

Parents of Potential Children's Ensemble Members,

Thank you for supporting your child(ren)'s interest in joining us for our production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. This letter is meant to provide you with enough information about the process and production to ensure that this is the right fit for your child(ren) and you. Please consider all of the information below prior to signing up for auditions. For the right theatre kid, we believe that it will be a very positive experience.

**How many children will be cast in the show?**

The Children's Ensemble will be comprised of a maximum of twenty (20) 3rd - 8th grade students. This means that, unlike previous years, we will not cast every child who auditions. It also means that if you have multiple children audition, we may not ask all of them to participate. The roles of Shprintze and Bielke are featured characters and will not count towards our Children's Ensemble numbers.

*Your child(ren)'s availability to attend rehearsals, tech week, and performances materially affects their ability to be cast in the show.*

**How much of the show will the Children's Ensemble be used in?**

The Children's Ensemble will be used to fill out families in at least three segments of the show (≈15 mins of stage time):

Act 1, Prologue (featuring the song Tradition)

Act 1, Scene 3 (featuring the song Sabbath Prayer) - *\*Inclusion in this number is likely but still TBD.*

Act 1, Scenes 9 and 10 (Tzeitel and Motel's wedding featuring the song Sunrise, Sunset)

Act 2, Epilogue

*\*Some older members of the Children's Ensemble may be used in a few additional adult ensemble numbers, if needed.*

**What is the time commitment for rehearsals?**

Rehearsals, for the most part, are expected to run from 6 - 10 pm Monday - Thursday until mid-November. The Children's Ensemble will not be needed for all rehearsals, and we will do our best to work them in the first half of rehearsal on the nights they are called.

From mid-November on, the time commitment will be longer, and once we get into Thanksgiving week (until the end of the run), the days are very long. Tech Saturday and Tech Sunday can be up to 10 hours. For dress rehearsals and performances you should expect dismissal to be no earlier than 10:30 pm.

**Should I be concerned with any of the content of the show?**

Maybe. Below are descriptions of two of the sections in the show that feature the Children's Ensemble.

At the end of Act 1, Scene 10, upon orders of the Russian government, Tzeitel and Motel's wedding celebration is violently interrupted simply to scare and upset the Jewish population of the village of Anatevka. Tables are overturned, property is destroyed, and at least one character is physically assaulted. This is an act of terror.

Act 2, Epilogue - The Jewish population has been expelled from Anatevka by the Russian government. Though this scene is physically non-violent, it may provoke an emotional response from audience members and performers alike.

If, after reading and understanding all of the above information, you still feel like this is the right fit for you and your child(ren), we look forward to seeing you at auditions.

Jeffrey F. Wright, II  
Director