



**2020-2021
KMHS Drama
Handbook**



WELCOME TO KMHS DRAMA

2020-2021

Theatre is a collaborative form of fine arts that uses live performers to present the experience of a real or imagined event before a live audience through combinations of gesture, speech, song, music and dance.

The first step to becoming a successful performer is to make a solid commitment to your classes, rehearsals and performances. Strong technique is a key ingredient to success and class is where you develop that technique. Come to class prepared to learn, without personal distractions, with an attitude and spirit of positivity and enthusiasm! Class is a chance to focus on yourself, so leave your concerns and worries outside the classroom door and off the stage.

TRUE PROGRESS IS MADE WHEN YOU LOOK AT EACH CHANCE TO ACT—WHETHER IN CLASS, REHEARSAL OR PERFORMANCE—AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME BETTER!

Respect for your teacher(s) and director(s) is essential. Listen to all feedback, correction and critique intently, whether directed at you or another peer. Correction is an honor; it shows your director/teacher cares about your progress and growth as an actor. Always say “thank you” when a director/teacher offers you constructive criticism. Nothing can stop those students who apply themselves in every class and appreciate their directors’/teachers’ knowledge and experience.

Performing is your opportunity to show the world the results of your dedication and hard work. Make the MOST of this opportunity by presenting yourself and representing KMHS Drama in a professional manner—both on and off the stage!



NEW THIS SEASON:

One-Act Production Fee: \$125

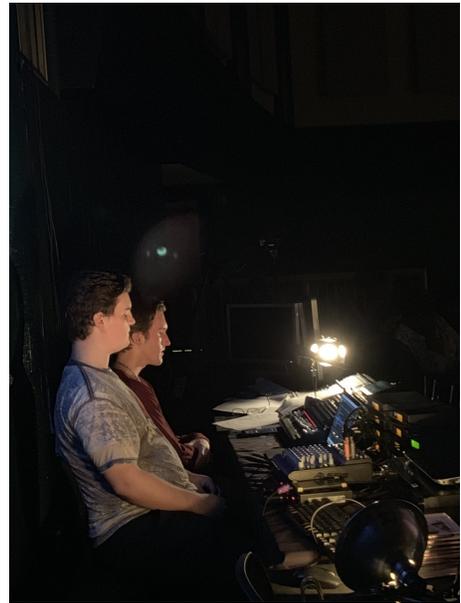
Elf, Jr Production Fee: \$125

Mamma Mia Production Fee: \$200

Fundamentals II Production Fee: \$50

****All production fees cover****

- **Show T-shirt**
- **Meals for performance week (vary by production)**
- **Individual waters for cast**
- **Two tickets (for one show)**



All fees are payable to KMHS Drama via cash, check, PayPal (kmhsmustangdrama@gmail.com) or Venmo (@kmhsdrama).

COVID-19 ADDENDUM

Supplies we recommend for students to have for class, rehearsals and performances:

- Dedicated drawstring bag (or equivalent) for theatre-specific uses only
- Personal hand sanitizer
- Personal anti-bacterial wipes
- Personal water bottle
- Face mask or face shield (cleaned properly daily, if not disposable)
- Pencil with eraser
- Band-aids
- Personal tissue
- Socks

EXPECTATIONS

Every class at KMHS Drama has their own syllabus complete with class expectations and guidelines. Parents are required to sign an acknowledgment that both student and parent have reviewed the syllabus specific for each class.

Aside from specific class expectations, there are very stringent expectations associated with performing in any production with KMHS Drama. Students will receive a copy of these expectations along with a detailed rehearsal schedule for any production they will be working on. Parents must sign an acknowledgement of these expectations and dates for their student to participate in said production. General production expectations are as follows:

- You should not receive detention, ISS or OSS! If you are having a problem, you come see Mrs. Parker or Mr. Gamerl. If we cannot help you, we will find someone who can. Stay away from unnecessary trouble or please stay away from the theatre department – it is your choice, choose wisely! We don't need extra drama in drama!
- Students are required to report any grade below a "75" to Mrs. Parker or Mr. Gamerl. We should be informed before we hear it from another teacher or parent.
- Learn to say "please", "thank you", "may I", "sir" and "ma'am". Simple respect when it is appropriate!
- Dress like you respect yourself. What this means is "Am I dressed appropriately for the situation?" . For instance, there are certain ways we must dress for our jobs. There are appropriate "codes" for going to the theater. Sometimes, this is simply a sign of respect, sometimes this is functional. Please make sure we are representing our department in a positive manner.
- Hair must remain at an appropriate length, style and color as relevant to the production. You should not drastically change your appearance once you have been cast until your last performance without checking with the director.
- Be positive. Do not say anything negative about the show, other people in the show, costumes, set pieces, the director, etc. Do not lower yourself to gossip. Beware of rumors – unless you hear it directly from us or whomever it is about, consider it false.
- Know when to lead and when to follow. If you are not doing one of these, get out of the way. This program is moving forward – fast. We will go on with or without you. We want to go on with you!
- Every school rule must be followed at rehearsals and group related trips. This includes use of tobacco, vaping, drugs and/or alcohol. There is a zero tolerance policy. Also, none of these things should be discussed before, during or after rehearsals while on campus.
- Do not lie! It will only cause more problems. We will get through problems together. Do not destroy your director's and/or your group's trust.
- If you have a problem with something or someone related to the show, talk with Mrs. Parker, Mr. Gamerl or the stage manager.

- Students are expected to be at EVERY rehearsal, ON TIME, mentally, physically and emotionally ready to perform. Students coming in late may cause rehearsals to run late. Punctuality is of the utmost importance. Being late to rehearsal (class) or call may result in a student being pulled from a scene/number or even a performance, if excessive. Early is on time. On time is late. Late is not discussed!
- Students must be dressed appropriately to perform. This includes no jewelry, hats or caps and long hair pulled back. Students need proper socks, shoes and rehearsal attire in which the students can move freely in. No blue jeans/pants, skirts or shirts that restrict movement should be worn. Clothing is not an excuse for not being able to rehearse. An opportunity to change into appropriate clothing for rehearsal will be given, if needed. Refer to your syllabus for all black requirements and jazz shoe requirements!
- Students who do not drive must arrange to be picked up on time for any afterschool rehearsals or performances.
- A study area will be set up where students may study and receive help from other students, if needed, when they are not actively rehearsing or working on classwork. This will not happen very often as when you are not blocking, you will probably be working music or smaller scene work. If you are struggling with your school work, you must let Mrs. Parker, Mr. Gamerl or Mrs. Jacobson know so that we can help you get help!
- Students with slipping grades may be required to seek tutoring or a mandatory study hall until improvements are made.
- If you are seriously sick and will not be able to attend class/rehearsal, you must text Mrs. Parker and let her know as soon as you can. Your absence truly does impact rehearsal and plans made need to be changed for the day's rehearsal.
- Regardless of the reason, if you are not here then you are not here. Realize you may have to be cut from a scene or number or your understudy may have to be utilized. This is NOT anything personal, just professional! It is the directors' discretion to do what is best for the show.
- Remind Mrs. Parker AND the stage manager at least two days before any excused absence.
- All cell phones are to be in book bags and on silent during rehearsals. There is an option to have your phone locked in Mrs. Parker's office if this makes you more comfortable. In unique situations, where it is important (and extremely rare) that someone would need to reach you during a rehearsal, you need to make arrangements with the stage manager (i.e. someone in your family is sick or pregnant, etc.). Phones should not be in your pockets during rehearsal and phones should never be backstage! NEVER!
- All students must be present and in school for two blocks to be eligible for rehearsals and/or performances after school.
- Professional behavior is required at all rehearsals and performance. Any display of rudeness, disrespect or inappropriate behavior towards the directors, the choreographers, the captains or fellow performers will result in disciplinary action (at the discretion of the directors). Appropriate attitudes will be expected at ALL rehearsals. This includes comments, facial expressions and body language. Stop talking and/or moving and look at the director, choreographer or captains when they are speaking.

- The director/choreographer/musical director can require extra rehearsals from the cast members who do not know their music, lines, blocking or choreography. Please, do NOT come to rehearsal unprepared.
- The use of profanity is prohibited. Think before you speak. Be more creative. Be more intelligent!
- Students should have their script and a pencil at EVERY rehearsal and keep organized notes related to the show. Students need to take their scripts home every night.
- Remember, immaturity is unattractive. It is nothing more than a display of insecurity and a plea for attention. No one needs negative attention. We recommend you try to receive positive attention by working hard, being responsible, dependable, disciplined, organized and/or pleasant to be around.
- The expectations are set to help develop the discipline needed for maximum success. Our intentions are that you will not only grow as actors, but as people.
- (Musical Theatre) Lost scripts will incur an \$85 charge due from the student. Keep up with your libretto.

Although, the expectations may appear a little overwhelming, at first, many are very common “sensible” and we review them as a cast and crew for each production.



REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES

Rehearsal and performance dates will be made available as soon as possible.

If you miss critical rehearsals or excessive class time before performances, you may be removed from the production at the discretion of the director. Each actor and crew member is considered an asset to the production and when you are missing, the show is incomplete. Be respectful of your peers, teachers, directors and any guest artists by committing yourself to them and KMHS Drama.

Additional rehearsals may become necessary as we approach certain performance dates.

A KMHS Drama 2020-2021 calendar is attached to this handbook. All dates are subject to change and additional dates may be added.

PROFICIENCY

All students are encouraged to focus on their own accomplishments. Looking to others for inspiration is a good thing; however a negative focus or comparison distracts from the energy that could be focused on becoming a stronger actor and performer. If a student or parent has concerns about his/her theatre education, don't panic and refrain from talking about it with other students or parents until you have made an effort to speak directly to the teacher or director.

IMAGE AND BEHAVIOR

KMHS Drama students and parents participate in many outside activities, each of which becomes a reflection of KMHS Drama. Please keep the following in mind:

- Never speak negatively about teachers, peers or parents from other programs OR KMHS Drama. Always make an extra effort to be positive and helpful to other students, parents and groups!
- Never create conflict with other students and parents within our own family—handle any disputes through the KMHS Drama director.
- The director handles all communication with the directors of other programs or outside activities.
- KMHS Drama students should always behave in a respectful manner at home, school and when participating in other social, school or extracurricular activities. **THIS INCLUDES ALL FORMS OF SOCIAL MEDIA!**

KMHS DRAMA BOOSTER CLUB

KMHS Drama has a booster club that every parent is encouraged to be a part of. For more information, please email dawn.parker@cobbk12.org and consult www.kmhsdrama.com for meeting and membership information.

A NOTE TO PARENTS

KMHS Drama believes that student success is directly aligned to the support of their parents. Because your commitment to the process makes such an enormous difference, we encourage parents to be a part of their child's theatre education.

Spend time each week asking your child about class and/or rehearsals.

Get involved in KMHS Drama Booster Club!

Come help with set builds, costumes, props, concessions, cleanup, meals...the list goes on and on and on...

Our program relies on a positive atmosphere! It promotes a positive learning experience for all involved. Cooperation between all parents is expected. Showing respect for the other parents, students and faculty makes an important impact on the students. You are a role model for your child in how to interact with others in a professional setting.

Your child's presence during class, rehearsals and performances is imperative. The spirit of teamwork and the lesson of dedication are a big part of the educational process and life application.

Parents and teachers may look at a child's learning from different perspectives; however, they share a common goal—to assure that every student receives the best possible training, both physically and mentally. Mutual respect provides the students with the ultimate care and education.

Encourage your child to be the best that he or she can be without regard to what **OTHERS** may achieve. While theatre can be ensemble-based, it is also an individual art form; each actor needs to achieve and progress at a pace that's appropriate and comfortable for him/her. No two students progress at the same rate—even if they experience the exact same training. It's important to encourage the actor/actress to focus on themselves, give their all and be satisfied with their own accomplishments.

Theatre education encompasses so much more than just technique and application. The discipline behind theatre training gives a better understanding of commitment by offering them a chance to learn, experience the spirit of teamwork, and understand what hard work can accomplish. At KMHS Drama, our goal is to educate the minds, bodies and souls of our students—to teach them skills needed for life outside these school walls—whether they pursue theatre or not.

Welcome to the KMHS Drama family!

COMMUNICATION and MARKETING

Communication is key to a successful program. There are several ways to stay connected to all things KMHS Drama!

1. Facebook: @kmhsdrama
2. Instagram: kmhsdrama
3. Twitter: @KMHS_Drama
4. www.kmhsdrama.com

You can always reach Mrs. Parker at dawn.parker@cobbk12.org or directly at her personal cell at 770-853-8404.

PLEASE consider following all KMHS Drama social media accounts and please promote, promote, promote our department and productions! You can also sign up for our email blast by emailing Mrs. Parker or leaving your email on the sign-up sheet on the Drama Information table outside of Room 915.

AWARDS and HONORS

Students have MANY opportunities to earn many accolades and honors in KMHS Drama.

1. International Thespian Society (ITS): By performing and/or working on shows, students can earn points to be inducted in the national theatre honor society. ITS members are also eligible to attend the annual Georgia Thespian Conference (Thescon) in February for additional theatre education opportunities. Graduation cords and stoles available for honor thespians.
2. Magnet Fine Arts graduation cord : Students must participate in a minimum of one theatre class each year, be involved in a minimum of one production each year, assist in any shows not performing or working technical theatre and maintain a minimum 3.5 GPA in all theatre classes.
3. Fine Arts Diploma Seal: see the specific information sheet for the Fine Arts Diploma Seal found at www.kmhsdrama.com on the “News” tab under “Senior Info”
4. Drama letter: see the letterman point system in the “News” tab under “Department Honors”
5. Department scholarships: Susan Gunderman Fine Arts Scholarship (\$500), Ed Deavers Technician (\$250), Debbie Walker Spirit of Theatre (\$250), KMHS Drama Heart of Theatre (\$250)



Calendar of Events

****Dates are subject to change and additional dates may be added****

August

08/11—08/14—One-Act Auditions (by appointment only)

08/19—One-Act Meeting for Parents and Students (6:30pm) - Zoom Code will be sent to all participants

08/20—One-Act Table-read (3:30pm—5:30pm)

08/24—Early Release

08/25—One-Act Rehearsals start (detailed schedule will be given to cast)

08/27—KMHS Drama Parent Meeting (6:00pm) - Zoom Code will be sent to all parents

08/30—Musical Theatre Lead Role, Class Consideration - via video submission, more info to come

September

09/01—One-Act Rehearsals continue

09/07—NO SCHOOL

09/18—All Spotlight Series proposals due (for Fall and Spring)

09/26—One-Act Super Saturday (10:00am—4:00pm)

09/28-10/02—Fall Break

October

10/05—One-Act Rehearsals continue

10/09—Fall Spotlight Series auditions

10/19—Early Release Day (One-Act will still rehearse)

10/22,23—One-Act performance

10/24—Region One-Act Competition

10/26—One-Act Rehearsals continue

November

11/02—One-Act Rehearsals continue

11/03—NO SCHOOL—no rehearsal

11/06—One-Act performance

11/07—State One-Act Competition

11/09—Elf, Jr Rehearsals begin after school

11/23-11/27—Thanksgiving Break

11/30—Elf, Jr Rehearsals continue

December

12/03—05—Elf, Jr. performances

12/11—Fall Spotlight Series performance

12/17, 12/18—Early Release

12/21-1/05—Winter Break

Calendar of Events

****Dates are subject to change and additional dates may be added****

January

01/06—School starts back

01/18—NO SCHOOL

01/25—Mamma Mia Rehearsals begin

February

02/01—Mamma Mia Rehearsals continue

Georgia Thespian Convention (TBD) - more information to come

02/12—Spring Spotlight Series auditions

02/15-02/19—February Break

March

03/01—Mamma Mia Rehearsals continue

03/04-03/06—Mamma Mia Performances

03/08—Early Release (we will still have Mamma Mia rehearsal)

03/11-03/12—Mamma Mia Performances

April

04/05-04/09—Spring Break

04/23—Spotlight Series Performances

May

05/04-05/06—Life is a Stage Rehearsals

05/07—Life is a Stage Performance

05/11-05/13—Fundamentals II Rehearsals

05/14—Fundamentals II Performance

05/25, 05/26—Early Release

June

06/21-06/25—KMHS Drama Summer Camp

July

07/12-07/16—KMHS Drama Summer Camp

Student and Family Information



Student Name: _____

Grade: _____ Homeroom: _____

Address: _____

Student Cell Phone: _____

Student Email: _____

T-Shirt Size: _____ Birthdate: _____

Parent Name (1): _____

Parent Name (2): _____

Phone (1): _____

Phone (2): _____

Email (1): _____

Email (2): _____

Students:

I am interested in:

- | | | | |
|-------|--------------------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| _____ | Drama Club | _____ | Drama Leadership Team |
| _____ | International Thespian Society | _____ | Dance Club |
| _____ | Fine Arts Diploma Seal | _____ | Drama Letter |

Parents:

I am interested in:

- | | | | |
|-------|-------------------------|-------|---------------------|
| _____ | KMHS Drama Booster Club | _____ | Set Build |
| _____ | Fundraising | _____ | Costumes |
| _____ | Meals/Concessions | _____ | Program Advertising |

COMMITMENT AGREEMENT

_____ I have received and read the KMHS Drama Handbook for 2020-2021.

_____ I am making a commitment of my time and talent to KMHS Drama. This is a commitment to my fellow actors, teachers, directors, parents and myself.

_____ I recognize that KMHS Drama is well respected in the surrounding community and school district. I will not degrade that reputation by my actions, behavior or demeanor. I understand that in my daily life, I am a representative of KMHS Drama and will seek to present myself always in a positive light.

_____ I understand that my absence (other than sickness or emergency) from class , rehearsal or performance adversely affects the entire production.

_____ I agree to dress according to the dress code of Cobb County School District, Kennesaw Mountain High School and the class expectations, setting a positive example for other students.

_____ I agree to maintain a positive attitude in all things associated with KMHS Drama and to contribute to the program in a positive manner.

_____ I will not participate in gossip, any type of slanderous speech, or any negative written spoken, or electronically-published communication (i.e. social media).

_____ I will respect my teachers, directors, parents and peers at all times.

_____ I will remain dedicated to superior performance in school—both academically and artistically.

_____ I will continually seek to improve my skills and talents in theatre, always recognizing that I can achieve my goals only through hard work and dedication.

_____ I acknowledge that my director has my best interest in mind at all times.

_____ I will remain grateful to my parents for supporting me in my pursuits through theatre.

KMHS Drama Student: _____

Parent: _____ Date: _____