August 9, 2018

Dear SAA Parents of Elementary Students,

 We are very excited to begin a new school year. We have many wonderful things planned for our terrific students. We now have increased our space due to the JRA move to the former SAA office building. We have added a classroom which is attached to our music room. This addition affords us the opportunity to have two things going on at the same time. This really increases the skills we will be able to teach.

 We will again be using Sean Layne’s “Acting Right” which begins each class period with “The Actor’s Toolbox”. We loved this program last year. It was truly amazing to watch the students begin class, get their bodies, voices, and minds prepared to learn and focus, all in the first minute of class! It has a great set of principles which will be our class standards every moment of every class period. They are as follows:

1. Behavior is a choice.
2. Be the boss of your brain!
3. Make the strong choice, not the weak choice.
4. Have a calm body, focused mind, and balanced emotions.
5. Remember the Golden Rule – Do to others as you would have them do to you.
6. You don’t have to blow out someone else’s light to let your light shine!
7. Be kind. Be brave. Be awesome.
8. Be your courageous brilliant self every single day, no matter what!

 Grades in all music classes are based on class participation, formative assessments, and performances. Students are NOT graded on their talent. They are graded by full participation in all classroom activities and attendance at performances. We do not give midterm or final exams. Their performance is their final exam. Therefore it is imperative that students attend all performances. If your child is sick and cannot attend please call or text me BEFORE the show in order to excuse your child. Every child is important in every show. If the child is not there, it affects all the other students so please be sure your child is there. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

 Currently scheduled performances for elementary classes are as follows:

 Monday, October 8th - 6:00 PM – Kindergarten – “Pajama Party”

 7:00 PM – 1st and 2nd – “The Wonder of Music”

 Monday, October 22nd - 6:00 PM – 3rd and 4th Grade – “Wright”

 7:00 PM – 5th Grade – “The Adventures of Lewis and Clark”

 Monday, December 3rd - 6:00 PM - Kindergarten – “Grumps”

 7:00 PM – 1st and 2nd Grade – “Elflandia”

 Monday, December 17th - 6:00 PM – 3rd and 4th Grade – “The Lights on Jingle Bell Hill”

 7:00 PM – 5th Grade – “Santa’s Holiday Playlist”

 Monday, April 29th - 6:00 PM - 5th Grade – “Peter Pan”

 Monday, May 6th - 6:00 PM – Kindergarten – “Winnie the Pooh”

 Monday, May 13th - 6:00 PM 1st and 2nd Grade – “Jungle Book”

 Monday, May 20th - 6:00 PM – 3rd and 4th Grade – “Alice In Wonderland”

 We are very interested in performing in the Sarasota Christmas Parade. We will need a float and will be discussing this with music parents to see who will be able to help us in this endeavor.

 We really love parent helpers! The thing we need most from you is help with costumes. We have 180 students in the music program. We do 18 shows a year and there are literally thousands of costume pieces to be organized, fitted, and washed. We could really use help with this. Parents who have time during the day could be very useful in organizing. Parents who cannot help during the day could sew costumes or wash them in the evenings.

 A second way is to help build sets. This is usually done on Saturday mornings. Mr. Bryan loves people handy in this area!

 The last way you can help is to chaperone events. We will be sending information to you all year giving you many opportunities to fulfil your volunteer hours. Every moment you spend assisting the music program is tremendously appreciated! In order to chaperone you must have a level 2 clearance. Please see Kathy or Donna in the office for assistance with this.

 Please feel free to call or text me on my cell phone at 941-544-4232 or email me at jmchugh@sarasotaacademyofthearts.com. The best time to reach me is 5:00 AM to 7:30 AM, 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM, or 6:00 PM to 11:00 PM. I know sometimes you really need a question answered quickly and this way you know you can get in contact with me. Please put my phone number into your cell phone so you can reach me at any time.

 It will be a wonderful year at SAA! We look forward to many exciting things in the music department.

 Please return the attached form by Friday, August 17th. Thank you.

 Sincerely,

 Julie Rohr McHugh

 Bryan Egan