**Laramie High School Musical Theatre Casting Policies**

* **Since this is a class, student actors will be given a grade for completing specific elements of the initial audition. The “audition” is only a portion of the student’s overall class grade. *Please review the class syllabus for a more detailed explanation of the grading process.***
* **A high audition grade does NOT guarantee that a student will be cast in a leading role. Likewise, a low audition grade does not necessarily prevent a student from being called back for a leading role.**
* **Separating the line between “audition grade” or “audition quality” and “role offered” can often be blurry.**

1. All who audition and commit to the show will be given a role in it and all will be featured in the performance.
2. Grade and previous involvement is only a factor in selection. If multiple performers are determined to be equally qualified for a particular role - in such a case, the senior student will be given that role.
3. Students are asked to give input as to which roles they would especially like to be considered for but the Production Team\* reserves the right to place a performer in the role that best suits them and best serves the play.
4. The Production Team discusses and consults on casting but the Lead Teacher/Director takes final responsibility for all selections and any concerns are to be addressed to him/her.
5. The Lead Teacher/Director will only discuss a performer's strengths and areas needing growth but will not discuss or defend the selection of other performers, or why a particular student didn’t get the part that they wanted.
6. In addition to skill set, for some roles, look (not looks) matters - i.e. relative height of paired characters.
   1. The following questions are also considered when casting **in addition to**the required elements of the audition (song, scene, dance):

* *Who best captures the spirit of the play/character?*
* *Whom will the audience most readily accept in the role?*
* *Who compliments and offers variety and contrast?*
* *Who will fit with the rest of the cast?*
* *Whom would we like to work with in this role?*
* *Educationally, who would gain the most from this experience?*

1. **Casting is a process** – student actors will be asked to work with various groupings of students on various skills and challenges over the course of multiple sessions.  No one session is "the audition" - but everything is part of the auditioning process.
2. Cast members are asked to refrain from discussing the casting on social media for 24 hours after the cast list is posted.  The Facebook Page that will be used for the public is titled: “Laramie High School Theatre”; the Facebook Group that we utilize for class information and communication is called “LHS Musical Theatre”.
3. Parents/Guardians may request a meeting with the Teacher/Director and members of the casting team only **after 10 school days** have passed from when the cast list is posted to discuss their students audition grade.
   1. Student actors may talk to the Teacher/Director about their audition grade at any time following the posting of the cast list.
   2. Please see #5 above in regards to what will be discussed.
4. “Gut Instinct” – some casting decisions are based on non-quantifiable, non-“grade-able” observations.
5. The guiding principle of all we do is to **"Serve the Play"**.

\*The Production Team is defined as the Director, Accompanist, Student Teachers, and others that may be invited to be a part of the complete and overall audition process. The Director reserves the right to include LHS School administration to be part of the casting team.

**Honesty Clause:** Regardless the amount of preparation for auditions, or how well they do at auditions, the majority of students will not get the part that they want.

What to do after the cast list is posted and during rehearsal:

***1. Stand for the project.*** Hold the highest good of the overall project and show up every day to make it happen. This means being more than just part of the creative process. It means doing your part to create the shared vision of the project as it emerges. **Choose to be professional** and work with the cast to make this a successful production. **Give 110% of your best effort** to making your character come to like. *“There are no small parts, just small actors.”*

***2. Empower Others.*** Work just as hard to make the other cast members as successful as you do for yourself. A great lead actor will perform lines off-stage/in-rehearsal just as fully as when he or she is on-stage/in-performance. Give people the highest possible base for their performances. Creative processes can produce uncertainty and conflict, so work to bring people together in an environment of success and avoid negativity and drama on the stage. **Choose to be happy** for the person that did get the role you wanted.

***3. Be Inspired.*** Many leaders talk about motivating others to change for the better. Motivation, however, requires an outside force to move people along. Inspiring others, on the other hand, plants a seed inside them that grows and becomes its own force of change. To inspire others, you have to be inspired, and that requires you to be in harmony with your choices and direction. Be a force of inspiration by making sure you’re on path and making a positive difference no matter what part you play, or what character you are.

*We have read and understand the LHS Musical Theatre Casting Policy*

**Student Signature: Date:**

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**Parent/Guardian Signature: Date:**