Eligibility
All Highlands Middle School students are eligible to audition for the musical cast. Participation in the cast is contingent upon successful completion of audition requirements, fulfillment of the responsibilities outlined in the musical participation contract, and maintaining the academic eligibility standards of the Highlands School District. All cast members must be currently and actively enrolled at Highlands Middle School for the entire rehearsal period in order to participate in the show.

Casting Decisions
When you audition for the Middle School Musical, you audition for the TYPE of role you desire, not for a specific character or role. Students are assigned to a specific role by the musical staff based on their performance at the auditions. During the audition process, the staff puts together the "puzzle" of casting the show; each person, or piece of the puzzle, has to fit together to create the best possible performance. In many cases, more than one student could play a given part, but the total picture dictates each student's best possible cast assignment. Try not to think of any role as being more or less important than another; often, the characters that make or break the entire show are the supporting cast roles!

At auditions, the musical staff will also decide which method of casting to use: the understudy method or the double casting method. While our goal will be to double cast the show, double casting only works effectively with the right combination of students. We will not know if we have this until the final stages of the audition process. For this reason, the musical staff reserves the right to make all casting decisions, including the casting method, based on the student potential we see during musical auditions. Regardless of which casting method is chosen, the musical staff will make the best decision possible to ensure the success of the show.
Audition Procedures

At the Middle School, you have the option to audition for a lead role, a cast role, or a featured dance role. Each type of role has slightly different audition requirements. All students MUST sign up to reserve an audition spot. Audition sign-ups will take place online via Google Forms from December 18-22. The link is available on the musical page at www.goldenrams.com/middleschoolmusic, on the first page of this packet, and posted in Room 153.

All students will be required to demonstrate the ability to sing independently and learn choreography during the audition process. Students who do not successfully demonstrate these skills will not be placed in the musical cast.

All students will need to learn a required audition piece for their audition. The required audition piece will be taught after school on Tuesday, January 2 and will be available online at www.Schoology.com, access code XVNR5-QRFC6. It is YOUR responsibility to use these resources (online and/or in person) to learn the required audition piece.

Auditioning for a Cast Role Students in the cast perform in the musical as part of the large ensemble. You will sing and dance with the group, but it is unlikely that you will be required to sing or speak alone in the show.

Cast auditions will take place after school on Thursday, January 4. Cast auditions consist of the required audition piece ONLY. Students auditioning for a cast role must sing the required piece individually and perform the choreography with the group. You do not need to prepare an additional piece. Vocal ranges will also be tested at this time to ensure proper assignment of characters.

Auditioning for a Featured Dance Role Featured dancers will sing and dance with the large ensemble, but you will also learn more challenging choreography for specific songs in the show. It is unlikely that you will be required to speak or sing alone in the show.

Any student who would like to be considered for a featured dance role must sing the required audition piece individually. In addition, you must prepare a song (solo performance only) that demonstrates your Broadway or jazz dance experience. You may use a piece you have learned in a dance class, or you may choreograph your own piece. Please note that while gymnastics or cheer dance skills may be utilized in the show, these styles of dance will not demonstrate the dance skills that we will be evaluating at auditions.

When you come to auditions, please bring your accompaniment on a CD, mp3 player, or phone. Your accompaniment MUST be saved to your device - DO NOT rely on streaming media! This portion of audition process will take place after school on Thursday, January 4, immediately following the general cast auditions. Vocal ranges will also be tested at this time to ensure proper assignment of characters.

Auditioning for a Lead Role Lead roles are those roles that have individual singing or dialogue. You will also sing and dance with the large ensemble.

Any student who would like to be considered for a lead role must perform the required audition piece choreography with a group. In addition, you must prepare a song (solo performance only) in a Broadway style, with recorded accompaniment (background vocals only). You should NOT choose a song from this year’s musical.

Suggested audition materials (demo and accompaniment recordings) are available online at www.schoology.com. When you login, please use access code XVNR5-QRFC6 to access these materials. You may also select your own song to audition with. Your song should be similar in character to the type of role you would like to play, but you should NOT choose a song from this year’s show. When you come to auditions, please bring your accompaniment on a CD, mp3 player, or phone. Your accompaniment MUST be saved to your device - DO NOT rely on streaming media!

This portion of audition process will take place after school on Wednesday, January 3. Vocal ranges will also be tested at this time to ensure proper assignment of characters.

Call-Backs A call-back list will be posted on Thursday, January 4. THIS IS FOR LEAD ROLES ONLY!!! If your name appears on the call-back list, you will receive a packet of excerpts from the script to review prior to Call-Back Auditions after school on Friday, January 5. At that time, you will be asked to read for several of the roles included in the packet. Your performance will help the judges to make their final casting decisions.
THE FINAL CAST LIST, INCLUDING CAST, LEAD ROLES, AND FEATURED DANCERS, WILL BE POSTED BY MONDAY, JANUARY 8. You will have until Friday, January 12 to sign the designated Cast List, signifying your acceptance of the assigned role(s) and the responsibilities that your role requires of you. If you do not sign the list by the deadline, thereby accepting your role, it will be reassigned to another cast member who is willing to fulfill the requirements of that role.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Contract and Expectations
All students participating in the musical will be expected to demonstrate RAMS behaviors while attending rehearsals, performances, and representing our middle school musical. Failure to behave and interact appropriately may result in the student’s removal from the cast or crew. Contracts outlining these expectations will be distributed during the first week of rehearsals.

Rehearsals
Musical rehearsals will be scheduled every day after school as well as on Saturdays. **Transportation is not provided!** Weekday rehearsals will conclude by 6:00 pm; Saturday rehearsals are typically scheduled for the morning and afternoon. If you are assigned to a Lead role, you will be required to attend the majority of these rehearsals. Dancers and Cast members are typically scheduled for rehearsal several times a week until Tech Rehearsals begin. At that point, all students are required to attend every rehearsal.

If you cannot attend a rehearsal you are scheduled for, you will be expected to let Mrs. Ludwig know the reason for your absence. An excessive number of absences will affect your ability to learn and prepare the material required to perform in the musical. Please consider your current responsibilities and schedule before deciding to make the commitment to be in the musical. You will be permitted to miss rehearsal or split time between activities for previously scheduled commitments (sports, dance, music lessons, etc.) until dress rehearsals begin; however, your role assignment may be adjusted if you are unable to keep up with learning the material required for your role.

Costumes
Cast members will be responsible for creating their own costumes according to the stylistic guidelines determined by the musical staff. The costuming items that students are required to provide can often be borrowed or adapted from other sources. If the items are not readily available, thrift shopping is strongly recommended! Costume requirements will vary according to the assigned role.

Financial Obligations
Cast members will be required to pay or fundraise a **one-time activity fee of $30** to cover the cost of their cast t-shirt and the food for the cast lunch, cast banquet, and cast party. If your family **is** experiencing financial hardship and you are unable to pay or fundraise the activity fee, we will be happy to help find a way to cover these costs. Further information will be available to cast members during the first week of rehearsals.

Family Support
We will be asking for the support of our cast parents to help make this show a success! A Time and Talent Survey will be distributed in January to collect information about how parents would like to help. All volunteers will need to complete and submit the forms and clearances required by Highlands School District (available on the district website).

We’re looking forward to another great musical season!