

Information on the Summer Musical Theatre Class

Why do the class?

To provide homeschooled students with the opportunity to learn musical theatre in an educational setting, with performances in a performing arts center
To provide a summer music class for those families who would like their students' musical training to continue during the summer. **All current HS students registering for the class will be cast in the show. MS students, child roles, and HS students not part of OHMI are by audition only.**

Why in the summer?

While we understand some homeschoolers school year round, many have a more flexible schedule in the summer. This allows for limited interruption in academic studies, and provides a fun learning experience for the summer.

What: a 6 week, 4 times/week class (until tech weeks) to teach students musical theatre, including acting, singing, character exploration, choreography, costuming, stage presence, pit orchestra, technical aspects, etc. This year's show will be *Les Miserables*, a classic tale of French citizens trying to bring about equality in their society.

Dates: Audition Prep/Orientation Meeting - Thursday, May 29th 7 - 9 pm

Auditions: Thursday June 5th, 3 - 9 pm, Friday June 6th, 3 - 9 pm by appointment both days

Rehearsals - Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays (Friday 7/11 as needed) - 9 am - 1:30 pm
June 16th - June 26th at Troy Adventist Academy

Rehearsals/Tech week/Dress rehearsals (at Waterford Kettering PAC) - June 30th - July 23rd

Performances - 3 performances July 24 - 26 at Waterford Kettering Performing Arts Center

Who: Students in 9 - 12th grade, including seniors who graduated in the spring of 2024

Child Roles - (ages 7 - 10) - limited number by audition only

MS students who are 13 years old (It is a PG-13 show)— by audition only

Maximum number of students: 60, not including orchestra members & crew

Specific roles will be by audition. We do not "pre-cast" roles.

Orchestra members: must audition if not in OHMI Symphony, or be approved by Mr. Beard

Crew: **HS students only** (not rising 8th graders) will work with adults on props, set, lighting, etc.

Registration: begins March 1, 2025. **Students need to be registered by May 1st.**

Tuition: See last page in the packet. The cost includes tuition, costumes, standard make-up kit and a voucher for two tickets per family to one of the performances. Costs not covered: undergarments and shoes. Cast is responsible for those. **A \$50 deposit is due with registration. If you are not cast it will be refunded.**

What the tuition pays for:

Putting on a quality musical theatre production costs money. Funds are needed for paying for royalties & performance rights, renting librettos (choral books and scripts), buying/renting the orchestration, purchasing/making costumes, buying materials to build the set, props, advertising, tickets, rehearsal space rental, and provide some remuneration for the staff. The biggest cost is to pay for the venue. We feel very strongly that it is important to use the PAC for the students to have an authentic theatrical experience. By using the Performing Arts Center, we can provide the lighting, sound, stage, set and technical aspects needed for a quality production. The stage will have sound amplification, and we will have use of wireless microphones so young voices do not have to strain to be heard. Also, the orchestra will get experience playing in the pit, just like a professional production. All of these things are important to have a successful educational experience.

Benefits to teaching drama/musicals:

Experience in the Arts is not just about "doing plays" or learning how to move or speak in a specific style. It encourages self development; esteem building; learning to express oneself and sharing. Drama deals with the world of human experience and because it is experiential, it provides realistic and purposeful experiences for

individuals. It's also a lot of fun to do a musical! Using your imagination to bring a story to life is a grand & glorious thing. Experience in the performing arts helps participants develop real life skills. Most importantly, these skills are taught in a fun, non-threatening way. Students aren't necessarily aware of any of these educational benefits – they'll just be having fun.

Through musicals, participants:

- Improve confidence and self esteem
- Polish performance skills
- Develop imagination and creativity
- Develop communication skills
- Develop a love of literature and the spoken word
- Train their voices
- Gain oral presentation skills
- Speech correction
- Act in plays
- Prepare for auditions
- Perform duologues
- Work together as a group
- Express their dramatic abilities
- Develop better thinking skills
- Teach students to be more expressive in their music
- Learn to accompany a live 2+ hour performance in pit orchestra

FAQ:

What instrumentation is needed for the pit orchestra? And what is the "pit" ?

If you are interested in playing in the pit, ask us if your instrument is needed. The pit is an area in the front of the stage, below the stage where the orchestra plays during the musical. There is lighting down there, and it is open on top for the music to be heard. Students not in OHMI need to audition to be sure they are at the appropriate ability level. Pit music is written for professional musicians, so students must be experienced.

Is volunteer time expected of the parents?

Yes. As with all OHMI classes, we need your help to make things run smoothly. There will be a sign-up with various things we will need help with, especially during tech week & performances. Some examples are publicity, tickets, costumes, staging, ushering, props, and set building. We will have two **set building days - June 28th & July 12th** - that the cast, orchestra, & crew and families are expected to help. You are only required to do one set build day.

Can we still go on vacation?

Yes. However, students may not miss more than a week of rehearsals, and **NOT during the last 2 weeks before the show** because they are critical. We mostly avoid Friday rehearsals so people can go away for the weekend in the summer. There will be a few Friday rehearsals toward the end. We will not have rehearsal July 3 & 4. If you are chosen for a lead, the expectation is you will make the show a priority. Do not register if you will miss more than a week, or need to be gone the last 2 weeks of rehearsal.

Tuition: The cost includes tuition, costumes, make-up fees and a voucher for two tickets to one of the performances. Tuition must be paid in full by May 23rd, 2025 If your student drops the class after June 1st, fees are non-refundable unless someone from the waiting list takes your place in the show. Parents can make multiple payments if you wish.

A little more information on what it takes to do a musical....

We do a whole lot more than put on a “little show”.....

OHMI provides approximately 144 hours of instruction time during the summer musical. This instruction is done by an experienced staff - music director, drama director, choreographer, orchestra director, vocal coach, accompanist, costume director, etc. To provide a quality educational experience, musical theatre should be performed in an actual theatre with all the usual technical support. We provide this by using the Performing Arts Center at WK High School. OHMI is known for its beautiful sets and period-appropriate costumes. Sets and costumes are all researched and produced to be an accurate portrayal of the time period. Students are taught about the historical time period in which the production happens. They do character studies, drama games, and assist in making props, costumes, and the set which teaches them the technical side, and helps them take ownership of the show.

What is the cost of this? OHMI’s budget for an average production is \$48,000. Yes, you read that correctly. It costs money to put on a good show, and give the students the educational experience they need. Your tuition payment does not cover the cost of the show. The reason current OHMI families are given a discount is the school year program partially subsidizes the summer show. Most programs like ours other places would cost \$700 - 900 per student.

Some comparisons:

OHMI - 6 weeks, with pit orchestra - \$425 (discount for OHMI Family, and paid by May 1st). (includes \$32 ticket voucher) **\$475 - non OHMI family (not enrolled in the school year program)(discount if paid by May 1st)**

Macomb Center Musical Theatre Workshop (Jr. Show) - \$450 - 12 Days

Community House in Birmingham - \$500 - 1 week - similar to Macomb’s program

Young People’s Theatre in Ann Arbor - \$700 - 2 weeks

So you can see why our price for a full-fledged Broadway musical is an amazing price. Non-OHMI families pay more because they are not part of the school year program, which subsidizes the musical.

We also provide vouchers for 2 tickets/family so parents can see their student perform without paying additional fees. This is not included in any other theatre program, but it is OHMI’s policy that parents should not have to pay to see their child perform since you are already paying tuition. That is why we do not charge for concerts like many schools do. So your tuition cost is actually \$32 less.

Parent volunteers are critical to making the show a success. If we did not have the volunteer help the tuition cost would be much higher as we would have to hire more staff. It is a great way to learn more about theatre yourself, make some new homeschooling friends, and have fun in the process. It’s a fun way for the family to spend part of your summer - join us!

Tuition Costs	OHMI Family	Non-OHMI Family	Orchestra	Crew
By May 23rd	\$450	\$475	\$75	tshirt cost (\$20)
If paid in full by May 1st	\$425	\$450	n/a	n/a

Les Miserables - Calendar

May 29th	Mandatory Student/Parent meeting - get audition packet, rehearsal, order t-shirts 7-9 pm OHMI Waterford
June 5 & 6	Auditions 3:00 - 9:00 pm 6/5 - Troy , 6/6 - Waterford ,
June 16	First Rehearsal 9 am - 1:30 pm - TAA
June 23	Ticket sales open
June 28	Set Building Day - all called (must attend one set build day)
July 3th & 4th	NO REHEARSAL
July 7	Business Ads/Well-wisher Ads due
July 12	Set Building Day - all called (must attend one set build day)
July 19	Tech run - through 12 - 4 pm
July 22	Parent Photo Night
July 24- 26	Performances of <i>Les Miserables</i> at 7 pm
TBA	CCO (Cast, Crew, & Orchestra) Party will be held after we get the video of the production back

Rehearsals - M, T, W, TH - 9:00 am - 1:30 pm

June 16 - 19 - Troy Adventist Academy
23 - 26— Troy Adventist Academy

June 30th, July 1 - 2 — WKHS 3rd & 4th - NO REHEARSAL

Rehearsals - M, T, W, TH, F 9:00 am - 1:30 pm Waterford Kettering PAC

July 7 - 10 July 11th - as needed

Tech Rehearsals - M, T, W, TH 1:00 - 5:00 pm Waterford Kettering PAC

July 14 - 17

July 18 - **Friday evening 5 - 9:30 pm**

Dress Rehearsals - Sat., M, T, W 5:00 - 9:30 pm Waterford Kettering PAC

July 19, 21 - 23

***Note that not all cast may be required every rehearsal day, except for the last 2 weeks when all are called.

List of roles for Les Miserables

Jean Valjean - former convict turned Mayor, protagonist and focus of the story

Javert - the inspector who serves as the antagonist to Jean Valjean

Chain Gang - Valjean's fellow prisoners

Constables - have solos

Farmer and Laborer - solo lines

Bishop of Digne - saves Jean Valjean by showing compassion

Fantine - mother to Cosette

Foreman - in charge of JVJ's factory

Factory Workers - with some lines

Fauchelevant - cart crash victim

Judge - non - singing role

Mistaken JVJ and Family - non - singing roles

Nuns - non - singing roles

Madame Thenardier - wife of the biggest crook in town

Thenardier - tavern owner and villain of the show. Must have comedic timing.

Eponine - Thenardier's daughter who helps him with his crimes. Street-wise and lonely.

Enjolras - student leader of the revolutionaries

Marius - romantic hero of the story. In love with Cosette.

Cosette - Fantine's daughter who JVJ adopts. She loves Marius.

Thenardier's gang - can be male or female - Brujon, Babet, Claquesous, Montparnasse

Members of the ABC Society - Combeferre, Feuilly, Courfeyrac, Joly, Prouvaire, Lesgles, and Grantaire

Army Officer- offstage role

Women 1 - 4 -sing about the barricade

Major Domo - one spoken line

Children's roles:

Young Cosette - Fantine's daughter
Young Eponine - Thenardier's daughter
Gavaroche - Thenardier's son who was disowned
Urchin - street orphan - one line

Chorus:

Other farm laborers

Onlookers and Bystanders - cart crash

Revolutionaries at the Barricade

Sentries 1 and 2

Wedding Guests

Roles for 18+

Lovely Ladies, Sailors, Pimp, Old Woman, Bamatabois - singing roles