

YaYa's Performance Academy's

Minnie Gant Elementary School

After school program Information

Contact Information:

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YaYa's Mission & Philosophy

YaYa's Performance Academy is a youth and family based program that provides the community with the opportunity to actively participate and explore the art of musical theatre in a safe, positive, and nurturing environment.

With the growing economic crisis our state faces, cuts to education have been catastrophic; arts programs have been drastically cut back, if not completely eliminated. Our goal is to keep the performing arts alive in our community. We plan to do this by producing high quality productions and training participants in singing, acting, and dancing, while at the same time building strong family and community relationships.

Unlike most community theatre programs where you must audition to be in the show, YaYa's guarantees a role in the production to all who register and complete the rehearsal process; thus, providing the opportunity to all who are interested.

At YaYa's, our mission is to keep the arts alive by creating a positive environment to encourage artists to explore, grow, and learn. Participants will develop valuable life skills like the 10 C's listed below:


1. Communication
2. Creativity
3. Coordination
4. Collaboration
5. Confidence
6. Cooperation
7. Character
8. Control
9. Comradery
10. Commitment

We celebrate diversity and welcome participants of all backgrounds, abilities, and levels of experience. We believe theatre is a way to bond families and unite our diverse community in a collaborative art form.

YaYa's General Information

- **Enrollment payments** must be paid online for this program. You must be pre-enrolled online (payment made) by, Wednesday, 3/9/22 at 8 pm in order to be in the show. We cannot accept payments at rehearsals. You can try out the first rehearsal for free, but you still need to create a parent and student account so we have emergency contact information.
 - **Refunds** are only given if requested prior to lead auditions or if we do not get enough students for the program to continue (minimum 20 students).
- **Rehearsal days and times:**
 - The first rehearsal is Tuesday, 3/8 K-2nd 2:15-3:15 pm, and 3rd-5th 3:15-4:15 pm in the Auditorium.
 - Thursday, 3/10 is only for those interested in auditioning for a lead role from 1:30-2:15 for 1st-2nd grade and 2:15-3:30 pm for 3rd-5th in the auditorium (no lead roles for Kinder).
 - Beginning the second week on 3/15/22 the normal rehearsals are Tuesdays (Groups & leads TBD) 2:15-4:15pm & Thursdays (Groups & leads TBD) 1:30-3:30 pm.
 - At the first rehearsal, we will evaluate the students to determine what rehearsal groups to split them into. We will have at least 3 groups. Ensemble groups are scheduled for 1 hour, once a week on either Tuesday or Thursday.
 - Ensemble groups and leads can be called to either day of rehearsals (Tuesday or Thursday). This will depend on which ensemble group they are cast in and if they receive a lead role or not. Some groups will be scheduled the second hour of rehearsal (Ex. Tuesdays 3:15-4:15 or Thursdays 2:30-3:30 pm).
 - Once ensemble groups are assigned to a day and time, that will be their set day and time for all remaining weeks of rehearsals. Only lead schedules will fluctuate by week.
 - YaYa's is not responsible for children during that hour after school prior to their rehearsal. Students will either need to be picked up by parents and brought back or will need to go to the supervised recreation time on the playground until their rehearsal begins. Kids club kids or CDC kids can go to those programs and will then be walked over at the appropriate time.
 - We will post the group assignments as well as the lead roles to the Band app by Monday, 3/14/22 at 6pm.
- **Sign-in & Out process:**
 - Students grade 1-5 must report on their own to the auditorium no later than their rehearsal start time the day their group is called. Parents are welcome to walk them over when they get out of school, but rehearsals will be closed to parents. We will not be picking them up at their classroom doors, it is the student's responsibility to go straight to the auditorium after leaving their classroom. Parents will need to walk Kinder students over to rehearsals. We will give them 10 minutes of supervised snack time before we start the rehearsal. Students need to provide their own snack.
 - Parents will wait outside until the rehearsal ends and we invite them in. Parents must pick up performers at the doors of the auditorium after each rehearsal. If your child normally walks home, we will need a waiver signed before we release them to walk home.

- If your child needs to go to Kids club or CDC after our program, please email us with your child's name. We will work it out with the staff of each program to get them to where they need to be after rehearsal ends. Also, please let us know if they are Kinder and will already be at Kids Club. We will pick them up from Kids Club and walk them over to our program.

- **Band App-** We are using a new App to communicate all program information including schedules, dance videos, music tracks, hand-outs, reminders, etc. This App is replacing Shutterfly for those of you who have done shows with us in the past. Please click on the link below or scan the QR code to be added to our "Band." You will be prompted to download the app on your phone or other device and then I will approve you as a member once you answer the privacy question.
 - Please have your older kids with phones or an iPad download the app as well, this way they will have access to rehearsal materials without always having to use your phone. The Band app is for ages 13 and older.
 - You can contact us directly through the chat function in the app. Please keep in mind that most of the time info will be sent out in a group chat. If you want to respond or ask a question that only pertains to your performer, please private message YaYa instead of responding on the group chat.
 - Band is also accessible from your computer by going to www.band.us and logging in with the same username and password you used on the app on your phone.
 - <https://band.us/n/a9ac6eL2SedfX> 

- **Lead Auditions:**
 - Those interested in auditioning for one of the lead roles in the show need to attend the lead auditions on Thursday, 3/10 from 1:30-2:15 pm for 1st & 2nd graders, and 2:15-3:30 pm for 3rd-5th graders (No lead roles available to Kinders). Only those interested in a lead role need to attend this day.
 - After lead auditions we will create a cast list stating who got each lead role as well as what ensemble group they have been assigned to and their rehearsal day and time. The Calendar on the Band App will be updated weekly with which groups and leads are called to each rehearsal. Only those listed in the NOTES section for each rehearsal are called.
 - We will post the lead cast list to the Band App by Monday, 3/14 at 6pm and send out an email.
 - Performers do not need to prepare anything for the audition. We will teach them the song we want to hear and have scenes for them to read for auditions. In the meantime, for those interested in preparing for their lead audition in advance we posted a reference recording of the show to the Files on the Band App.

- **Fees** involved with the program are as follows:
 - **Tuition Fee** of \$150.00 covers script, show shirt, rehearsal tracks, and 8 weeks of instruction in singing, acting, and dancing for the ensemble for a 1 hour rehearsal, 1 day per week.
 - **Lead fees** will be charged to all who are cast as a lead role in the show. This fee is to cover the additional instruction time that these participants will receive (leads are often called twice a week and sometimes for 2 hours each day). Principle Leads will pay a \$100 fee and small featured roles will pay a \$50 fee.
 - **Costumes-** All cast members are responsible for their own costume. We will provide specific requirements as well as examples and cost effective suggestions. On the occasion that something needs to be uniform across the cast, we will bulk purchase the item and charge you a minimal fee. Some lead costumes will be provided for a small cleaning fee.
 - **Late Fees** will be charged for all tuition payments, lead fees, and costume fees that are not paid online by the due date.

- **Ticket sales** help pay for the overall cost of running the program. It is important to sell tickets in order for our program to continue, as well as to fill the seats and perform our shows for a sold-out crowd. If each family sells a minimum of 5 tickets per production, we will be in great shape. Tickets will be sold online at a later date for \$10 per seat.

- **Tech week** is the week we load the sets, sound equipment, costumes, and lights into the performance space to practice with the students. We will have rehearsal off campus this week at St. Cornelius school. This is a very important week, during which there will be **NO EXCUSED ABSENCES**. It is very important that all performers attend all tech. week rehearsals to be taught how to work with the sets and technical equipment. **Mandatory Tech. week rehearsals are Monday, 5/9/22 4-6 pm, and Thursday, 5/12/22 4-6 pm with shows on Friday, 5/13 at 6 pm & Saturday, 5/14 at 1 pm at St. Cornelius School.** *Parents are responsible for the transportation of performers to and from tech. week rehearsals and shows.*

- **Parent volunteers** are a crucial part of making our productions a success. We ask our parents to volunteer a minimum of 5 hours per production. This can be done during pre-show, working jobs during performances, as well as post-show with strike. Without parent support, the show would not go on. Areas in which we need volunteers are:

○ Making costumes	○ Load-in
○ Line Leaders	○ Show-grams & flowers
○ Building/painting sets	○ Strike
○ Making props	○ Please let us know your unique skills and we will put you to work.
○ Concessions for the show	
○ Box office	

- **Parent meetings** -Mandatory Zoom parent meeting on March 8th at 7 pm. Link is on our Gant page on our website.

- **Where to go for help:** The Band App is your main source for production information. Always check there first for the schedule, hand-outs, and announcements. Feel free to approach staff members before or after rehearsal times with your questions, or you can email, text or call us at 562-355-2004 or asp@yayasacademy.com

YaYa's Program Policies

- **Behavior policy**- Performing in a YaYa's production should be seen as a privilege. Disrespectful or inappropriate behavior by the performer or the parent will be grounds for expulsion from the production with no refund. Behavior will always be considered when enrolling and auditioning for future shows. Severity of the consequences are at the discretion of the Artistic Director.
- **Attendance Policy**- 3 or more unexcused absences may result in being dropped from the production without refund. Students who miss excessive amounts of rehearsals fall too far behind and we do not have the time to stop momentum and reteach each number for every absence. Leads with 2 or more unexcused ensemble and/or Lead rehearsal absences will be dropped from their lead role at the discretion of the director.
- **Tuition fee waivers**- We offer a couple tuition fee waivers per show, as we understand that times are difficult and we want all interested to be given the opportunity to perform. Watch for the fee waiver deadlines 2 weeks prior to the first rehearsal of the show.
- **Payment plans** are available in which we break down the registration fee into 2 equal payments of \$75 each. A \$10 late fee will be charged if the second payment is not paid on time.
- **Late fees**- All program fees (tuition, lead fee, costume fees) are assigned due dates in our online payment system. Any fee not paid online by the due date will be charged an automatic late fee (\$10 for tuition payments and \$5 for all other fees).
- **Refund policy**- Requests for refunds must be submitted prior to lead casting.
- **Photo & video policy**
 - Photography and videography at the shows are strictly prohibited.
 - YaYa's Performance Academy will contract with a set professional show photographer each production to photograph the shows. Participants will have the opportunity to purchase photographs from the photographer.
 - When the royalty contract allows for it, YaYa's will hire a professional videographer to video record the show and sell copies to the participant's families. The privilege to do this is on a per show basis depending on what show we are performing and the set regulations in the royalty contract.
 - YaYa's will use photographs, video, and sound recordings taken during rehearsals and performances for publicity purposes only.
- **Contracts**-
 - **Cast member Contracts** lay out the expectations we have for our performers and their parents and must be signed by all who wish to participate in the production. These will be passed out the first day of rehearsal.

YaYa's Performance Academy

Giant After school program

Online Enrollment-PAYMENT PLAN

Follow the instructions below to make a payment for a payment plan after you have set up your online account and enrolled in the production at www.yayasacademy.com.

Types of payment plans:

- **Full Tuition** Enrollment is \$150. The balance is divided into 2 payments of \$75 each.
- **Family discount** is 10% off total amount. So, for 2 performers the total would be \$300, but with the 10% discount the total comes to \$270. The balance is divided into 2 payments of \$135 each.

The payment schedule is as follows:

1. Payment #1 due 3/8/22
2. Payment #2 due 4/5/22

A \$10 late fee will be charged for late tuition payments.

To make a payment online please follow the steps below:

1. Go to www.yayasacademy.com
2. Click on the payment button in the upper right hand corner of any page.
3. Log-in to your account.
4. Click on the ACCOUNT drop down tab
5. Click on PAY ONLINE
6. Click on OTHER, then NEXT
7. Enter the "Pay Amount" as \$75 (or \$135 for 2 performers)
8. Click on the NEXT button
9. Choose your which child you are paying for then select an item.
10. Click ADD TO PAYMENT then click on NEXT
11. Click on MAKE PAYMENT
12. Complete your payment using your credit card information.

Please let me know if you have any questions by emailing asp@yayasacademy.com or calling 562-355-2004.