



Dear Musical Theatre Middle School Students and Parents,

Welcome to the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts! We are very excited about the upcoming year and your placement in the Musical Theatre Middle School program.

Regardless of your grade level, you must attend Prelude, NOCCA's orientation, on **Wednesday, August 17th, 2016**, beginning promptly at **4 pm**.

If your student will be in the **8th grade** for the 2016-17 school year, you will attend NOCCA during the **Fall Semester** beginning in **September**. This year, due to the extraordinarily high number of middle school applicants, we are dividing the 8th grade classes into two quarter-long seminars. If your student was previously enrolled in the 7th grade workshop, you will attend the first quarter, **Wednesday September 7th to Wednesday October 19**. If you are new to NOCCA this year, your student will attend the second quarter, **Wednesday October 26 to Wednesday December 14**. These classes are specifically geared towards preparation for the high school auditions.

If your student will be in the **7th grade** for the 2016-17 school year, you will attend NOCCA during the **Spring Semester** beginning in **January**. Your first day of class is **Wednesday, January 18th, 2017**. The final day for the semester will be **Wednesday, May 10th**. Middle School classes are taught on Monday and Wednesday from 4:00 to 6:30.

The Middle School program is a non-credit course. The Musical Theatre Department is intended for students who wish to receive pre-professional training, and the classes are designed to take the student to the next logical step: auditioning for the NOCCA high school arts conservatory. While we encourage all middle school students to apply for the high school program, let me stress that attendance in the middle school classes does not guarantee acceptance to the high school programs. All students are evaluated and accepted into the high school program through competitive auditions: the acceptance rate varies depending on the number of applicants, which is impossible to predict from year to year. The middle school classes will prepare your student, but ultimately it is up to them to take the training and apply it to their own audition.

Attendance: Because our classes are based on participation, it is essential that students (and parents) commit to attending every class. Even though students do not receive a letter grade, consistent attendance is essential to grow in skill and knowledge both for the individual student and for the class as a whole. Students with excessive absences will be asked to leave the program.

Outside productions: We encourage performance in local venues, however these performances **cannot** conflict with NOCCA classes. Prior to accepting a role in an outside production, please contact the Musical Theatre Department chair to verify that rehearsals and performances will not conflict with class. This rule applies to engagements that begin rehearsing prior to the start of school, but that are in production after classes have begun.

New Orleans Center For Creative Arts

2800 Chartres Street | New Orleans, LA 70117 | www.nocca.com | 800.201.4836 | 504.940.2787



Dress Requirements

Students in the Musical Theatre Department must wear **BLACK** for all classes. This is to instill a sense of ensemble and professionalism in the classroom.

Female Dance Classes:

- Attire: Black leotards or unitards, black, pink and tan tights, black tight-fitting sweat pants (no blousy or nylon cover-ups or warm-ups), black sports bra, no jewelry
- Shoes: Black split sole jazz shoes (no jazz/dance sneakers), and ballet shoes.
 - **NOCCA Tap Shoe Specifications**
 - Oxford Style
 - Lace-up, no slip on
 - No Split Sole
 - No Mary-Jane
 - Metal Taps with **3 screws on each tap**. 1-screw taps are not allowed.
 - Black shoes (no patent leather)
 - Recommended Brands
 - Capezio K360s (Professional Shoe)
 - BLOCH Jason Samuels Smith Lace-up tap shoes (different models for women/men)
 - **BLOCH Adult "Respect" Lace Up Tap Shoes**
 - Sansha TA91
 - Sansha TA94
- You must wear cover-ups outside, while changing classes or at dismissal. Any cover ups you bring must be black. Students are not allowed to walk the campus in leotards.
- Hair: Must be secure, in place, and pulled back from face—no hats, bandanas, wraps, or scrunchies

Male Dance Classes:

- Attire: Black footless tights, black Leotard, black tight-fitting sweat pants (no blousy or nylon cover-ups or warm-ups), black biker shorts black tank top, dance belt.
- Shoes: Black split sole jazz shoes (no jazz/dance sneakers), ballet shoes, black tap shoes (preferably with a toe box)
- Hair: Must be secure and pulled back from face and neck. No hats, wraps or bandannas.

We are looking forward to your commitment to the program and your continued growth as an artist. Have a great summer and be ready for an exciting and challenging school year!

Sincerely,

The NOCCA Musical Theatre Faculty

Jefferson Turner, Chair

jturner@nocca.com

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Dear Musical Theatre Level I-IV Students and Parents,

Welcome to the Musical Theatre program for the 2016-17 school year! We are very excited about the upcoming year and your placement in the Musical Theatre program. Prelude, NOCCA's orientation, is Wednesday, August 17th, beginning promptly at 4 pm. The first day of classes is Thursday, August 18th.

NOCCA's Musical Theatre Department provides **pre-professional training** in singing, acting, and dancing. Our curriculum is designed to give a foundation for continued study in a college or conservatory arts program. Students take ten classes a week: five classes in dance, two classes in acting, and three classes in music. Our faculty is dedicated to giving the best arts training possible, and each faculty member is also a working professional in their field. The expectations – and, ultimately, the rewards – are high, as long as each student commits fully to the rigorous training.

Rising Seniors are expected to come prepared to discuss their college plans. Senior classes help navigate the college application and audition process, and each senior (regardless of whether they plan to continue in a college arts program or not) must prepare an audition binder and successfully complete a senior jury. Each year NOCCA makes a trip to the national Unified Auditions in Chicago; these take place the first week of February. In September we will have a meeting with Senior parents to help answer any questions regarding the application process.

Attendance: please refer to the student/parent handbook (available on the website) for attendance policies. **Please note:** many of the Musical Theatre classes are based on participation. Absence, for any reason, will have a negative impact on the training and progress of the student.

NOCCA Productions: Each year, the MT Department produces a musical in the fall and in the spring. Per the enrollment contract, all students must audition and, if cast, be available for all rehearsals and performances. A complete rehearsal schedule is provided at the time of the audition; this schedule may include some Saturday and, close to performance week, Sunday rehearsals. Even if a student is not cast in one of the mainstage productions, they will still participate in a public performance at some point during the school year.

Outside performances: Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors are allowed, and encouraged, to participate in productions throughout the year at other high schools and community or professional theaters. However, per the enrollment contract, these productions **must not conflict** with NOCCA classes, rehearsals, or performances. Each student must receive written permission from the Musical Theatre Department chair prior to auditioning or accepting a role in an outside production. Freshmen are **not allowed** to participate in outside productions. NOCCA's classes are demanding, and it is necessary for new high school students to focus on their first year of high school classes and training.



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