

MAMMA MIA!

Audition Information

Friday	January 11 th	3:00 p.m. Audition Information Meeting/ Learn Audition Dance
Monday	January 14 th	3:00 p.m. Vocal Audition 1
Tuesday	January 15 th	3:00 p.m. Vocal Audition 2
Wednesday	January 16 th	3:00 p.m. Dance Audition/Callbacks
Friday	January 18 th	Cast list posted - TBD.

Rules and Expectations

Initial audition procedure: You will read a selection from the script. Do not memorize it. Decisions will be based on voice quality, characterization, suitability for the role, overall stage presence, and availability for rehearsal.

Eligibility: Minimum GPA: 1.75 and passing 5 credits at every mid-term check.

Everyone meet in the Black Box Theatre at your scheduled time (Room 305). Please arrive 15 minutes early. Only directors and the person auditioning may be in the PAC during auditions. You will have a private audition.

Student and parent signatures are required. These signify that infractions of school rules may result in dismissal from the cast or reassignment of a role. These rules include regulations about eligibility, drinking, smoking, drug use, verbal or physical abuse, or behavior unbecoming a representative of the Theatre Department.

If you make the show, we congratulate you. If you do not make the show, we congratulate you for your courage in auditioning. If you are disappointed by not making the show or by not making a particular role in the show, we know you will be mature in your disappointment.

The musical will be April 25th-28th (Senior citizen preview April 24th and early matinees April 24th 25th and 26th).

Cast members are asked to place posters around town and help strike the set. You will be given permission slips to have signed by your parents to drive or be a passenger.

PLEASE MAKE SURE TO PUT ALL CONFLICTS ON YOUR AUDITION FORM! We understand that some emergencies may come up last minute, but the “I didn’t know about this,” kind of excuse are *not acceptable*. If you have unexcused rehearsals, we may have to replace you. When the cast is posted, it is tentative. Any cast member may be replaced at the director's’ discretion. Attendance at rehearsals is mandatory. Excused or unexcused, 3 or more missed rehearsals may be grounds for removal from the cast/crew. Cast calls are posted one week ahead of time. Clear your calendars to make your rehearsals.

Evidence of illegal or inappropriate behavior, past or present, posted on the Internet or other means could be grounds for disciplinary action including dismissal from the cast. You are ALWAYS auditioning . . .

Rehearsals begin Monday, January 22nd at 3:00 p.m. with a read-through for the entire cast. Rehearsals will be after school until 5:00 p.m. You will be called if you are needed.

Please clear your calendars the last two weeks before the show (both afternoons and evenings. We will be having technical rehearsals the week before the show. **THESE REHEARSALS ARE MANDATORY. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS DURING THESE TWO WEEKS!** Everyone **MUST** attend.

After the show closes, we will **STRIKE** the set. **ALL** members of the cast and crew **MUST** attend **ALL** sessions and stay after the show closes on Sunday. Sessions will be held for 3 days after the show ends. Both after school and evening sessions will be held.

When technical and dress rehearsals are scheduled, you must attend.

According to school rules, you must be at school in order to participate in after school activities. **DO NOT** go home after a matinee performance.

Auditions and **ALL** Rehearsals are **CLOSED**. Only cast, and necessary stage management may attend after school rehearsals. Friends and family will be asked to leave.

If a student is ill and must miss a rehearsal, please call the Theatre Department at 614.830.2744 or let a stage manager know.

For more information visit our website: www.picknorththeatre.com To see sneak peaks follow us on Twitter [@phsntheatre](https://twitter.com/phsntheatre) and follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/phsntheatre Performances and rehearsals may be recorded or photographed and used toward show publicity.

Cast members have a participation fee set by the Board of Education. Please make out a check for \$75.00 to Pickerington Local School District with your name and *Spring Musical Fee 2019* on the memo line. Give the check for your fee to Jackie Earhart in the Athletic Department office in the hallway off of Commons. You must pay by February 18th.

Cast parties: Sometimes cast parties are planned by parents. If these occur, they are not chaperoned by the Theatre Dept. faculty members.

Matinee information: We will present matinee performances for the junior high and senior high. Cast call will be very early on those days. Dates: TBA.

We are very proud of the talented, cooperative students we have in the Theatre Department and we are looking forward to seeing you audition.

Pickerington High School North Theatre Department

Casting Policy

Overview

Pickerington High School North views all of its student auditionees/tech team members as theatre artists, and works hard to train them to think as such. As artists, there is nothing more important than the work – in this case, the show. No individual artist, from the directors to the actors to the stagehands to the publicity team, is bigger than the show. Our job is to be observant and complete storytellers of the piece.

Every artist's contribution is unique and invaluable, but no one contribution is larger than any other. The philosophy of this department is taken from the Greek philosopher, Aristotle: "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts." It is so important that ALL students perform their jobs to the best of their abilities, regardless of whether he/she is working backstage, on stage, or in the front of the house, so that the production as a whole does not suffer. Together we are stronger.

This philosophy requires artists to put aside egos and do what they can to help their team members be successful. This in turn helps feed into the success of the show. Negative attitudes, unrealistic expectations, and abrasive behavior from the students participants have no place on or off stage.

Ensemble Mentality

Because the directing team feels it is important to teach to the whole child, we take on an ensemble mentality, which means that all students are encouraged to stretch themselves and grow not just in one area of the theatre, but in all aspects. Students who consider themselves "actors" are strongly encouraged to take part in build sessions and work on a crew when not cast in shows. Members of the chorus work on creating their backstories just like the actors with the principal roles. The students who believe "I'm just going to do tech work" are asked to take at least one theatre class. Through this assimilation, the students are able to develop their critical thinking skills and gain confidence in their effectiveness and collaboration with others.

The Elements of Casting a Production

There are very few things as stressful as auditioning for a show. It might surprise you to know that for the directors involved in the casting process, the stress is just as real. Casting is a careful and thoughtful process, as each student's audition is examined and assessed. Here at PHSN, the directing team is comprised (for the fall show) of the director and the technical director. For the musical, the directing team is comprised of the director, the vocal director, the technical theatre director, and the choreographer. On a rare occasion, we may ask one or two outside people who have theatrical knowledge to join our casting team.

There are many factors taken into consideration when a show is cast. The main thing to remember is that the directors, first and foremost, MUST do what is in the best interest of the show. While you and your student have one person to consider, the Directing Team may have 70+ cast and crew members to assess. Below is a list of elements, besides the audition itself, which could possibly affect how a role is cast:

- **TYPE:** Each actor is a specific type. Generally, types fall either into “leading man/woman” or “character man/woman”. Leading roles include characters like Marian in THE MUSIC MAN, Sky Masterson in GUYS AND DOLLS, or Motormouth Mabel in HAIRSPRAY. Character parts are frequently comic, villainous, or off-beat and include Tevye in FIDDLER ON THE ROOF, Dolly in HELLO, DOLLY, Edna in HAIRSPRAY and King Charlemagne in PIPPIN. **It is crucial that an acting artist recognizes and realizes his/her type and for which roles he/she may be best suited in a production. It is also important to realize that, in most instances, there will not be an appropriate major role for every actor in every show.** In casting a show, it is the Directing Team’s responsibility to create a realistic visual picture for the show in order for the work to be artistically complete and be believable.

- **SKILLS:** Whose audition is reinforcing the vision of the piece? Who is letting us see emotional depth with the character? Is the auditionee listening to the other actors on stage and reacting accordingly or are they just waiting for the line before theirs to be said? Is the actor’s physical posture reinforcing the character? Is the actor exhibiting a range in their acting or going strictly for the laugh? Who has the comic timing? Who has the strongest dance ability? Who has the right physical qualities that are required in the script? Who is creating honest and believable moments that allow the audience a chance to engage in those moments? Who is right, in a variety of ways, for which part?

- **VOCAL RANGE/ABILITY:** Does the student’s voice establish the character? Is the actor able to be understood or is articulation a problem? Are they able to be heard in the back of the auditorium? For musicals, is the student on pitch? Can they find the rhythms of the song? Does the student have the range to sing the high (low) notes in the piece? Is the actor just standing and singing the song or is the performer acting the song as well? Does the actor know what he/she is singing and more importantly, WHY?

- **AGE/GENDER:** Is there a specific gender or age requirement for a specific character? Is a certain role age/gender neutral?

- **READINESS:** Is the actor mature in his/her abilities and exhibiting smart, clear choices on stage? Is the actor allowing his/her nerves to take over or is the actor channeling the nervousness so that it works for him/her? Is the role for which the student is auditioning frustrating him/her in this audition? Can that be seen on the face of the actor? Does the actor work well with others, both on and backstage? If asked to change up what the actor has prepared, is the actor flexible and coachable? Is the actor working to create an honest relationship/chemistry on stage with his/her fellow actors? Is his/her stage presence apparent? Is this actor/technician ready to take on a leadership role in the program?

- **GRADES/TARDIES/ABSENCES:** If a student’s grades are low or s/he is failing a class, should s/he really be participating in an extracurricular activity? Could the after school time be used more effectively to get their grades to an acceptable number? If he/she can’t get to school on time, will getting to rehearsal on time be an issue? Basically, is the child dependable and will they be able to be counted on when it comes time to put the

show together? The attitude of “they won’t miss me, I’m just in the chorus” is the wrong attitude to take and spells disaster for everyone. Every artist on a crew or on the stage is important to the success of the production.

- **SCHEDULES/CONFLICTS:** Is the work schedule going to be an issue? Will there be outside commitments which cannot be negotiated? Does the student have a track record of getting cast and then missing rehearsals because something “comes up?” While some conflicts may be able to be worked out, remember there are some which won’t be able to be resolved. It is always better to be up front with scheduling issues.

Directors’ Responsibilities

- **SERVE THE SHOW:** The directing team will choose the best person for each role, regardless of previous casting or hierarchy. If the directing team finds two people *equal in their abilities* (a senior and sophomore, for example), the part will be given to the senior, as they will be participating for the last time. **All casting decisions are final.**
- **PROVIDE FEEDBACK:** The Directing Team will be glad to offer feedback *to the student* concerning his/her audition. If a student is not cast in a specific role for which he/she auditioned or did not get cast in the production, feedback from the directors highlighting the student’s strengths and challenges, will take place the week following auditions, based upon the schedules of the directors/students involved. The directing team feels it is important and age-appropriate for a high school student to self-advocate (since it was the student who auditioned) and take the responsibility of meeting with the directors. The student can then take the audition feedback and share it with his/her parent(s).

Parent Responsibilities

- **BE PROACTIVE:** The best time to discuss realistic casting aspirations with your child is *before* the audition itself. When an audition comes up, discuss the show with your child and what roles they might be right to play. Remind them that there are many students who might be right for a particular role and that they should concentrate on giving their most-prepared and “best” audition and let the chips fall where they may. Allow them to focus on the experience of growing as an artist, no matter what role they play. Encourage them to focus on being prepared and having fun. Find the known positives.
- **ALLOW YOUR CHILD TO GROW:** It is difficult to watch your child be disappointed. The natural response from a parent is to “fix it” for their child. We want our children to be happy. While spending energy berating the directors may be the short term fix, in the long run, you are doing your student a disservice by rushing in to “make it right” for him/her. A student needs to learn coping skills in order to handle other disappointments/adversity which he/she will face later in life. The old adage “You can tell more about a person not by the way they handle success, but how they handle adversity” rings true in this situation. While they see this experience of not getting the role he/she wanted or not getting chosen for the run crew as a do-or-die situation right now, we as the adults need to help them put things in perspective. After all, they will model what they see.

Other Considerations in Casting a Production

- Student commitment (past and present) to the program
- Cooperation, attitude, and professionalism in the rehearsal and performance environment
- Being a team player and *servicing the show **not** individual ego*
- Ability to support and work well with other actors and backstage personnel
- The student's decisions regarding drugs, alcohol and tobacco

We sincerely hope that this policy helps clarify the casting guidelines and procedures used here at Pickerington High School North. Ultimately, it will be up to all of us, directors, parents, and students, to work together in order to support and maintain the excellence that is Pickerington High School North Theatre.

- Allen DeCarlo, Scott Skiles, Dee Keller, Emily Kirtland, Jackie Farbeann, Angie Smith, and Courtney Boggs

_____ (to be filled out at auditions)

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE THE COURAGE TO AUDITION! MR. DECARLO AND MR. SKILES ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING THE MANY TALENTED STUDENTS! BEST OF LUCK TO EVERYONE!

Students: Please return this page at the audition.

Please make sure the reverse side is signed by you and a parent or guardian.

Student: _____ **Grade:** _____ **GPA:** _____

Address: _____

Student cell phone: _____

Student email address: _____

(Shirt money will be due by February 18th)

Please list all commitments that would prevent you from attending rehearsals:

I will accept any part. _____ Yes _____ No

I prefer (circle one)

A. A lead

B. A smaller role

Students: Please return this page at the audition.

Student Signature

The only commitments that would interfere with my being at rehearsal are the ones I have listed. I understand the decisions of the directors are not subject to approval by any student. I agree to attend all rehearsals, fulfill my obligations to my part, be on time and cooperate with the directors. I understand and agree that I will be replaced if I miss rehearsals, do not work out in the part, or if I neglect to follow all school and activity rules. I understand the attached rules and regulations.

Signed (student) _____

Date _____

Parent Signature

I agree that my child will be at all rehearsals unless he/she has been excused by the director. I understand the cast and crew are members of a team; this team requires attendance, discipline, and maturity. I understand students may be replaced if they miss rehearsals, if they do not work out in the part, or if they do not follow all school and extracurricular activity rules. I know they will miss the first 4 periods of school when they present matinees to the middle school, junior high, and high school. I understand the attached rules and regulations.

If my child makes the cast, I realize the Participation Fee of \$75.00 is due by February 18th. (Please make out a check to PLSD and have your child give the check to Jackie Earhart in the Athletic Office. On the memo line, please put your student's name and *Spring Musical Fee 2019.*)

Signed (Parent/ Guardian) _____

Date _____

Parent email: _____

Parent cell: _____

Students: *Please return this page at the audition.*

**PICKERINGTON HIGH SCHOOL NORTH THEATRE DEPARTMENT
PARENT PERMISSION FOR STUDENT TO RIDE/DRIVE WITH ANOTHER STUDENT**

TO: Parent/Guardian

School: Pickerington High School North

FROM: Allen DeCarlo

From time to time, high school students engage in activities for which Pickerington North transportation is not available. Our departments' first choice in that case would be to have parent volunteers, but there are times when that is neither possible nor feasible and students drive to the activity. When this occurs, our department requests the following:

- Copies of proof of auto insurance and the student's driver's license must be with the student driver.
- A permission form must be signed by parents of both the student driver and student passenger(s) indicating permission and approval.
- Students that are driving must abide by all state laws. This consists of speed limits, occupancy limits, and following all posted signs.

Student Passenger Parent/Guardian Permission:

My child has my permission to ride to and from an event with a student driver and I agree to hold the school and Pickerington High School North Theatre Department harmless for any liability or damage related to my child driving or riding to this event. If my student is a driver, by signing this, I agree that they may drive other students.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Phone: _____

My child **DOES NOT** my permission to ride to and from an event with a student driver.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Phone: _____

Students: *Please return this page at the audition.*