



**Parent's
Guide to
Urbana High
School
DRAMA**



**Urbana High School
DRAMA BOOSTERS**

2018-2019 School Year



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Welcome to UHS Drama!

We are thrilled that your student is interested in being a part of the Theatre Department. Our students have many theater experiences and develop long-lasting friendships in the process. We have prepared this Guide for you so that you have a quick and easy reference. The Guide includes a snapshot of UHS Drama activities, ways that you can support UHS Drama, and tips on helping your student access the many different offerings. Our goal is to demystify UHS Drama so that parents know what to expect during the school year. Our hopes are that you will find it a helpful resource and you will also see interesting opportunities for your own involvement through the UHS Drama Boosters.

UHS Drama in a Nutshell

The UHS [Theatre](#) Department provides courses that students may choose to take during their [four year](#) high school program – including [Theatre](#) I through IV and Technical Theater. Urbana students may decide to take a [Theatre](#) Department course to meet the Fine Arts credit graduation requirement or as an elective course in their individual schedules.

Students do not need to be enrolled in a Theatre course to be a part of the UHS Theatre Department, but it does help allow students to advance their skills in preparation for productions. The UHS Theatre Department offers an interesting mix of high quality theatre opportunities, including productions and special programs that your student can experience. Thus students have different ways to learn first-hand about theatre, developing skills, gaining confidence through performance, and being a part of productions – as an actor; tech, crew, or pit member; playwright; assistant director; choreographer; or by working in make-up, set design, and/or costuming.

■ ***UHS Main Stage Productions***

- The **Fall Play** brings a comedy or drama to the Urbana stage for a 3 or 4 performance run (depending upon the show) – Thursday through Saturday – (Three evening performances or Three evening performances and one Saturday Matinee). **Auditions are held the first week of School, with audition packets being available during the summer on UHSdrama.org and sign ups being available on the website at the beginning of August.** This year's production, *Noises Off*, is bound to entertain – a comedy with a very engaging cast of characters!



- The **Winter Play** is an experimental low-scale show that provides students with an experience of a quick turn around production. Winter shows typically tackle social issues. Auditions take place in early November (right after the Fall Play).

The audition packet for this show is available in the Summer as well. The show is typically Mid January. This year's show **Happy Daze**, is an insightful look at the struggles of today's teenager.

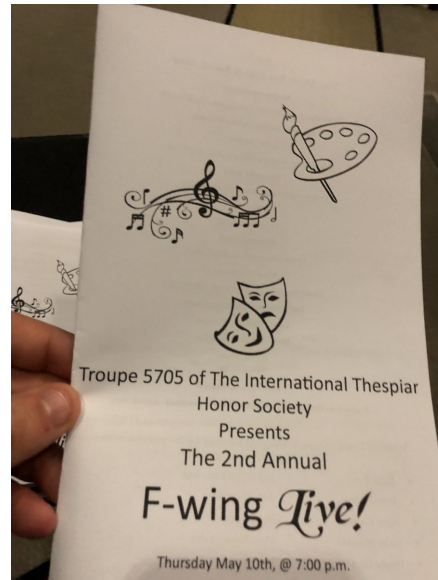
- The **Spring Musical** is a full production Broadway show – with song, dance, and a story that aims to please. The show has a three-day run in late March or early April ***and is cast by audition in mid-January*** (about auditions, pg. 10). This year's production, *How*



to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying combines hilarious corporate hijinx mixed in with great music, catchy lyrics, and high energy dancing – a great theatre experience!

OTHER PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

- **F-Wing Live!** Is a student showcase night held in mid May. Urbana's Thespian Honor Society hosts this event that showcases performances from the Performance Arts Department, known as the F-Wing. Students audition – and they have the opportunity to sing a song, perform a monologue, do a dance, play an instrument, etc. ***Most students who audition do get in to the show, but it is a necessity to see the act and if it is school appropriate.**



- **Dessert Theater Student-Directed One Acts!** Student Directed One Acts take place the first weekend of June. Students may audition for these performances in mid April. Auditions are open to all students. Students may apply to direct a one act and those forms are due in mid March. Selections are based on the variety of shows, grade level, time, and appropriateness. One Acts are a great way for students to get their feet wet with featured roles.

Class Based Productions -

- **Introduction to Theater One Act Showcase*** (Dependent based on time of year the class is held and which block) - Students enrolled in an Introduction to theater class culminate the year demonstrating skills they have learned with a one-act production for an audience. **Participation in the production is a required grade.**
- **Acting 2 Showcase*** (Dependent on availability of course) – Students enrolled in Acting 2 spend time working on scene analysis and scene work. The course culminates with a showcase night of scenes for an audience.
- **Advanced Acting Dinner Theater Production & Senior Showcase** – Students enrolled in an Advanced Acting Class (Acting 3-5) will produce a show that is developed during the course. Audience sits on stage and is provided a dinner. In addition, seniors in the class are provided the opportunity to present a Senior Showcase Performance.

Other Special Programs

- **Dramapalooza** – Held in Early October, UHS Drama Students travel to Frederick Community College for a day of workshops focusing on several aspects of theater including performance, technical, costuming and production. Students get to meet with local theatrical experts around the DC Metropolitan area.
- **Northeast Theater Festival** – Students travel to a 2 day Festival held every February in Bel Air Maryland. Students attend workshops, watch performances from other schools, have the opportunity to be adjudicated in a variety of categories including dancing, singing, monologues, and scenes. There is a Guest Speaker at every Festival. Students at Urbana work to take a cutting of a production to the festival
- **International Thespian Honor Society** - UHS Drama is Troupe # 5705 of the International Thespian Honor Society. Students earn points throughout their high school career to achieve recognition in the Honor Society. Members of the Honor Society have the opportunity to compete for college scholarships and more.
- **Urbana High School Drama Awards** – A spring program, recognizing students for their contributions and accomplishments – preceded by a banquet in honor of the students, organized by the Drama Boosters.

Leading Urbana’s Theatre Department:

Mr. Stephen Ward is Urbana High School’s Theater Director. Mr. Ward teaches the Theater courses and directs Urbana’s productions and learning opportunities. Mr. Ward received his undergraduate degree from University of Maryland College Park and his MA in Curriculum and Instruction from Hood College.

Mr. Ward oversees the operations and organization of the Drama department and develops a yearly calendar for the department. This calendar is distributed at the end of the previous school year for the upcoming school year, and it is available on the UHSdrama.org website.

In addition to teaching, Mr. Ward oversees all aspects of UHS Drama – selecting plays for the production, conducting the audition process, creating rehearsal schedules for productions, directing the fall, winter and spring shows from concept to presentation, organizing school sponsored enrichment field trips, and connecting with the Drama Boosters. Mr. Ward works with four officers from the International Thespian Honor Society to take on lead roles within the department – the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. These individuals continue peer-to-peer communication and coordination through the UHS Drama Facebook and Twitter pages, UHS Drama e-mail, and a variety of other ways.



Urbana High School Drama Boosters

The Urbana Theatre Department is supported by the valuable work of the Urbana Drama Boosters parents and other interested members of the school community. The purpose of this group is to provide special activities for drama students, volunteer support for performances and productions, fundraising, and drama community interest-building – all to benefit Urbana’s students’ drama experience. Over the years, many Drama Boosters ***traditions*** have been created – from providing *show meals* for dress rehearsals to hosting an end-of-the-year banquet to sponsoring a spring trip to New York City, and providing a \$500 scholarship to one senior member of the International Thespian Honor Society. Drama Boosters activities are ***very inclusive*** – creating a place for students to come together, build friendships and talents, be a caring and supportive student community, and have ***fun***. The families involved in Drama Boosters really do get ***value added*** – interesting activities, appreciation, friendships and more!

■ ***UHS Drama Boosters: Nuts and Bolts***

Urbana Drama Boosters, a 501(c)(3) entity, was formed in 2017 to meet the following objectives:

- Stimulate student, parent, community interest, support and participation in UHS Theatre
- Engage in fundraising activities to benefit the drama education of students
- Assist the drama instructor & school administration for the harmonious operation of the drama program.

All parents of Urbana High School Drama students are considered members of the Drama Boosters free of charge, but there are multiple levels available for parents to help sponsor the Drama Department. The Urbana Drama Boosters Bylaws specify officers, terms, and duties; the composition, role, and responsibilities of the Board of Directors. Booster Meetings are held once a month on a Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Those dates are listed on the UHSdrama website and on the booster form provided. Any property acquired by this organization belongs to the UHS Theatre Department. The Bylaws state that the UHS Drama Boosters may not seek to direct the activities or control the policies of the UHS Drama Program or the selection of productions. Bylaws also state that Participation on the Office Member Board does not determine or guarantee casting in productions for their children. Urbana Drama Boosters serves to support and enhance the UHS Theatre Program.

■ ***Activities and Traditions***

Drama Booster activities support student and drama community development, fundraising, and the delivery of quality productions. While many activities undertaken are Urbana Drama traditions, new activities are introduced each year in response to needs and opportunities. Most Drama Booster activities wrap-around Theatre Department activities, but others stand alone.

- **Mainstage Productions.** While Mr. Ward establishes show ticket pricing and procedures, Drama Boosters operates the on-site box office and provides volunteers to usher. Drama Boosters operates a variety of concessions for shows open to the public, including such things as snacks and spirit wear. In the dress rehearsal days leading to the performances, the Drama Boosters coordinates show meals for cast and crew – as well as a pizza fest before the Wednesday matinee. Urbana Drama Boosters helps publicize shows, creating community interest in high school theatre, so that students can perform for a full audience.

- **Set Build & Costuming Saturdays** – A tradition of UHS Drama is to hold set building days on Saturdays leading up to the show. From 9-5, students take pride working along side parent leads to help build sets, make and design props, organize publicity, and help with costuming. Students in shows are required to participate in at least two set build days. Students and parents can come when they can and stay as long as they can. Pizza and drinks are provided. These days help build the UHS Drama community.



- **Other Drama Department Performances** – such as **F-Wing Live, Student Directed One Acts, and Class Productions.** The Drama Boosters helps publicize these reasonably priced and highly entertaining theatre productions.
- **Drama Awards Banquet.** The Drama Boosters organizes a catered dinner for Theatre students and their families preceding Urbana High School’s annual Drama Awards Ceremony. This makes for a special evening for all involved with reasonable pricing, great conversation, and recognition of students’ theatre accomplishments.



- **New York City Trips.** Each December and April, Drama Boosters organizes a trip to New York City to provide students with the opportunity to view a Broadway performance. With comfortable buses and breakfast snacks en route, students and chaperones can get to see an acclaimed Broadway performance and experience the Big Apple.

- **Exam Survival Kits.** Both a major fundraiser and a service for students, Drama Boosters creates gift bags of treats and survival tips – for purchase by parents and delivery to Urbana students before mid-term and final exams. *The Exam Survival Kits take the drama out of testing week, by providing brain boosting snacks and messages of encouragement. This is open to all students of Urbana.*



- **Food Fundraisers.** Drama Booster parents organize and promote Food Fundraising nights at local restaurants that provide a percentage of sales that directly benefits the Department - this also helps build Drama Department unity.
- **Show Related Fundraisers** – Drama Booster Organizations help to oversee drama spirit wear sales for productions and candy grams that are delivered to cast and crew members.



- **Special Student Gatherings.** Working with The International Thespian Honor Society President and Vice President, the Boosters and officers coordinate several social events each year for drama students. In

the past, these have included a night at a local Corn-maze, attending other school productions, Film Showings of our productions, and an end-of-the-year Picnic. *These highly inclusive events help students new to UHS Theatre feel a sense of belonging and community.*

■ **Membership in Drama Boosters**

Becoming a member of Urbana High School Drama Boosters is important and easy. All parents, community members, and community and business organizations are invited to support Urbana High School Theatre through the Patron program which provides different levels of tax deductible contribution – beginning with Individual Members. Patrons are recognized in show playbills and may receive additional “perks” based on level of participation. Patronage choice is made by completing a quick and easy form – along with a voluntary monetary contribution. ***By becoming a Drama Boosters Member/Patron, you voice your support of Urbana Theatre and help to make great opportunities for Urbana Theatre students possible.*** Any monetary membership goes towards a number of things.



Questions and Answers: Things Parents Want to Know!!!

This guide is designed for those families who are new to Urbana Drama, but we hope that the information is useful to veterans as well. We know that the many activities and traditions may seem overwhelming at first. To help you get through the first year of drama -- ***without any drama*** – we provide things you will want to know – in other words, answers to parents’ often-asked questions.

Participating in UHS Theatre:

Q. How can my teen become a part of the Urbana Theatre Department?

There are several ways for students to become a part of Urbana High School Drama. Taking courses through the Department (Theatre Arts I – IV, Stagecraft) is one way. Introduction to Theater can fulfill a graduation requirement. Students can apply to work backstage on a major production; or audition for the fall play, winter play, spring musical, student produced plays, or F-Wing Live.

If selected for any role, including the ensemble and the tech crew, your student will be a part of Urbana Drama. Major productions, such as the fall play, winter play, spring musical, require a broad range of student talent – from stage crew members, tech crew members, set construction, costuming, make-up, choreography, and the pit (musicians). Students have written and/or directed one-act plays performed during *Student Directed One Acts* and *F-Wing Live*. Students may also sign up for Drama Club to be held 3rd Block in the auditorium each Club Day, and can apply to work towards being a member of the International Thespian Honor Society. We offer many drama outings for students to be a part of the Drama Family. As you can see, Urbana Drama affords students many ways to develop and apply creative and technical talents.

Q. Must I join Drama Boosters for my son or daughter to be cast in a production?

No. All Urbana students are eligible to audition for the cast in an Urbana production. However, being a member/patron of Urbana Theatre, through the Drama Boosters, is an important way that you can demonstrate your support of live theatre at Urbana and a way that you can help build a strong, vibrant drama program and community – providing enriching experiences for students who enjoy the performing arts.

Q. My student is not the best communicator. How can I stay connected to the department and informed on programs, schedules, and details?

Mr. Ward publishes a yearly calendar and posts it on the UHSdrama.org Website. It can be downloaded. Be sure your email and contact information is provided to Mr. Ward as he frequently sends out “Need to Know” emails. Join the UHS Drama Remind101 – Text @F-Wing to the number 81010 to get important updates and notices about all things UHS Drama. Follow our UHS Facebook Page – Urbana High School Drama, and Follow our Twitter Page @DramaUHS. Newsletters are delivered and posted on the UHS Drama Website each Month. And lastly, consider participating in Drama Boosters. This group is fully engaged in the department activities. Information is shared at monthly meetings and through email to its members.

Q. Are there any general costs or fees that I need to know about?

Students taking theatre courses are required to see a live performance each quarter. This can include other school performances, local theater, and professional tours which have a wide variety of costs. There are fees for special activities sponsored by the Theatre Department or the Drama Boosters -- such as NYC trips in the spring and the Northeast Theatre Festival. All theatre students are encouraged to attend, but participation is by student choice. Students in school productions have optional costs – such as purchasing catered tech week meals and purchasing t-shirts. Students are required to have their own Stage make-up kit (Cost is around \$20.00) (Ben Nye is a good option), and students are not allowed to share makeup.

Auditions:

Q. How are lead, support, and ensemble roles cast for Urbana productions?

Auditions are held for the fall play the first week of September, for the winter play in November, and for the spring musical in January. The spring musical auditions are preceded by an audition interest meeting to go over everything the students need to be prepared for. This meeting is voluntary. The exact dates are published in the calendar of Urbana High School Theatre Activities.

Auditioning for the fall play, winter and spring musical, students are expected to do readings from the script. Some other audition requirements may be needed based on the show, but all audition information is spelled out in an Audition Packet. Audition Packets for the Fall and Winter Play are published at the end of the previous school year, and the audition packet for the spring Musical is available in November. Those audition packets are on UHSdrama.org. For the spring musical, the audition process includes dancing, vocal and acting auditions. While students select and rehearse their vocal audition material, the dance audition is based on student performance of a routine learned on-site directly prior to the actual audition. Students are expected to prepare and provide a copy of their performing arts resume. Students auditioning must go through all parts of the process.

Audition days are typically followed by a “call back” day which affords the director an additional chance to view talent before making final cast decisions. Students asked to do a “call back” audition, may or may not receive a cast role – and not all students who will be cast in the show are asked to do “call back” auditions. The cast list is posted on the UHS Drama Website and Facebook Page on the Sunday after auditions. The cast list will then be posted on the Auditorium Marquee Board on that Monday. Students sign off accepting their roles.

Student behavior and accomplishment in class and outside of class also affects casting. Auditions are not like track meets: there isn’t an objective winner. It’s up to the creative team to make their best guess as to which arrangement of the available students will produce the best possible production. Most of the time, a student will not get his or her preferred role. We encourage those students who don’t make the cast to join stage or tech crew, attend set construction, etc because these opportunities all go towards International Thespian Honor Society.

The student produced plays and F-Wing Live! also have audition processes – although less elaborate than the process for the fall play and spring musical. The dates, times, and requirements for auditions are announced to students in the Drama Department as the year progresses.

Q. Are lead roles always given to juniors or seniors?

All cast roles are filled through the audition process—and students selected for specific roles may be freshman, sophomores, juniors, or seniors. There are many elements that contribute to making cast decisions – including such things as how the director interprets the play, character elements, interaction among various roles, talent available, conflict schedule. Students often seek lead or supporting roles in a production and may be disappointed if selected as an ensemble cast member. However, the ensemble is a vital part of any production and requires the same skills and talents – acting, voice, and dance. Ensemble cast members have the same opportunity and responsibility as students with lead and support roles to provide stand-out performances and contribute to a stellar production. If a student is not cast in a production, or does not get the part they want, it does not mean their audition went poorly, it just simply means they might not have been the right fit for the role or part.

Nearly all high school productions have strong leading actors, but the difference between good shows and great ones is the quality of the ensemble: the dedication, talent, and commitment of the chorus and supporting players. Everything that parents can do to help their students understand and work towards that goal can help.

Q. My teen would like to audition for a part in the fall play, winter play, or spring musical. What can he/she do to prepare for the audition process?

There are many ways that your teen can prepare. First, your teen can find out the dates of the productions, and audition dates and times, and calendar to ensure his/her availability. He/she can learn about the play or musical, and perhaps roles of interest, by reading a script, doing internet research on the play, listening to a CD of the music, seeing the production, if performed locally, and/or watching a DVD of the show, if one exists.

Your teen can download the Audition Packet from UHsdrama.org and look through all the specific requirements and e-mail Mr. Ward if there are questions about what Mr. Ward expects. Your teen can carefully select audition material to reflect the types of roles he/she seeks and to showcase special talents. Your teen can practice cold reading and song -- in character -- independently and for others, using feedback to strengthen his/her performance. Some students seeking lead roles have worked with audition coaches to help them prepare, but this is not a typical practice for high school theatre. Many students seek out vocal teachers around the county.

Preparing for Show Time:

Q. My teen is a cast member in the fall play/winter play/spring musical. What can I expect?

This is a big question. Let's work backwards on the answer!

Performances

The fall play, winter play and spring musical run four consecutive days beginning with a Wednesday matinee for local elementary and middle school groups, not open to the general public. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday performances are evening

performances that are open to the general public and usually start at 7:00 p.m. If a show has a scheduled matinee, it will be on that Saturday at 1:00 p.m.

Tickets for all shows are \$8.00 in advance online at Showtix4u.com



and \$10.00 at the door. Students involved in the productions need an audience, so come and bring your family and friends! Tear down of the set is on the Sunday following a production from Noon until finished, and all students involved in the show are **required** to help after school. (*We do take into account religious obligations which is why we start at Noon, but we also find it important that a student follows through and participates in all aspects of a production.) The entire conflict calendar is in the audition packet. Please account for these requirements.

Dress Rehearsals

Dress rehearsals are held on the Saturday prior to the show from 9:00 a.m. until ??????. This is considered our all day Tech Saturday. Students are fed this day as well as on Monday and Tuesday of show week (called Tech Week). It is part of their catered meals.) Tech Week is where all aspects of the performance are pulled together – set, lighting, sound, pit, costuming, and make-up – the whole enchilada. Tech Week evenings do run late and it's helpful to recognize this in scheduling other activities during this very demanding week.

The Boosters organize catered meals for students the evenings of dress rehearsals. The cast, crew, and pit look forward to these “show meals.” Parents of a child involved in a production will be asked to help out in some way.

Getting Ready for the Production

Cast members are expected to have stage make-up and this can be purchased through the Urbana Drama Department. In addition, a show T-shirt is created for students involved with the play/musical and is available for purchase -- making a wonderful keepsake for students involved in the production.

Costumes for lead, support, and ensemble roles may be provided to the extent that unique costuming is needed. A list of costume and hair requirements is created for all cast members indicating those things that cast members need to obtain and those things that will be provided. A good resource to augment what is available in your home closet is the local thrift shop (AMVETS, Salvation Army, Goodwill). Cast members do a "costume walk through" for approval of costume components. Remember, a director has a specific concept for a show – **please do not go out and buy anything specific without prior knowledge and approval from the director and costume manager because those costumes may not end up working out.**

If Mr. Ward asks a parent to buy something specific for their child – i.e. specific types of shoes, or specific outfit – please save the receipt and Mr. Ward will reimburse you (this does not include stage make-up and character shoes), however, that costume then does become property of UHS Drama and will need to be returned. Cast members are asked to develop their own "bios" for inclusion in the show program and parents/friends have the opportunity to include one-line blurbs in the program – wishing their actor and the cast a "break a leg" performance.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals are held, after school hours (starting at 3:00, and run until 5:30, then 6:00 as it gets closer and production week goes until ????) for several months preceding each show on multiple days of the week. Rehearsal schedules are a part of the Audition Packet given to students before beginning the production. **Rehearsal will be held on the days indicated, but sometimes it does not mean that every student will be needed** – If necessary, a more detailed calendar will be given on the first day of rehearsal. Updates will be given via remind 101.

Scenes are blocked and practiced, as are song and dance routines – **in chunks** – so different parts of the cast will often be called upon to rehearse at different times. Tech sessions are also included on the schedule. The rehearsal schedule is a crucial reference – **and it changes as necessary** – for a variety of reasons. You will want to check this frequently and remind your student to check it frequently. Attendance at rehearsals is mandatory with the expectation that cast members will arrive on time, be attentive and cooperative, and leave when released. There is a deadline for students with speaking parts to memorize all of their lines and dates are set for production pictures and due dates for bios, tech week food money, etc. Students will have scripts and scores to bring to rehearsal, and will also need to bring

pencils and appropriate footwear and clothing. Students are given a 3 strike rule for any production – and receive a strike for such things as missing rehearsal not mentioned on their conflict calendar (sickness and extenuating circumstances are considered on a case by case basis) being a disruption during rehearsal, disrespect, not showing productivity, etc. After 3 strikes, a student is put on probation and one more strike will result in the removal of a production. We view being cast or a part of a production as a privilege and acknowledge that several students do not make the show, so we expect respect and integrity from the members of any company regardless of role or position.



First Read and Show Orientation

Once a show is cast, a “first read” of the play/musical is conducted by Mr. Ward for the students. There is an evening parent meeting for each production, approximately a week after the rehearsals have begun. On that day, a general “orientation” meeting of parents and students involved in the show is

held. Mr. Ward provides a walk-through of what is expected and each student and parent signs a production contract which relays commitments for participation.

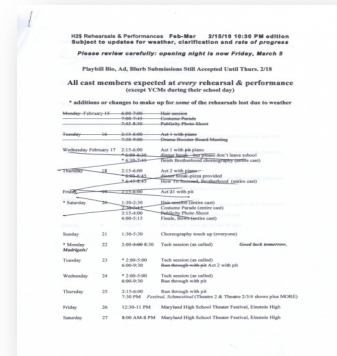
Q. Are there costs involved in having my teen in a show?

There is no “performance cost” to be a member of the cast. However, your cast member will be expected to have a make-up kit and some costume elements provided by the family, if at all possible. Mainstage production shows have specially designed T-shirts that can be purchased, at the student’s option. Catered Tech Week Food is provided at a cost for students (ranging from \$35-45 for three-four meals). Students do not have to purchase them, but Parents should provide their child a meal if not. Parent support of “show” activities, through things like donations to concessions and show meals, are costs that parents can anticipate.

Q. My teen has been cast in a show. What do I need to do?

As a parent of a student cast in the show, you will need to:

- **Attend the parent-student orientation meeting for the show** and sign the performance contract with your student. This date is in the calendar.
- **Provide your best email address and contact phone numbers** to Mr. Ward and Drama Boosters so that you receive information.
- Sign up to Remind101 if you have not already done so. Text @F-Wing to Remind101.
- **Keep abreast of the performance rehearsal schedule** and help your student resolve calendar conflicts, **AND PLEASE DO NOT SCHEDULE ANY DOCTOR APPOINTMENTS, TRIPS, ETC DURING A REHEARSAL SCHEDULED TIME THAT WAS NOT ALREADY MENTIONED IN THE CONFLICT CALENDAR.**
- **Know and encourage your student to adhere to due dates** for make-up, photos, blurbs, T-shirt, and ticket purchase and for bios, actor memorization of lines, and costuming
- **Encourage your student to stay “on top” of their schoolwork** and to use “rehearsal down time” to keep up with homework. The rehearsal schedule can be demanding. Rehearsals start at 3:00 ALWAYS to allow students 30 minutes of free time to work on homework.
- **Contribute to the experience** by providing food/drinks for *show meals*; snacks/beverages for concession sales; and by volunteering to help with ticket sales/box office, show meals, or concession sales
- **Celebrate Urbana Theatre!! Come see the show; invite your family and friends.** Help pack the house!



Theatre Opportunities:

Q. My teen loves theatre, but is not interested in performing. What other opportunities exist for my child?

There are many ways to become involved in Urbana Theatre so students can apply their special talents – whether artistic, technical, or literary. Working on set design, lighting, sound, costuming, make-up or props for the fall play, spring musical, or student produced plays – all are important and necessary. Students can join us at Saturday Set builds as well.

Q. What training is available to help my teen strengthen his/her vocal, dance, and acting performance?

Many Theatre students are interested in further developing their skills and use private lessons and summer conservatory-like programs for this purpose. The Drama Website maintains a list of local coaches, teachers, and programs under the Student Resources Tab. This is not an exhaustive or vetted list, but rather resources identified by parents and/or theatre students based on personal experiences.

Q. What scholarship opportunities are available for students through participation in the Urbana Theatre Program?

While it is not possible to include full scholarship information in this Parents Guide, there are a few opportunities that you will want to know about:

- Urbana High School students can compete for Maryland Distinguished Scholars Awards in the Arts (11th grade) with the application process beginning at the school level and further competition at the County and State levels
- The Maryland High School Theatre Festival includes an audition component, conducted by specific post-secondary schools during the Festival, to select students for scholarship opportunities
- Membership in the International Thespian Honor Society adds to any student's college application. Taking a leadership role in the high school theatre can qualify students for a variety of scholarships. The Drama Boosters awards a \$500 scholarship every year to a member of the ITS.
- Some students may be interested in majoring in theatre. These families should have a conference with Mr. Ward as early as practical to plan, because the entertainment industry is complex and competitive, and success requires planning, dedication, and talent.

Supporting UHS Theatre:

Q. What can I do to support the Urbana Theatre Department?

There are many ways that parents can support Urbana Drama, but the ***top three*** are:

- Help your student understand the different opportunities available and meet commitments that they make in whatever roles they take on.
- Attend Urbana productions and encourage others to see the shows. Your help in bringing in a “full house” – is very welcome.

Our students play for the audience. Download notices from our websites and feel free to spread them around your personal communities – scout troops, workplaces, and community centers, and the like. Most of our productions are appropriate for children and high school theatre provides a way of introducing youngsters to live theatre.

- **Volunteer through the Drama Boosters.**

There are many things that you can do – some large, but many small and easy to fit in to most busy schedules.

Q. What volunteer opportunities exist with Drama Boosters?

Drama Boosters provides a great way for parents to enjoy and contribute to Urbana Theatre. It is a “laid back group” and all help is valued. It is not necessary to be a member/patron to give a helping hand and there are numerous ways to be involved. If you like:

- **Planning and Decision-making** -- You can consider a role on the UHS Drama Boosters Executive Board. Board positions are slated toward the end of the year for the upcoming year. Executive Board members must be members of Drama Boosters. Positions include:

President	Fundraising	Parent Outreach
Vice President	Costuming	
Treasurer	Set Construction	
Secretary	Publicity and Publication	

- **Coordinating and Organizing**

<input type="checkbox"/> Spirit Wear	<input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality and Show Meals	<input type="checkbox"/> Ticket Sales
<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising	<input type="checkbox"/> Concessions Sales	<input type="checkbox"/> Thespian Honor Society
<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity/Playbill	<input type="checkbox"/> Set Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Costuming
<input type="checkbox"/> Ushering	<input type="checkbox"/> Headshots/Photography	<input type="checkbox"/> Drama Banquet / Picnic Help

- **Giving a Helping Hand** --You can consider working on a committee, activity, or event. Volunteers are needed to operate the box office and usher at productions, operate concessions at shows, serve food at “show meals,” assemble survival kits, set up the Awards Banquet dinner, and chaperone the New York City trip – just to name a few. You can choose to volunteer during the school day, in the evening, at a performance, or in your own home – since such a wide range of opportunities exist. In all cases, you will be doing something very worthwhile and in a way that works with your schedule and with your talents/interests. Your contribution to Urbana Theatre, whether large or small, sends a message to your student that you value their involvement in Theatre Department activities. This is a group that accomplishes a lot because so many people pitch in. Drama parents have fun in the “doing”!

How the Urbana High School Drama Department Website can help you & your student:

The Urbana High School Drama Department Website, located at UHSdrama.org, is a great resource and way for you to keep up to date with UHSdrama.org including:

UHS Drama Calendar – Download the UHS Drama Calendar to keep up to date on all major dates

Current Show - Provides a direct link for you to purchase Advanced Discounted tickets at showtix4u.com.

2018-2019 Season – Get a list of all dates for all UHS Drama Productions to plan your schedule.

Drama Boosters - Get the dates for all Drama Booster Meetings and contact information.

About UHS Drama – Class information

Fundraising & Apparel - Information about current fundraisers and places to purchase UHS Spirit Wear.

Drama Club / Thespian Honor Society – Students can locate Important forms for Thespian Honor Society.

Audition Information – Students can download packets for upcoming productions. Packets have a wealth of information.

Resources for students – Monologues to Use, College Information, Songs, Scenes Etc for students.

About the Director – Get to know more about Mr. Ward.

Around the F-Wing – Highlights other events from the F-Wing.

Photo Gallery - Visit photos of past productions.

Contacts:

Q. Who do I contact when I have questions, concerns, kudos, or ideas?

Questions and issues about your student’s involvement in Urbana Theatre Department courses, productions (from auditions to scheduling to requirements), and Theatre Department activities, should be provided to Mr. Stephen Ward, director. Many questions and issues can be answered or resolved by taking a moment to browse UHSDrama.org and viewing information posted on-line, or by signing up for the Drama Department F-Wing. Mr. Ward can be reached via Stephen.Ward@fcps.org (best method of contact) or by phone at (240-236-7712).

Questions about Drama Boosters, including sponsored activities and volunteer opportunities, can be directed to the President of Drama Boosters, currently Shari Austin, at ellen.austin@fcps.org or the Committee Chairperson for a specific activity. Contact information for all booster Board Members can be found on UHSDrama.org.



We invite you to attend our monthly meetings and become a part of our decision-making and support team. If you are unable to attend the monthly meetings, you may still become an integral part of our volunteer network.

If you would like to volunteer, or if you have questions, please E-mail Shari Austin, Boosters President @ ellen.austin@fcps.org, or Stephen Ward @ Stephen.ward@fcps.org

or visit the Drama website, www.uhsdrama.org

Please mail the membership form (or deliver it to UHS main office), along with your check payable to:

Urbana Drama Boosters

3471 Campus Drive

Ijamsville, MD 21044

UHS Drama Boosters is a not for profit 501c3 certified organization



INTERNATIONALSM THESPIAN SOCIETY

HONORING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN THEATRE

Urbana High School is a member of the prestigious International Thespian Honor Society. We are recognized as Chapter #5705. Each May, we induct new members of the Honor Society at the Annual Drama Banquet. Students can begin working towards induction their Freshmen Year. All information can be found under the Honor Society tab on UHSdrama.org

How it works –

- Students need to accumulate 30 points in order to be inducted.
 - Points are accumulated from various things such as being in drama classes, participation in Drama activities, productions, etc.
 - Each activity has a number of credit points associated.
- At the beginning of each year, students should take an induction points form (found on the website), and begin filling out the form and signing off on each activity when completed.
- In April of each year, students turn in their accumulated yearly points sheet. **Even if a student has not reached 30 points or the next level, a student should still turn in their point sheet because points do not roll over.**
- Students will be notified if they have been accepted and/or advance a level in mid April, but students typically already know because they follow along with their points sheet.
- The induction is held in May at the Drama Banquet.
- Each level achieved earns the student an award or certificate such as a medallion or a chenille Letter.
- After achieving 61 points, students are eligible to purchase Honor Cords for their senior year. They also become eligible to apply for the annual \$500 Drama Booster Scholarship after reaching 61 points.
- Four Year Drama Students – having taken a Drama Class all four years of their High School Career will receive a special Four Year Award.

Urbana High School Theatre Department, Stephen Ward, director
3471 Campus Drive; Ijamsville, MD. 21754
Phone 240-236-7712; e-mail – Stephen.ward@fcps.org
www.uhsdrama.org



URBANA HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA DEPARTMENT CALENDAR
2018 - 2019

Main Stage Shows:

NOISES OFF! By Michael Frayn

Performances November 8-10

THE STORY: Michael Frayn's *Noises Off* takes a fond look at the follies of theatre folk, whose susceptibility to out-of-control egos, memory loss, and passionate affairs turn every performance into a high-risk adventure. This play-within-a-play captures a touring theatre troupe's production of *Nothing On* in three stages: dress rehearsal, the opening performance, and a performance towards the end of a debilitating run. Brimming with slapstick comedy, *Noises Off* is a delightful backstage farce, complete with slamming doors, falling trousers, and -- of course -- flying sardines! **ROLES FOR 5 MEN AND 4 GIRLS**

ONE ACT Show: **BAD IDEAS FOR BAD TELEVISION SHOWS**

Two desperate NBC executives need a new prime time show and they need it *now*, so they've turned to the general viewing public for help. A ragtag collection of would-be producers show up in droves to submit ideas for the network's next big hit, pitching everything from a sitcom starring Jean-Paul Sartre to a singing competition in which the contestants are encouraged to sabotage each other. A zany, satirical take on the absurdity of contemporary entertainment that won't need a canned laugh track. (casting size varies - Student Director Is possible for this show)

HAPPY DAZE

Performances January 10-12

THE STORY: In this serious/funny play a young Woody Allen type that others consider "The Wierdo" takes the audience on a frank and humorous mini-tour of his world, a tour that takes the audience in unexpected directions. In the midst of humor this dramedy has something to say. J.T. Springer is considered a weirdo, a creep in his reality – in order to escape, J.T. decides to create a world of his liking, a world in which he feels he belongs – the 1950's. However, the inability to face reality can have drastic results for J.T. **(Roles for 8 Guys and 8 Girls)**

How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying

Book by Abe Burrows, Jack Weinstock, Willie Gilbert

Lyrics by Frank Loesser

Performances April 4-6

A satire of big business and all it holds sacred, *How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying* follows the rise of J. Pierrepont Finch, who uses a little handbook called *How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying* to climb the corporate ladder from lowly window washer to high-powered executive, tackling such familiar but potent dangers as the aggressively compliant "company man," the office party, backstabbing coworkers, caffeine addiction and, of course, true love. **(2 Male Leads; 2 Female Leads; Multiple Supporting and Ensemble Roles for both guys and girls)**

DRAMA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS CALENDAR DOES NOT INCLUDE DAILY REHEARSALS OR SET BUILDS

Wednesday August 29	Back to School Night
Thursday September 6	<i>NOISES OFF / Bad Ideas</i> Auditions
Friday September 7	<i>NOISES OFF / Bad Ideas</i> Auditions
Friday September 14	Stage & Tech Crew Interest Meeting
Tuesday September 18	Parent Meeting @ 6 for Cast & Crew of Fall Play
Wednesday September 26	Drama Boosters Meeting @ 7:00
Friday October 19	Dramapalooza 2018
Wednesday October 24	Drama Boosters Meeting @ 7:00
Saturday November 3	Tech Saturday for <i>Noises Off / Bad Ideas</i>
Monday November 5	(No School) Tech Monday for <i>Noises Off / Bad Ideas</i>
Tuesday November 6	(No School) Tech Tuesday for <i>Noises Off / Bad Ideas</i>
Wednesday November 7	In School Matinee of <i>Noises Off / Bad Ideas</i>
Thursday November 8	<i>Noises Off / Bad Ideas</i> Performance @ 7:00
Friday November 9	<i>Noises Off / Bad Ideas</i> Performance @ 7:00
Saturday November 10	<i>Noises Off / Bad Ideas</i> Performance @ 1:00 & 7:00
Sunday November 11	Set Strike for <i>Noises Off / Bad Ideas</i>
Monday November 12	<i>Happy Daze</i> Auditions / Talent Show Dress Act 1
Tuesday November 13	<i>Happy Daze</i> Auditions
Wednesday November 14	<i>Happy Daze</i> Auditions (Callbacks) / Talent Show Dress Act 2
Thursday November 15	Talent Show 2018
Monday November 19	Stage & Tech Interest Meeting for <i>Happy Daze</i>
Wednesday November 28	Parent Mtng & 6 for <i>Happy Daze</i> / Drama Boosters Mtng @ 7
Thursday December 6	<i>How to Succeed in Business</i> Musical Interest Meeting
Wednesday December 19	Drama NYC Winter Trip – Show TBD
Wednesday January 3	Drama Boosters @ 7pm
Saturday January 5	Tech Saturday for <i>Happy Daze</i>
Monday January 7	<i>Happy Daze</i> Tech Monday
Tuesday January 8	<i>Happy Daze</i> Tech Tuesday
Thursday January 10	Performance of <i>Happy Daze</i> @ 7:00
Friday January 11	Performance of <i>Happy Daze</i> @ 7:00
Saturday January 12	Performance of <i>Happy Daze</i> @ 1:00 & 7:00
Sunday January 13	<i>Happy Daze</i> Set Strike
Wednesday January 16	<i>How to Succeed in Business</i> Dance Auditions
Thursday January 17	<i>How to Succeed in Business</i> Singing/Acting Auditions
Friday January 18	<i>How to Succeed in Business</i> Singing/Acting Auditions
Saturday January 19	<i>How to Succeed in Business</i> CALL BACKS
Wednesday January 23	Musical Stage & Tech Crew Interest Meeting
Thursday January 24	Intro to Theater Showcase @ 7pm
Friday January 25	Intro to Theater Showcase @ 7pm
Wednesday January 30	Musical Parent Mtng @ 6
Fri & Saturday February 8 & 9	Northeast Theatre Fest. (Snow Date 2/22 & 2/23)
Wednesday February 13	ITS Troupe 5705 Participation in Black History Month Program
Wednesday February 20	Drama Boosters Meeting @ 7
Friday March 8 th	DEADLINE FOR STUDENT ONE ACTS SCRIPT PROPOSALS
Wednesday March 27	Drama Boosters Meeting @ 7
Saturday March 30	Tech Saturday for <i>How to Succeed in Business</i>
Monday April 1	Tech Monday for <i>How to Succeed in Business</i>
Tuesday April 2	Tech Tuesday for <i>How to Succeed in Business</i>
Wednesday April 3	In School Matinee <i>How to Succeed in Business</i>
Thursday April 4	<i>How to Succeed in Business</i> Performance @ 7:00

Friday April 5	<i>How to Succeed in Business Performance @ 7:00</i>
Saturday April 6	<i>How to Succeed in Business Performance @ 1:00 & 7:00</i>
Sunday April 7	<i>How to Succeed in Business Set Strike</i>
Tuesday April 16	Student Directed One Act Auditions
Wednesday April 17	Spring Drama New York Trip (Shows TBD)
Tuesday April 23	F-Wing Live Auditions
Wednesday April 24	F-Wing Live Auditions
Thursday April 25	Drama Boosters Meeting
Saturday April 27	Mini-THON 2019
Friday May 3	Advanced Acting Production & Senior Showcase
Saturday May 4	Advanced Acting Production & Senior Showcase
Tuesday May 7	F-Wing Live Act 1 Dress Rehearsal
Wednesday May 8	F-Wing Live Act 2 Dress Rehearsal / Drama Boosters Meeting
Thursday May 9	F-Wing Live 2019!
Saturday May 11	Drama Department Family Picnic
Wednesday May 22	Last Day For Seniors
Thursday May 23	Drama Banquet @ 6 / Drama Awards @ 7 p.m.
Friday May 31	Student Directed One Acts @ 7
Saturday June 1	Student Directed One Acts @ 7
Wednesday June 5	Drama Boosters Meeting
Thursday June 6	Informational Meeting for Students about 2019-2020 Year

A Note About Musicals – Some of you sing well (or very well). Some do not sing well *yet*. Most leading roles in musicals (and some supporting roles) require solo singing. More than 95% of people improve their singing with instruction and practice. There are many fine voice teachers in the area. **START NOW!** Check our website for some of your classmates’ teachers. Ambitious people will work on their voices *now*. Some people will have the leading roles, folks...will it be you? Singing with a choir is also a VERY GOOD IDEA. Ours is available to you through multiple classes and an auditioned Chamber Ensemble group after school. Find a choir and join it. Dancing also improves with practice. There’s a lot of that in musicals as well. Acting helps as well...of course. Sometimes great singers don’t make the greatest actors. Sometimes the greatest actors aren’t the best singers. It happens! But improvement will ONLY HAPPEN with PRACTICE! *It is not enough to just sing the song assigned to a character. If you are serious about obtaining a role, you should sing the song as the character when you audition, to the best of your ability in the time given. You will want to consider how the character would perform the song. **Standing and singing as yourself is NOT to your advantage.** There will be many students trying to obtain these roles and it is best to show the directors what you are capable of doing with a role; how else will they know?*

Websites: The internet has a lot on theatre: how and where, who, etc! Use it!!!

We're Thespian Troupe #5705 of the International Thespian Society (ITS). Theatre training options, acting tips, tech theater ideas, and Thespian gear is available at <http://www.edta.org/default.asp>

UHS DRAMA is on Remind 101, Facebook and Twitter

Drama Department Season 2018-2019 At A Glance

November 8-10 *NOISES OFF!*

& Bad Ideas for Bad Television Show

January 10-12 HAPPY DAZE

January 24 & 25 Intro to Acting Showcase
(Tentative)**

April 4-6 *Spring Musical*

How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying

May 3 & 4 Advanced Acting Production
& Senior Showcase

May 9 F-Wing Live 2019!

May 31 & June 1 A Night of Student-Directed One Acts

STAY IN TOUCH WITH UHS DRAMA!
Don't miss a single announcement

**JOIN UHS DRAMA ON REMIND 101
TEXT @F-WING TO 81010 TO STAY ON
TOP OF ALL NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Bookmark UHSdrama.org

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Urbana High School Drama
<https://www.facebook.com/urbanadrama/>

Join the UHS Drama Parents Facebook Group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/605161759585785/>

Follow us on Twitter
<https://twitter.com/DramaUhs>