



2011 Mantua Drama Club Information Session Meeting Minutes

Welcome to the 2011 season of the Mantua Drama Club! I am so excited about this year and I hope you are too! So let's get started...

WHAT IS THIS YEAR'S PLAY?!?

Our play this year is "The Stinky Cheese Man and Other fairly Silly Tales" and it's going to be fabulous. There are 36 main roles! Please see the audition sheet for a detailed listing of parts. Besides our main roles, we also need a Chorus! We need technical folks willing to work as assistant directors, work on backdrops, props, and building sets!

So how does this all begin? Well, let me tell you! First and foremost, you should fill out a Drama Club packet and pay your dues. For those of you interested in auditioning, you should turn that packet in **NO LATER** than this Friday at 4:30 PM. **Packets should be turned in to the "Drama Club" folder in the PTA mailbox in the office mailroom.** After this Friday, we will not schedule you for an audition next week. Any questions about auditions should be directed to Mary Rollins, Audition Coordinator, via email at Mary_Rollins@discovery.com. All other drama club packets must be in by the following Friday, the 23rd! So for students who audition, the best thing to do is to fill out a drama club packet and pay your dues tonight. Dues are \$40 for the first student in your family. If you have additional kids who want to join drama club, their dues are \$35! (Make checks available to "Mantua PTA") Please note, however, that we don't want any student to not participate because of the dues, so if the dues are a problem, please say something.

Each actor will be required to come up with their own costume, based on the Costumes Coordinator's requirements. Hopefully, there will be lots of options available in the Drama Closet. In cases where no costume is available, we will work with you to find an inexpensive way to meet the costume requirements. Actors will be told what their costumes are when they receive their part. They should then work with the Costume Coordinator to come up with a time to go through the Drama Closet.

The drama club packet consists of several key documents and requires a commitment on the part of the students AND the parents. Be sure to read the commitment letters and contact Lesley McKnight via email at Lesley.mcknight@verizon.net if you have any questions.

Finally, as part of your commitment, we are asking parents to volunteer to assist at least three rehearsals, including during CRUNCH WEEK. What is CRUNCH WEEK? Well starting

November 12th your kids will be here at Mantua working, working, working to pull this show together! Go over rehearsal dates and determine which dates you can help. (Crunch week rehearsals are in the evenings so that parents who work can help too) Finally, communication! Each parent should receive confirmation that they are part of the Google Mantua Email List. Each time I have a group announcement; it will go out via this list. If you do not receive an email from me, Lesley McKnight, Lesley.mcknight@verizon.net by next Monday, please send me an email.

Now, let's talk about our drama program format for this year. Sign in will be via a parent volunteer taking attendance at the start of each drama club meeting or rehearsal. As part of your commitment, parents should email me before 12:00 the day of rehearsal and let me know if your child or children will not be coming. If I do not get an email and they are not here, we will have parent volunteers call you. For sign out, you must come over and sign out next to their name.

Information will be disseminated via the Google list. All documentation will be on the Drama Club page on the Mantua website or be mailed to you by me. This year we will be rehearsing various scenes during October, so check the schedule to make sure your child attends the correct rehearsals. We're going to have a buddy system where an older kid is assigned to a younger buddy and during our times working together, the older kids will mentor the younger ones and help them. Our goal is to make Drama Club as inclusive as possible as well as foster friendships amongst the different grades.

One big issue every year is food. This year we plan to provide meals on the following days:

- Saturday, Nov 12th (lunch)
- Thursday, Nov 17th (dinner)
- Friday, Nov 18th (dinner)
- Saturday, Nov 19th (lunch)

Being in a play is different than being on a sports team. If you miss a sports practice, someone else can cover for you. In a play, only you can perform your part. It's impossible to run the show without everyone there. That's why everyone must attend every rehearsal for which they are scheduled. Students are allowed 2 unexcused absences in October, and NO UNEXCUSED ABSENCES in November. The only excuses for ever missing a rehearsal are illness, family emergency, or another school event. The commitment to Drama Club and the schedule are provided right from the beginning. Mandatory November attendance is part of the commitment. Anyone who has more than 2 unexcused absences in October, or who has any unexcused absence in November, will not be able to participate in Drama Club this year. If you cannot attend all the rehearsals and performances, please do not accept a part.

I've covered that information above with the exception of one question – will being in Drama Club mean you cannot participate in basketball. The answer to that is NO! Drama Club is over by the end of November and basketball begins in December here at Mantua.

REMEMBER: It is important to get your Drama Club packet in the “Drama Club” folder in the PTA mailbox in the office mailroom by **4:30 PM on Friday, September 16th** if you want to audition! Auditions are Monday, September 19th, Wednesday, September 21st and Friday, September 23rd. **ALL DRAMA CLUB PACKETS** for Chorus and tech are due by Friday, September 23rd!

ALL DRAMA CLUB PACKETS MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

1. 2011 Mantua Drama Club Audition Form (for students auditioning for a speaking role)
2. 2011 Mantua Drama Club Emergency Contact Form
3. Fairfax County Public Schools Parental Authorization and Acknowledgement of Risk (After-School Program)
4. 2011 Mantua Drama Club Student Letter of Commitment
5. 2011 Mantua Drama Club Parent Letter of Commitment
6. Check for \$40 (\$35 for siblings) Dues made out to “Mantua PTA”

If you have any additional questions, please contact Lesley McKnight at Lesley.mcknight@verizon.net