

2020 Middle School Musical Review

August 15, 2020

Hello, Middle School Musical Families,

The NA Musical staff hopes that you are safe and healthy. Many families have contacted us to express concerns about the start of the school year and for musical auditions scheduled for August 26 and August 27. Please understand that the musical staff shares those same concerns, and we know you have all been very patiently waiting for an update on our ability to perform a traditional middle school musical in December of 2020. In order to be in compliance with the NA "Return to School Plan", we could not put together our musical plan until the district released its plans in late July.

The musical staff has been working on various scenarios for the past several months, and it seems as soon as we have a solid plan in place, things with the COVID-19 virus change; sometimes daily. Some of the plans we had several weeks ago would no longer be feasible today. Through discussions with the North Allegheny administration, the musical staff has been able to finalize a plan that is not only safe for all students and staff, but also provides our students with a socially distant, solid musical experience.

As you may or may not know, all fall and winter concerts have been canceled through January. There is still great uncertainty surrounding the ability to hold a performance where hundreds of viewers would be in the NASH auditorium. To that end, the administration and the musical staff would still like to provide an opportunity for seventh and eighth graders to participate in a musical experience. We would like to create a musical review. This review will allow students to sing and dance in small groups of four to eight students.

Our plan is to start by asking interested students to notify me that they wish to participate. We will then ask for a short video of each student singing and dancing a selection from the original *High School Musical, Jr.* audition materials. All students who registered for an audition slot will be allowed to participate. The videos are for the staff to best assign groups of singers and dancers. We will also allow students to ask for group members of their choosing, and will do our best to honor those choices. Once the groups are formed, the musical staff will begin a rehearsal schedule for each individual group. Although the groups will not mix, we will prepare each group and eventually record each group. All groups will work at NASH and follow district activity protocols including asking each family to sign the participation waiver attached to this communication (we will also post this information on our website for you to view). If, for any reason, the district needs to close the school grounds for a period of time, the musical will also pause for that length of time. All musical activities will resume when the district deems it safe to resume after-school activities.

The final recording will be shared to all. Each group will be able to choose a selection from any musical (if we are able to obtain the needed materials). Once a group has completed rehearsals and has been recorded, they are done and will be notified when the final production

is ready. We will not be able to sell tickets nor host visitors for this musical review. There is a simple timeline listed below.

The musical staff realizes that this is not the expected nor ideal situation, but it is what we are able to do. Our plan is to perform *High School Musical, Jr.* next year, December 2021. If any student or family does not wish to participate in this year's musical review, for any reason, we fully understand. We hope that you would consider auditioning for the middle school musical which should take place in May/June of 2021 or the high school musical which should take place in September of 2021. The middle school musical would be open for any current seventh grader and the high school musical would be for any current eighth grader.

In closing, we ask that you understand that this process has been every bit as sad and difficult for the musical staff as it has been for you. We truly care for each student and want to ensure that our plan will provide the safest means to conduct a worthwhile musical experience.

Thank you for all of your support,
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Timeline

August, 2020 - Letter sent to parents outlining this year's musical.

August 17 ~31, 2020 - Families email bob@namusical.com to express interest.

August 17 ~31, 2020 - Students [upload](#) singing and dancing videos

September, 2020 - Families complete the [waiver form](#) and bring to the first rehearsal.

The [protocol pages may be found here](#).

The district's [safety steps](#).

This letter may also be found [here](#).

September, 2020 - Rehearsals begin

Tuesdays and Thursdays

December, 2020 - Final presentation

Proposed schedule

Tuesday:

Staff will check in groups 1 & 2 (with COVID protocols)

- 5:00-6:00 PM groups 1 and 2 - group 1 sing and group 2 dance from 5:00-5:20. Give 10 mins for a quick break and clean all shared materials. Staff will watch a group for 10 mins. Then switch - group 2 sing and group 1 dance from 5:30-5:50. Let them be dismissed.

Staff will check in groups 3 & 4 (with COVID protocols)

- 6:00-7:00 PM groups 3 and 4 - group 3 sing and group 3 dance from 6:00-6:20. Give 10 mins for a quick break and clean all shared materials. Staff will watch a group for 10 mins. Then switch - group 4 sing and group 3 dance from 6:30-6:50. Students will be dismissed and another cleaning.

Staff will check in groups 3 & 4 (with COVID protocols)

- 6:00-7:00 PM groups 3 and 4 - group 3 sing and group 3 dance from 6:00-6:20. Give 10 mins for a quick break and clean all shared materials. Staff will watch a group for 10 mins. Then switch - group 4 sing and group 3 dance from 6:30-6:50. Students will be dismissed and another cleaning.

Staff will check in groups 5 & 6 (with COVID protocols)

- 7:00-8:00 PM groups 5 and 6 - group 5 sing and group 6 dance from 7:00-7:20. Give 10 mins for a quick break and clean all shared materials. Staff will watch a group for 10 mins. Then switch - group 6 sing and group 5 dance from 7:30-7:50. Students will be dismissed and another cleaning.

This will let us see 6 groups in one evening. We would repeat this process on a Thursday with groups 7~12.

Each group will be on the NASH campus for one hour on either a Tuesday or a Thursday. This process will continue until a group has their piece ready for recording.