

St. Francis of Assisi Musical Production 2023/2024:  
FROZEN JR. Handbook



Hello St. Francis musical theater enthusiasts! My name is Mr. Demuynck (pronounced “duh-mink”), and I am your director for this year’s musical theater production. This year, our production is FROZEN JR! This is a Disney musical that has been extremely popular since its theatrical release in 2013, with a stage version premiering in 2018 and a youth version of the stage show premiering shortly afterwards. This is one of my personal favorite Disney productions and I am very excited to work with you all and create our own rendition of this musical!

Being in a musical is an incredibly fun and fulfilling experience, but it takes a lot of dedication and commitment! Parents and students alike, please read through this entire package to make sure you understand what is expected of students who participate in the musical this year.

### AUDITIONS

Auditions for the musical will be held on September 12, 2023 and September 14, 2023 in the Fine Arts room at St. Francis from 3:30-5:30pm. Students are only expected to attend **one of the two dates for auditions.**

There will be two sections for each student's audition: an acting portion and a singing portion.

- The acting portion will be performed either individually or in pairs. If students choose to perform in pairs, these pairs can be chosen by the students ahead of time or they can find a partner to perform with at the audition.
  - If a student chooses to audition individually, they will perform the included “Individual” scene as **Olaf.**
  - If students choose to perform in pairs, they will perform the included “Pairs” scene where **one person will play Anna and the other will play Elsa.**

- Everyone will use one of these two scenes, **regardless of which character they are auditioning for**. Gender will not be taken into account during casting, so students are free to choose audition scenes regardless of gender.
- The singing portion will be performed individually. Each student has two options from the production to choose from: a portion of “In Summer” performed by the character Olaf, or a portion of “Let it Go” performed by the character Elsa. Once again, every student must choose one of these two sections **regardless of which character they are auditioning for**. Students are encouraged to think about which piece will work best for their voice and audition with that piece (gender will not be taken into account when casting).
  - **Do NOT practice your songs to the movie versions!** Our version of these songs are slightly different from the ones from the movie, so please use the backing tracks I will provide in the audition Google Drive folder.
- Memorization of the audition material is not required or expected at this time.

A few more details about the audition day:

- Students are able to sign up to audition on either day. For students that have to wait to audition after school, I will play a movie in my classroom while holding auditions in the Fine Arts room (snacks included!). Students are welcome to leave after their audition is complete but are welcome to stay and enjoy the movie until auditions are over at 5:30pm.
- **Auditions are required for any students who want a main role** (any character with a name is considered to be a “main role”). Any and all St. Francis students are welcome to be a part of the ensemble, regardless of whether or not they audition.

## **CASTING**

Each role will go to the person that fits each character the best based on their audition, regardless of age. However, in cases where two students are equally matched to a character, **priority will be given to Grade 9 students first**, as this is their last opportunity to participate in a St. Francis production.

Each main role will be given a main actor/actress as well as an understudy. An understudy is a person who is responsible for learning the lines and choreography of a particular role in the event that the main actor/actress is unable to perform at showtime. For example, if Emma is cast as Elsa and Alexis is cast as Elsa's understudy, Alexis would take over the role of Elsa if Emma was sick on the day of the show and couldn't perform. Understudies are extremely valuable and important parts of a production, so we will be dedicating **one of our five shows for all of the understudies to replace the main actors/actresses and perform their parts.**

## **REHEARSALS**

Rehearsals will be held every Tuesday and Thursday starting September 19, 2023. Every student is expected to attend the vast majority of all rehearsals they are scheduled for. If students are unable to attend a rehearsal they are expected at, they must inform Mr. Demuynck with as much notice as possible, especially if they are playing a main role. **Regular lack of attendance at rehearsals may result in loss of privileges, including losing a main role.**

From the start of the rehearsals through December, Tuesday and Thursday rehearsals will be separated and will take place **immediately after school until 5:00pm.**

- Only students with main roles will be required to attend on Tuesdays to work on vocal solos and lines.
- The entire cast is required on Thursdays rehearsals to rehearse ensemble music and choreography.

Starting in January, **all cast members will be expected to attend both Tuesday and Thursday rehearsals until the show is over. Rehearsals begin immediately after school and will now go until 5:30pm.**

We will likely have a few weekend rehearsals leading up to the show that will be required for all cast members. Exact dates for these weekend rehearsals will be provided as soon as possible. If a student is unable to attend a weekend rehearsal, please contact Mr. Demuynck as soon as possible.

A detailed rehearsal and show calendar will be provided once rehearsals begin.

## **MATERIALS**

Students will need a small handful of materials for every rehearsal:

- Your script - This will be provided to you. **DO NOT LOSE IT!** A single script is 144 pages and is very expensive to print. If you lose your script and need a new one, you will need to cover the cost of printing.
- We only have 30 pre-printed scripts to provide to students. Since we will likely have more than 30 members of our cast, some students will likely need to use a photocopied version of the script in a binder. Please bring a binder to the first rehearsal if you have an extra.
- A pencil
- A highlighter (two highlighters of different colors would be ideal)

Please make sure you have all of these materials ready before the first rehearsal.

## **EXPECTATIONS FOR BEHAVIOUR**

The absolute most important thing for an actor/actress to have is a **good attitude!** Bad attitudes spread fast and it is incredibly difficult to act well if the people around you aren't behaving well. I expect every student in our production to follow some simple expectations regarding their behavior:

- **No grumbling about your assigned role!** This behavior kills morale faster than anything else. Every single role and actor is incredibly important for our musical to run well. **The best way to score a lead role next year is to perform well and be a good team player this year!**
- Be on time for rehearsals. After your last class on rehearsal days, make a quick stop at your locker and come immediately to the Fine Arts room.
- Do not be disruptive while other people are acting, singing or dancing during rehearsals.
- We will be having guest teachers from outside our school coming in to help with our production. Please treat these teachers with the same respect you would treat any of your own teachers.
- Your job as an actor is to do the best you can with your **own** role. Please keep any critiques of other actors to yourself and leave it to the directors to correct any mistakes.

## **SHOW DATES**

Our show dates will be between February 27 - March 1, 2024 at the Memorial Center in Red Deer. **It is critically important that all cast members attend every show.** Parents, please refrain from scheduling vacations or trips during the week of the shows.

## **FEES**

The fee this year for cast members is \$75, and the fee for crew members is \$20. This is to help cover the cost of supplies, food, transportation and rentals.

These fees can be paid online through your Parent Powerschool account. If you need information about how to pay online, please visit our school website and select “Rycor” under the ‘Quick Links’ tab.

Musical theater is an insanely enriching and amazing part of the middle school experience! While it takes a lot of hard work and commitment, the friendships and bonds you create during these times are incredibly valuable and are often made for life.

If any parents or students have any questions regarding the production or auditions, please do not hesitate to reach out and ask, I will be more than happy to answer. I sincerely cannot wait for auditions and to get started on creating an incredible show with you all! Break a leg and I will see you soon!

God bless,

Mr. Andy Demuynck, B.Ed B.Mus

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