

NMAPA

PRESENTS...

# “SCHOOL HOUSE ROCK JR.”



FALL 2016

PARENT HANDBOOK & AUDITION  
PACKET

## A Letter from the Performing Arts Director & Production Team

Dear Parents and Students:

We are so excited and are all looking forward to our fall production of *School House Rock Jr.* We have already assembled a fantastic production team and we are excited about the auditions for the roles in the show. In this packet you should find all the information you need regarding auditions, rehearsals and performances for *School House Rock Jr.*

As we all get started in a few weeks keep in mind that the job of our production team is to line up each student with the part that would be best suited for them. It's not an easy task. The production team literally spends hours and hours (and many e-mails) on this process. We want to make sure each student has the best opportunity to shine. Take a look at the attached pages on casting and character breakdown to see the guidelines we use as we carefully consider a part for each student. On the audition form your child will have the opportunity to sign up for the role that they are most interested in. If you have questions regarding roles or schedules please contact me prior to your child's audition day and I will be happy to answer any questions regarding our process. I look forward to seeing your child at auditions! When everyone is cast in a good role for them, performing their best and working together, it not only becomes a piece of art but.... IT'S A LOT OF FUN!

Rehearsals are where we create the magic. This year, we will begin rehearsals earlier than ever before. Rehearsals will begin in September after auditions and will be held on Monday and Wednesday's after school from 3:30-4:30/5:00. An official calendar of rehearsals will be given to each cast member once roles have been assigned. The expectations are that students will be off-book (which means all lines will be memorized) by **October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Flying High,

Ms. Shar

Performing Arts Director  
[salfred@northmetroacademy.org](mailto:salfred@northmetroacademy.org)

## GENERAL AUDITION INFORMATION

**ROLES and CASTING:** There are many unique and special roles in *School House Rock Jr.* Some focus on singing, others on dancing and some very important parts are strictly acting parts. Casting will be based on an actor's age/grade, rehearsal availability, behavior report from teachers, grades and audition. Please note that if a student's behavior or grades fall below the expectation, their role may be re- assigned.

**TIME COMMITMENT:** Our Production Team is dedicated to providing a quality educational and artistic experience to as many students as possible. Since we all have many time obligations and family commitments, we are striving to give you detailed information on rehearsal schedules so you can make informed choices for your student and your family. We will do our best to honor the schedule we present by making as few or no changes to the schedule and by always starting and stopping on time. Schedule reminders will be sent via text message through the REMIND app to help keep everyone on track and the school website will be updated periodically.

**PARENT MEETING:** We will be holding a parent meeting on **September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 for students who are cast**, from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. We strongly encourage parents to attend. This is a great opportunity to meet the Production Team of NMAPA, find out more details about the production process and ask any questions regarding the show and sign up to volunteer for the production.

**COSTUMES & MAKE-UP:** Costumes will once again be designed by our fabulous costumers, Mrs. Sample and Ms. Sullivan. They will be providing the main costume pieces for each character. Individual students will be asked to provide appropriate undergarments and shoes. Ms. Gigger will send out information after rehearsals begin outlining the specific items needed for each student. Information regarding hair and make-up will be sent home before our tech week. If you would like to be apart of the make-up/costuming team please contact Mrs. Sample via email at [RSample@northmetroacademy.org](mailto:RSample@northmetroacademy.org) or [DGroover@northmetroacademy.org](mailto:DGroover@northmetroacademy.org) for make-up.

### IMPORTANT DATES:

**August 25<sup>th</sup> (K-2) Audition 4:30-6**

**August 26<sup>th</sup> (3-4) Audition 3:30-5**

**August 29<sup>th</sup> (5-6) Audition 4:30-6**

**August 30<sup>th</sup> (7-8) Audition 3:30-5**

**\*\*\*AUDITION FORMS: AUDITION FORMS ARE ATTACHED TO THIS FORM AND WILL ALSO BE IN THE NMAPA OFFICE. STUDENTS WILL**

## **NOT BE ABLE TO AUDITION WITH OUT THEIR FORM COMPLETED AND BROUGHT WITH THEM ON THE DAY OF AUDITION. \*\*\*\***

**COMMUNICATION:** Our primary form of communication will be text messages via the REMIND app and website updates. Please check . We will be setting up a NMAPA Production website where we will post all schedules and pertinent show information.

**CONFLICTS:** Please list all of your conflicts -- standing conflicts (each week), long-term conflicts (vacations, etc.) on your **audition form** that is attached. This is the only way we can put together a rehearsal schedule for the students. All conflicts approved by the director at the time of auditions will be considered excused absences. Documented illness and/or injuries are also considered excused. Please make every effort to report absences before the rehearsal time, that way the production team can adjust the schedule to accommodate. Long term illnesses or injuries may require some modifications to a student's role.

**ALL FOR ONE AND ONE FOR ALL MEMORIZATION:** Memorizing your lines is one of the major responsibilities for all actors. We're in this together! Actors who struggle with lines make it difficult for the entire cast to rehearse. The **due date** for memorizing all lines is **October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016**. Actors who are not actively working on memorization by the due dates may be asked to meet with the production team to determine and discuss the continuation of their role.

**ABSENCES:** Rehearsal conflicts are difficult on everyone. Actors who have **two or more unexcused or unreported absences** will be asked to meet with our production team to discuss and determine their role in the show.

**UNDERSTUDIES:** Since all kinds of things can happen during our rehearsal period, understudies will be assigned for each role. This can help to cover conflicts, illnesses etc. Should the need arise to use understudies, the production team will inform the understudies and the actor they are helping of any changes to schedules or rehearsal responsibilities.

**BEHAVIOR/DISCIPLINE POLICY:** We will follow the same rules of conduct as students are expected to follow during the school day, as outlined on the NMAPA website in the Code of Conduct document. For daily rehearsals our production team and chaperones will follow a "three strikes--you're out" policy. Details of our rehearsal policy will be outlined at our first rehearsal and our parent meeting.

**CLOSED REHEARSALS AND CHAPERONES:** All of our rehearsals are considered "closed" rehearsals. Siblings staying after school are not allowed to sit in our rehearsals. Family and friends are asked to wait outside of the rehearsal area for your students. This keeps our noise level and distractions to a minimum. However, if you would like to observe rehearsals we encourage you to become a rehearsal chaperone. You can sign up for one or more rehearsals depending upon your availability. Chaperones will be asked to help monitor noise levels and student activity during rehearsal times, as well as supervise daily clean up. We really look forward to any helpers and you are welcome to sign up. information will be provided at the parent meeting.

**VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS:** It takes a small army to make these productions! That's where our parents come in. We ask that each parent take on a pre-production and a production job so that we share the workload. If you have a special area of expertise that you would like to offer help with, we would be love to hear from you! We will be covering volunteer jobs at the parent meeting.

**GENERAL AUDITIONS:** All students signing up for *“School House Rock Jr.”* must attend a general audition on their specified day.

Here’s what each student should do to prepare:

1. Turn in your audition form on the **DAY OF YOUR AUDITION**. You may request a different day if you have a conflict. All students will be asked to stay for the entire time of 4:30-6:00 on Thursday August 25<sup>th</sup>, 3:30- 5 pm on August 26<sup>th</sup> and Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, 4:30-6:00 on Tuesday August 30<sup>th</sup>.
2. Memorize a short song of your choice (1 min or 16-32 bars) and monologue from the attached list. Outside songs and monologues will not be accepted. 3. Come to your audition day and be ready to sing, dance, act and have fun! \*\*\*If you are only interested in an ensemble (SCHOOL HOUSE ROCKERS) you do not have to attend a callback audition if you are cast as a School House Rocker.)
3. \*\*\*If you want to be considered for a leading role in the show you must also attend a callback audition if necessary. Students with leading roles must have time to memorize songs and lines. Please check the “character breakdown” page for specifics on characters. Please keep in mind, it will be difficult to cast students in lead roles if they are not available to rehearse 90 % of the time.
4. Auditions will take place in the Music Room, please read above for your date and time. Please bring Snacks, Water Bottle, Homework and arrange for transportation home! *Students will sign up in 5 minute time slots.* A high volume of students are expected, so flexibility is crucial! Students will be allowed to use their cell phone to call home if needed.
5. K-8 will be allowed to sing any MUSICAL THEATRE song for their audition however, the selected SHOW songs per character is preferred and highly recommended.

**PLEASE FILL OUT THE AUDITION FORM AND SEND WITH YOUR STUDENT ON THE DAY OF THEIR AUDITION. THIS FORM WILL SERVE AS THEIR PERMISSION TO AUDITION STUDENTS WITHOUT A FORM WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO AUDITION! NO EXCEPTIONS. NO NOTES WILL BE ACCEPTED THEY MUST HAVE THIS FORM!**

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## Student Audition #

### NMAPA Production of *School House Rock* Audition Form

*Application Form submission deadline: **AUGUST 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016.**  
Applications may be delivered to North Metro Academy  
Mon. – Fri. from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.*

Student's Name:

Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

**ROLE(s) Auditioning for:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/ Guardian's Name:

Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian/adult's name to **pick up student from audition:**

Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Information**

Please list the most recent academic awards received and any other relevant information:

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**Student's Audition Areas & Performing Arts Experience** - Please type or use blue or black ink.

Please select, from the list below, the areas in which you will audition:

*Dance*      *Singing/Vocal*      *Puppetry*      *Drama*      *Student Leadership/Crew*

There are some roles that require roller skating, are you able to skate well? Yes or No

Please list participation in any recent performances. Include the name and date of each performance.

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Parent/ Guardian's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Auditioning Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## **SHOW SYNOPSIS of *School House Rock Jr.***

The Emmy Award-winning Saturday morning educational cartoon series and pop culture phenomenon is now the basis for one of the most fun and easily mounted musicals ever to hit the stage, *Schoolhouse Rock Live! JR.*

*Schoolhouse Rock Live! JR.* opens at 6 a.m. as Tom Mizer, a young teacher, wakes up on his first day of work. As his alarm goes off, Tom enters and begins to rehearse his teaching technique. Soon, Tom's thoughts begin to take life around him. In an attempt to calm himself, Tom turns on the TV. What's on this morning? Why, it's Schoolhouse Rock! As Tom gets drawn into the show, the first song begins. Tom thinks he may be losing his marbles and attempts to turn off the TV. His various alter egos convince him that he is okay; each one of them is a part of Tom's mind. They're every person, place and thing he has ever seen. Tom is still quite unconvinced that he is has not lost his mind. Undaunted, the ensemble sings, "A Noun Is a Person, Place or Thing."

Tom tries to move into his day by looking over his lesson plan, which he feels will be a tough job. George and the rest of the company assure him that, with their help, it will be as easy as one, two, "Three Is a Magic Number." The song tells the tale of the magic number three and its almost magical qualities. After the number about the number, Tom remarks that it was "the coolest song," which leads right into "Unpack Your Adjectives." Shulie and company describe the descriptive qualities of adjectives.

After "Unpack Your Adjectives," Tom begins to accept the fact that his thoughts have taken on human form and loosens up a little. He pleads that he has to teach other subjects like Social Studies and his new-found helpers are right there for him with "Just a Bill." George, dressed as a "bill," tells the story of a bill and its journey towards becoming a law. The song reminds Tom just how much he remembered of "Schoolhouse Rock", and Shulie reminds Tom that "The Preamble" was another shining example of the series' educational value. Each character remembers sitting and taking a test, singing the tune that made the Preamble to the Constitution unforgettable.

Tom's having fun now. Keeping things upbeat, the company moves into a rousing "Circulation," detailing the circulatory system through a dance craze. Hot on the heels of medical science, it's back to grammar with one of the favorites of the show "Conjunction Junction," delivered with the help of word signs with conjunctions on them, making living sentences on stage. Leaving "Conjunction Junction," Tom is reminded of trains, which reminds Dina of planes, boats and – finally – spaceships. Shulie's interest is sparked as she sings the up tempo .pop song, "Interplanet Janet." The company forms the solar system with costumes and props as Shulie assumes the role of Janet.

The company feels that they have done their duty, and that Tom is ready to teach. He may be ready to teach, but he's not quite ready to leave his new friends, so he requests his personal favorite, "Interjections," which ends the show.

## Character Breakdown *School House Rock Jr.*

**Tom Mizer** is a young first year teacher and the hero of the story. The student that plays Tom should have a strong speaking voice and acting presence. Tom needs to be likeable and believable as a nervous and finally, confident teacher. Tom doesn't have a great deal of singing solos, so this is an ideal part for someone who wants to stretch their acting skills.

**Audition Song:** A Noun is a Person, Place or Thing AND

I'm Just a Bill (*Callback Day only*)

**Audition Dialogue** (*Opening Scene*)

- *Good morning class. I'm your new teacher—Mr. Mizer....no, that's terrible...I don't know why I'm so nervous this morning. I mean...I have a degree, I love children....there's no reason why I won't be a good great teacher.*
- *Who are you and what are you doing in my rec room? (Fake karate chop stance)*
- *Well, that's enough TV for one morning. I'm going crazy!*
- *What would really help is if I look over my lesson plan. It's going to be tough enough already.*
- *Wait, wait, wait. First off I want to thank you for all of our help this morning. I'm definitely ready to teach.*
- *But, I have a little more time before I have to be at school. Do you think we could do just one more song? That way I know I'll be ready.*

**George (Male):** George is a fun character role. This student will take the lead on the songs "3 is a Magic Number" and "I'm Just a Bill". George needs to be a strong singer and actor. He is the kind, caring and in control part of Tom.

**Audition Song:** A Noun's a Person Place of Thing

I'm Just a Bill (*Callback Day ONLY*)

**Audition Dialogue:**

- *Hey, welcome to Schoolhouse Rock! Where this is the schoolhouse, and you (pointing to Tom) are rockin' it!*
- *We're YOU Tom. Relax Tom. We're just different parts of you. We are all the ideas in your head.*
- *Ahhh Social Studies. OK, I think I understand your problem and I believe I can help.*
- *Tom, it's not going to be tough. It's going to be easy. Why...when we get through with you, it'll be as easy as...1, 2, 3!*
- *Shout it out crazy backpacking-adjectives-girl!*

**Joe (Male):** is the cool side of Tom. He's laid-back and fun loving. Joe must be a strong actor and singer. His featured solo is the famous "Conjunction Junction". Joe needs to have a soulful jazzy growl for his big solo.

**Audition Song:** A Noun is a Person Place or Thing

## Conjunction Junction (Callback Day ONLY)

### **Audition Dialogue:**

- *Those little monsters are going to eat me alive!*
- *Sheesh George, that song just plum wore me out!*
- *Tom, don't forget that English isn't the first language of many of our new students.*
- *That's right! But that is what's so exciting. You have as much to learn from them as they have to learn from you. That's one of the great things about growing up in the Unites States.*
- *Good luck big guy!*

**Dori (Female):** *is a female character who takes the lead on "A Noun is a Person Place or Thing". She is the silly/goofy side of Tom. This student need to be a very strong singer AND actor as she leads many of the songs throughout the show.*

### **Audition Lines:**

- *They're gonna laugh at me. I hope they don't think I'm goofy.*
- *Uhhh...what's an adjective?*
- *We the people in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity do ordain and establish this constitution for the United States of America.*
- *Goodbye Tom. And remember, you learn something new every day....look out for it!*

**Dina (Female):** *is Tom's mature side. She is thoughtful and grounded. Dina takes the lead on "Interjections" and should again be a strong actor/singer. This student should be comfortable singing harmonies with other students.*

**Audition Song:** A Noun is a Person Place or Thing

Interjections (Callback Day ONLY)

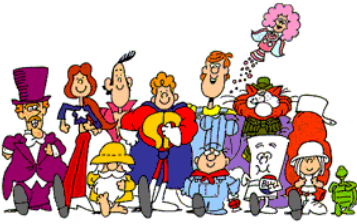
### **Audition Dialogue**

- *Not just us Tom. Do you realize just how many ideas you have in your head? Just look around you!*
- *I know what an adjective is. It's a word used to describe things. Here, let me tell you a little something about them...*
- *Whew! That one really wore me out and I'm ready for a nap!*
- *There's a whole universe of possibilities!*
- *Have you ever traveled by plane?*
- *Have you ever traveled by boat?*
- *How about a space ship?*
- *You are going to make a great teacher Tom. Good luck!*

**Shulie (Female):** is Tom's sweet and genuine side. Shulie takes the lead on the song "Unpack your Adjectives" and "Interplant Janet". Shulie needs to be a strong singer, actor and likeable character.

**Audition Dialogue:**

- *I'll be fine....they're only eight year olds...I remember what it is like to be an eight year old....I think!*
- *No! No! Don't turn off the TV. Leave the TV on...please!!!*
- *Don't you see Tom? We're every person you've ever met!*
- *Do you think we will ever colonize on the moon someday?*
- *Well....I know someone who has!*
- *Hey Tom, that really is the end. We've got to get back to where we came from....just like Janet here....Right Janet?*



**Schoolhouse "Rockers":** The Schoolhouse "Rockers" will consist of approximately (5) 4-5<sup>th</sup> grade students and (5) 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade students. They will be expected to Sing, Dance, Move props, and be featured up front in all Schoolhouse Rock songs.