



WALNUT STREET THEATRE
PHILADELPHIA

Add a little magic to your school with Disney Musicals in Schools, an initiative of The Walnut Street Theatre that ignites a passion for storytelling by building sustainable musical theatre programs in Philadelphia public elementary schools.

By providing free performance materials and free professional development to participating schools, Disney Musicals in Schools has helped schools across the US and UK launch new theater programs, inspiring the next generation of diverse storytellers, artists, and audiences.

Up to three schools will be selected to participate in the 2026-2027 program **free of charge**. Any Title 1 Philadelphia public elementary school is eligible to apply, but hurry—the application deadline is **OCTOBER 12, 2026**.

The goals of Disney Musicals in Schools are to:

1. Create sustainable musical theatre programs in public elementary schools.
2. Provide school faculty with the training and tools necessary to support student performance and production, and to empower them to do so.
3. Develop a critical awareness and appreciation of the arts within the school.
4. Develop a strong community, including students, parents, faculty, staff, and neighbors.
5. Expose students and school faculty to the wide spectrum of skills that are developed when producing a piece of musical theatre, including critical thinking, problem solving, ensemble building, communication, self-confidence, and interpersonal skills.

Disney Musicals in Schools presents a special opportunity to introduce the collaborative art of musical theatre to your school, strengthen your arts programming, and develop partnerships among students, faculty, staff, and the greater community.

Please note: Recipient schools will receive various levels of support over a period of three years. Since the goal of the program is to build sustainable theater programs, applications from schools that have participated in the program in the last five years will not be considered.

We ask that all interested schools first watch this short pre-application video before applying:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BY3B-a7VWFE>

Complete the following application and complete the instructions below.

Due: October 12, 2026

All applications should be submitted to:

Amanda Pasquini, Associate Director of Education

apasquini@walnutstreettheatre.org

We are only accepting email applications at this time.

Applications due October 12, 2026 | Questions? Contact Amanda Pasquini,

apasquini@walnutstreettheatre.org

Selected schools will receive:

- **Free** performance license to a 30-minute Disney KIDS musical (*available shows include 101 Dalmatians, Aladdin, The Aristocats, Finding Nemo, Frozen, The Jungle Book, The Little Mermaid, The Lion King, and Winnie the Pooh*)
- **Free** ShowKit materials, including a director's guide, student scripts, accompaniment and rehearsal tracks, choreography videos, and cross-curricular activities.
- **Free** weekly 90-minute in-school visits from a team of two Walnut Street Theatre Teaching Artists to train and guide your team throughout the process.
- Lastly, the selected schools will participate in a culminating Disney Musicals in Schools Student Share Celebration. At this event, each school will share selections from its production at The Walnut Street Theatre.

Selected schools will be expected to:

- Produce a 30-minute Disney KIDS musical involving 3rd-5th graders both on and off stage.
- Identify a School Team comprising at least three teachers and staff members, who will partner with the Walnut Street Theatre Teaching Artists and oversee and manage the program from beginning to end. The selected School Team will receive on-site support from a team of two Walnut Street Theatre Teaching Artists who will visit the school each week. The School Team will also run a 90-minute rehearsal on their own once each week.
- Commit to a full semester of rehearsal /production in an after-school setting.
- Host a site visit for the selection team during the application process.
- Provide space, time, materials, and resources for students and the School Team to rehearse and prepare for the musical production.
- Provide opportunities for the whole school, parents, and larger community to be connected to the production.
- Hold a minimum of one public performance of the musical.
- Participate in the culminating Student Share event at The Walnut Street Theatre and provide transportation for participating students.

Financial Commitment

Performance rights, ShowKit materials, Professional Development, and onsite Teaching Artist support will be provided at no charge to selected schools. **Selected schools will be responsible for a production budget.** Disney KIDS Musicals are designed to be produced inexpensively, and have been successfully mounted within a budget of \$300-\$1500. The Walnut Street Theatre Teaching Artists will work to maximize the school's production budget by using reclaimed and existing materials, such as cardboard boxes and t-shirts brought from home. Any additional costs, such as after-school payments for school staff, will be the school's responsibility.

Disney Musicals in Schools Timeline:

August 17, 2026	Applications sent to all Philadelphia Title 1 elementary schools
October 12, 2026	Applications due
October 13-30, 2026	Finalist school site visits
November 2, 2026	All applicants notified of status
December 15, 2026	Selected school orientation
January-May, 2027	Rehearsals and onsite support from Teaching Artists.
May 2027	School performances
May 15, 2027	Disney Musicals in Schools Student Share Celebration

Disney Musicals in Schools
2026-2027 Program Application

GENERAL INFORMATION

School name: _____

School address: _____

Zip Code: _____

Project contact name: _____

Title: _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

Principal name: _____

Email: _____

How did you hear about the program? _____

STUDENTS AND STAFF

Number of students who would participate in program (*The program is designed for 30-60 students onstage, though many schools find success with sticking with 45 students. If you would like to include more than 60 students, we can discuss how they may be involved in an off-stage capacity*): _____

Grade(s) of students who would participate in the program: _____

Please list the names of your school's certified arts teachers:
(*If your school does not have any full or part time arts faculty, leave blank*)

Theatre: _____ Full or part time: _____

Dance: _____ Full or part time: _____

Music: _____ Full or part time: _____

Visual art: _____ Full or part time: _____

SCHOOL TEAM INFORMATION

Proposed School Team Members: Please commit 3-5 teachers who will be present at all rehearsals.

Teacher 1: _____

Title: _____

Will this person be in every rehearsal? _____ Yes _____ No

Qualifications and/or interest:

Teacher 2: _____

Title: _____

Will this person be in every rehearsal? _____ Yes _____ No

Qualifications and/or interest:

Teacher 3: _____

Title: _____

Will this person be in every rehearsal? _____ Yes _____ No

Qualifications and/or interest:

Teacher 4 (optional): _____

Title: _____

Will this person be in every rehearsal? _____ Yes _____ No

Qualifications and/or interest:

Teacher 5 (optional): _____

Title: _____

Will this person be in every rehearsal? _____ Yes _____ No

Qualifications and/or interest:

Teacher 6 (optional): _____

Title: _____

Will this person be in every rehearsal? _____ Yes _____ No

Qualifications and/or interest:

PROGRAMMING

The program requires two 90-minute rehearsals weekly. Do you confirm that you will meet this requirement? _____ Yes

Which days and times could be used for rehearsal? Please note: this program is offered after-school only.

The work of producing a musical requires collaborative and individual planning time. It's helpful if the School Team is available for brief planning meetings before and/or after each rehearsal and for periodic longer meetings throughout the process. How will your team approach this necessary planning time? _____

It is ideal for students to rehearse in the same space they will perform with additional breakout spaces available (e.g. empty, quiet hallway or nearby classroom). What spaces in your school will be used for rehearsal? Is your auditorium shared by another school or program and if so, how will you make arrangements to reserve the space? Keep in mind that other concurrent uses of the space (e.g. dismissal, other clubs) are not compatible with the rehearsal process.

How will your school make adjustments that students, teachers, and space will all be available at the same time for 90 minutes twice a week?

Do you offer any after school programming in your school? _____

If yes, please list the programming below:

Do you produce a formal piece of musical theatre every year? _____

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PROGRAM SCOPE

How would you use Disney Musicals in Schools to develop an ongoing tradition of musical theatre at your school?

Why is it important for your students to have access to the performing arts?

Disney Musicals in Schools requires time, effort, and collaboration from the school faculty participating in the program, and from the school's leadership team. What steps will your School Team take to ensure the success of the program? How will the school's administration support the program?

What is unique about your school, your students, or your community that makes Disney Musicals in Schools the right program for you?

Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

SIGNATURE PAGE

My principal has reviewed and approved this application.

Principal: _____

Signature: _____

School Team member signatures:

Please have all School Team members review and sign the application.

Teacher 1: _____

Signature: _____

Teacher 2: _____

Signature: _____

Teacher 3: _____

Signature: _____

Teacher 4 (if applicable): _____

Signature: _____

Teacher 5 (if applicable): _____

Signature: _____

Teacher 6 (if applicable): _____

Signature: _____