)
December 22 nd – January 3 rd	Holiday Break (Cast memorize lines and study musical parts)
Tuesday, January 5	3:00pm-4:30pm
Wednesday, January 6	3:00pm-4:30pm
Thursday, January 7	3:00pm-4:30pm
Tuesday, January 12	3:00pm-4:30pm
Wednesday, January 13	3:00pm-4:30pm
Thursday, January 14	3:00pm-4:30pm
Saturday, January 16	9:00am-11:00am
Tuesday, January 19	3:00pm-4:30pm
Wednesday, January 20	3:00pm-4:30pm
Thursday, January 21	3:00pm-4:30pm
Tuesday, January 26	3:00pm-4:30pm
Wednesday, January 27	3:00pm-4:30pm
Thursday, January 28	3:00pm-4:30pm
Saturday, January 30	9:00am-11:00am
Tuesday, February 2	3:00pm-4:30pm
Wednesday, February 3	3:00pm-4:30pm
Tuesday, February 4	3:00pm-4:30pm
Saturday, February 6	9:00am-1:00pm - Tech Rehearsal
Tuesday, February 9	5:30pm-9:00pm – Dress Rehearsal
Wednesday, February 10	5:30pm-9:00pm – Dress Rehearsal
Thursday, February 11	5:30pm-9:00pm – Dress Rehearsal
Friday, February 12	7:00pm Performance
Saturday, February 13	2:00pm & 7:00pm Performances

** In the event that conditions dictate the performance needs to be rescheduled, the show dates will be April 9th and 10th. In that instance, the mandatory tech rehearsal will be Saturday, March 27th. A modified rehearsal schedule will be created if that situation occurs.*

Monologues

Please select one to use in your audition.

These monologues are from various musicals, not exclusively *Matilda, Jr.* Please keep in mind the characters in *Matilda, Jr.* and how they might say these monologues. We will be working to perform with English accents, so if you are able to do that, even if you think it is not “great,” please do!

- 1) **Miss Trunchbull:** Sometimes in life, horrible and unexplainable things happen. These things are a test of character. And I have character! I expect you’re wondering what I’m talking about? A child came to my house. I don’t know how, I don’t know when, I don’t know why. But I know a child came. So, did you know it was illegal to enter someone’s home without their permission? Do any of you recognize this? (She holds up a ribbon) Let's play a little game, shall we?!? Who was wearing a pretty red hair ribbon yesterday and isn't wearing one today? Can you answer me that? Who does this disgusting ribbon belong to?
- 2) **Matilda:** Never do anything by halves if you want to get away with it. Be outrageous. Go the whole hog. Make sure everything you do is so completely crazy it's unbelievable...” It's a funny thing about mothers and fathers. Even when their own child is the most disgusting little blister you could ever imagine, they still think that he or she is wonderful.”
- 3) **Jane:** When we heard that father was going to search for a new nanny after Katie Nana left us, we wanted to have some say in the matter. After all, it was “our” nanny that they were seeking to hire. Father didn’t approve of our advertisement. He replied that it was “most interesting” and then sent us off to the nursery. All we requested was that the applicant be kind, witty, attractive, play games & give us treats. Father found our suggestions to be bothersome and he told us he had “enough of this nonsense!”
- 4) **Michael:** “Wanted, a nanny for two adorable children.” “Play games, sing songs, bring treats...” A must! I don’t know why father didn’t like our advertisement. I thought it was jolly, good! Several nannies arrived to apply for the position, but none of them met the description we’d requested. They were rather nasty looking. Well, Jane, they were! Then something rather peculiar happened. All the nasty, nannies blew away! Huge gusts of wind swept them all off their feet. I was glad! Well Jane, I was!
- 5) **Mr. Banks:** Winefred, where are the children? What do you mean you don’t know? You say you’ve looked everywhere for them? Very well, I shall deal with this at once. Give me the police station, quickly please. This is George Banks at number 17 Cherry Tree lane. It’s a matter of some urgency. I should like to see a policeman around immediately. A policeman’s here? Well, what wonderful service. Thank you & goodnight. Now, Winifred, please don’t be emotional. I am very grateful to you for returning our children, Constable. Now if you’ll go into the kitchen I’m sure Cook will find you a nice plate of something. As for the two of you, to the nursery this instant!
- 6) **Mrs. Banks:** George, I’m glad you’re home! There’s something I’d like to discuss with you. It’s about the children. They’re missing, Katie Nana has looked everywhere. I can’t let her go George. She left us. I’m awfully sorry about this, George. I suppose you’ll want to discuss it. When I chose Katie Nana I thought that she would be firm with the children. I’ll try to do better next time. Unless, of course, you hire the next Nanny. Oh, would you, George. I’d be so grateful!

- 7) **Mary Poppins:** Good morning. I've come in answer to the advertisement. George and Winefred Banks live here, do they not? And you are looking for a nanny? Very well, then. Now let's see. "Play games all sorts". Which I most certainly can. "Take us on outings give us treats, "rosy cheeks and fairly pretty". There's no objection on that score, I hope. (waits for a response) I'm glad to hear it. You'd like to see my references? Well, I make it a point never to bring references. A very old-fashioned idea to my mind. The best people never require them, now. The best people also give every second Wednesday off from six 'til late and that is what I will take. I believe a trial period might be wise. I'll give you one week. I should know by then! I'll see the children now.
- 8) **Bert:** Wait! Stop! Don't move a muscle. I'd know that smile anywhere. Mary Poppins! And you two, I've seen you about; chasing a kite last time, I believe. Where did you say she was taking you? To the park? Hmm? Not if I know Mary Poppins. Other Nannies take children to the park, but when you're with Mary Poppins, suddenly you're in places you've never dreamed of. Quick as you can say, "strike me pink" the most unusual things begin to happen. Well, of course it ain't for me to say, but what she's probably got in mind is a jolly holiday somewhere. Some place different, where you've never been before!
- 9) **Mrs. Darling:** I have been wanting to show you something peculiar. I believe that while they sleep, our children have been receiving an uninvited visitor. I think he comes through the window even though it is three floors up. Last week Nana had just returned from her evening out, and sprang at a strange boy, who simply leapt through the window. Nana closed it quickly, too late to catch him, but his shadow had not time to get out - slam went the window and snapped it off.
- 10) **Peter Pan:** It was because I heard father and mother, talking about what I was to be when I became a man. I didn't want ever to be a man, I want always to be a little boy and to have fun. So I ran away to Kensington Gardens and lived a long, long time among the fairies. You see Wendy, when the first baby laughed for the first time, its laugh broke into a thousand pieces, and they all went skipping about, and that was the beginning of fairies. And so, there ought to be one fairy for every boy and girl.
- 11) **Don:** Well, I've had one motto which I've always lived by: Dignity - always dignity. This was instilled in me by Mom and Dad from the very beginning. They sent me to the best dancing schools.... Where I met my lifelong friend... Cosmo Brown. And with him, I used to perform for all Mom and Dad's society friends. They used to make such a fuss over me. Then, if I was very good, I was allowed to accompany Mom and Dad to the theatre. This stimulated my love for performing, and to this we added rigorous musical training at the conservatory. In a few years, Cosmo and I were ready to embark on a dance concert tour. We played the finest symphonic halls in the country.