

# SILVER OAK PLAYS Q&A

## STARTING ARTS

Q. Who is Starting Arts?

A. Starting Arts is a California 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is the promotion and preservation of quality arts education in public and private schools, preschools and home school groups. At Silver Oak Elementary, Starting Arts offers a turnkey theater production. They manage the stage, the costumes, and the lighting/sound in addition to coaching our kids to deliver awesome performances.

## AUDITIONS

Q. What are auditions like?

A. Starting Arts Directors are awesome at making all of the kids feel comfortable and welcomed at the audition. All children have an opportunity to speak, sing and move for the Starting Arts Directors. They are also given a chance to speak/sing alone if they would like. The process is designed to be fun for the kids as well as to give the directors a chance to learn more about them and where each child would fit well into the production.

Q. My child really wants a certain part. Do you take that into account?

A. Everyone who auditions will get a part in the play. We encourage each family to “sign up for the production, not for the role.” What that means is to enroll in the play with the intent of enjoying and learning from the process regardless of what part is cast. That said, there is a place on the audition form for you to indicate your child’s interest and we make every effort to take that into account. If your child does not get the role they had hoped for they should still come prepared to learn at every rehearsal.

Q. How should my child prepare for the auditions?

A. It is not necessary for kids to prepare for specific roles. The Director, Music Director and Choreographer will provide opportunities for the actors to shine by providing songs, lines, and choreography for them to learn and perform. However, it is very important that a current photo is provided in the registration packet so the Director can easily remember the actors during the auditions.

Q. Are parents allowed at auditions?

A. No, parents are asked to wait outside of the audition space. Kids tend to behave differently when parents are watching.

Q. If my child does not get the role he/she wants can I have a refund and drop from the play?

A. Your child may drop from the play, however ONCE AUDITIONS BEGIN YOU CANNOT GET A REFUND (per the contract you signed with Starting Arts when you registered your child).

## REHEARSALS

Q. Can I attend the rehearsals?

A. The rehearsals are closed. Only those scheduled to help are allowed in the room. This eliminates noise and distractions and allows the performers to be less inhibited when performing.

Q. Will rehearsals always be on Mondays and Wednesdays (never Tuesday for example)?

A. Yes, rehearsals are scheduled for Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:15-4:15pm. Closer to the dates of the actual play (a week before), there will be some additional rehearsal time scheduled for dress rehearsals, which will include Tuesday and Thursday.

Q. Will my child be called to every rehearsal?

A. Many children will not be called to every rehearsal. The director will make every effort to get a schedule out in advance. The reason that not every child will be called is that at times certain scenes may require more review than others and not every child will be in every scene!

Q. Can my child still attend rehearsal even if she/he has not been called?

A. A child will not be allowed to attend rehearsal. The parent/guardian will be notified that their child has arrived to rehearsal and will not be rehearsing that day. The child must be picked up.

Q. If my child has another activity at a time that overlaps with rehearsals can I take my child out early from rehearsals?

A. Any child called to rehearsal needs to be at the rehearsal for its entirety. If a child leaves early they may miss critical blocking or choreography that the director cannot teach again on an individual basis.

Q. Will rehearsals always run all the way to 4:15?

A. Yes, unless otherwise noted by the director.

Q. Where do I pick up my child after he/she is dismissed?

A. You can make arrangements to pick up your child in the MP room or other outside pick-up areas. Please indicate upon registration where you will pick up your child, if you allow them to walk home or if they are to walk to an after-school care program. Please note, the volunteer parent or director will not walk children to any pick-up areas and will not follow-up to ensure your child has been picked up.

Q. What if I am late picking up my child?

A. Please be prompt at pick-up. Per the contract you sign, Starting Arts will charge for every minute you are late.

Q. What if my child has an appointment scheduled during a rehearsal?

A. Please do not schedule appointments during rehearsal time. The director cannot re-teach a song, dance or scene to an individual. It is hard for the children to catch up when this happens and it could prevent them from being allowed to keep their part or be in a scene.

Q. How do I know what the rehearsal schedule is?

A. The Starting Arts director will email the schedule to the parents.

Q. If my child is sick, should he come to rehearsal?

A. NO. We follow the same guidelines as the school concerning illness. If your child was not in class, they should not be at rehearsal.

Q. What kind of snacks do you give the kids?

A. Parents should send extra snacks with their child to school for rehearsal. In some cases our PTO parent volunteers may pass out snacks during rehearsal when the director allows for a break; usually small bags of grahams, goldfish, animal crackers, pretzels or a similar snack. However this is not guaranteed. We do not give out water or drinks, but there is a water fountain in the space.

Q. Do you hold rehearsals on days when the kids are out of school?

A. In most cases, if there is no school, there will be no rehearsal on that day.

Q. What should I do if I know my child will be absent?

A. Please notify your Starting Arts Director as soon as you know your child will be absent or needs to leave early.

Q. Do you have any tips for helping my child learn his lines?

A. The kids are allowed to read their parts for the first month and a half. By the time they are off script, they should have their lines memorized, as well as all lyrics, movements, and dancing that has been taught. One good tip is to prompt your child with each of the LINES BEFORE theirs to see if they can remember what line comes next.

Q. What if my child loses his/her script?

A. We do not have extra copies of the script. If these items are lost, you can request to purchase one or borrow a friend's script and make a copy.

Q. How can my child practice with the music?

A. The music will be available to stream through the Starting Arts website for free. Alternatively, you will have the option of purchasing a CD for \$15 (you will be emailed the order form and must turn in the cd order form and check on the first day to receive a cd).

Q. What happens if my child leaves something in the rehearsal space?

A. If it is something valuable (i.e. a cell phone), your Silver Oak parent contact will hold onto it and email you. Otherwise it goes into the lost and found in the multipurpose space. We will take the last few minutes of rehearsal for kids to pack up their belongings.

Q. Will my child be able to do homework when not on stage during rehearsals?

A. When the kids are not on stage, they are often asked to observe and learn from the other actors. If there is an opportunity to let small groups read or do homework, we do try and do so. Please do not expect that your child will begin or complete homework during rehearsals.

Q. What is Tech Week and what will the schedule be?

A. Tech Week is the week of the performances. At this time, we have the cast appear on stage in costume and with full lights and sound. It is typical to expect double rehearsals during this time and during other days of the week!

## COMMUNICATION

Q. How will I get information regarding the production (ie: cast list, schedule, volunteer information, etc.)

A. The director and/or parent producer will email the parents throughout the program. You may be asked to join a communication group such as Yahoo groups but this will be at the discretion of the director/parent producer.

## PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Q. Are parents expected to volunteer?

A. Yes! Each parent is required to help during the production of the play. Emails will go out soliciting help from parents in various areas of the production.

## REFUND POLICY

Q. What is the Refund Policy?

A. Each participant is enrolling to be part of a production. No refunds are issued after auditions begin. You acknowledged this policy when signing your contract with Starting Arts.