



GENERAL INFORMATION and POLICIES 2020-2021

EDUCATION OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

Jonathan Minchew-Gonzalez, Director of Education: jonathan@mainstreettheater.com or 713-524-7998

Main Street Theater in Rice Village (2540 Times Blvd.)

Main Street Theater – Rice Village Location of Education Offices
2540 Times Blvd. | Houston, Texas 77005

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please read these policies and share the information with your child and any adults involved in your child's care. When you sign the release forms, you are agreeing that you have read and will follow these policies. Besides conveying the rules of the program, the policies answer some of the frequently-asked questions about Main Street Theater's classes.

Release forms should be turned in on the first day of class (NOT before) and can be found at www.MainStreetTheater.com on the Education page. Extra copies will be available on the first day of class.

For obvious security reasons, we are very strict about checking IDs during pick-up. Please have your ID ready. Instructors are required to identify drivers based on an approved list provided by the student's parent/guardian. If the person picking up your child is not on the list, a parent/guardian must be telephoned to approve the person, **even if the child identifies this person as a parent, relative or friend.** Any changes to the list must be made in writing or via email.

Since every class has a final performance, and all students are important to the final product, **students should attend every day.** If you cannot attend, please notify us that you will be absent.

Make sure you look up the **final performance time** for your class in the policies! It will not change.

COURSE SCHEDULES

Mini Camps – MST Rice Village			
Class	Thanksgiving 2020	Winter (2020-2021)	Hours
Turbo Camps	Monday, Nov 23-25	Monday Dec 21-23 Monday Dec 28-30	9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Extended Day Options available for additional fee.			

THINGS TO KNOW FOR THE FIRST DAY

Where and how do I drop off my student (or pick my student up)?

Parents should accompany students to the building safely. A staff member will be there to check temperature and let your child in. students should be dropped off at the door.

Adults should come into the front of the building where they dropped off their children at the beginning of class to pick up students. During pick-up, instructors are required to identify drivers based on an approved list provided by the student's parent/guardian. Please have your photo ID ready. Minors must be signed out after each class by an approved adult. *Adults not on the authorized pick-up list will not be allowed to pick up a student until a phone call has been made to an authorized pick-up person—even if the child identifies that unauthorized adult as a parent, relative or friend.* **We do not assume that parents are automatically authorized.** Please make sure anyone involved in picking your child up from class is aware of these policies.

How early can I drop off my student before class starts? How late can I be in picking up him/her?

For classes during the school year, Main Street Theater cannot be responsible for students arriving more than 15 minutes early or picked up late. For Summer Camp and Winter Camp, ask about Before-Care and After-Care rates. **If you are more than 15 minutes late in picking up your child, you will be charged a fee of \$10 per 15 minutes, rounding up.**

- **PICKING UP EARLY:** If you need to pick up your student before the end of the class, advance notice by email is required. Please park in the lot and come in to the theater or classroom.
- **PICKING UP LATE:** Parents arriving more than 15 minutes after the end of class will be charged a late fee of \$10 for every 15 minutes thereafter, rounding up.
- **DROPPING OFF EARLY:** Please do not drop off your child more than 15 minutes before the start of class. Staff are not available to supervise them.

EXPECTATIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS & PARENTS

Main Street Theater offers students a performing arts playground where professional theater artists serve as mentors. With an emphasis on creativity and collaboration, we provide hands-on opportunities for students to make original contributions in all aspects of play and dance production. This unique format of student/artist driven performance has proved popular with kids and parents alike. Of course with this freedom comes responsibility: Each student needs to come with a positive attitude and a generous spirit.

In each group, students become play- creators as well as actors. Each student commits to respecting and listening to other people's ideas, focusing on the task at hand, and abiding by the class rules as set forth by the instructor. As with a sports team, students should attend every day, contribute to the class and give 100% of

their energy. This includes keeping focus on the play/activities and respecting your director and teammates. Positive attitudes keep things fun for everyone and produce the best final shows.

We value challenging each student to exceed his or her own expectations: to take risks, be bold, be silly, be dramatic, and HAVE FUN! Every student will be featured in the final performance, which represents only a fraction of the fun and learning that happen at camp.

We ask that parents support and guide their children in keeping the Main Street Theater pledge they will take in class, in following the class policies, and in ensuring students are present and prompt each day. Parents should actively support students in valuing their own ideas and resources in creating their final pieces, and foster collaboration rather than competition among team members. If a conflict arises with another camper, a student should not hesitate to tell her/his teacher or TA. If the conflict is with a teacher/TA, please contact the education office. We are happy to address your concerns, and most conflicts can be worked out with communication.

In addition to the policies, each teacher introduces the class to his/her own classroom rules. A system of warnings and quiet times may be used with minor discipline problems. Further action will be determined in consultation with the Director. Main Street Theater enforces a zero-tolerance policy for some behavior/items. *Weapons, controlled substances, substances illegal for minors, theft, and behavior interpreted by the Education Director as violent, disruptive, destructive, harassing, bullying or aggressive will not be tolerated and may result in removal from the program.*

EMERGENCIES AND MEDICAL NEEDS

How do I contact my student or his/her teacher?

During business hours, please call the education office at 415-370-7430 or 713-524-7998. Administrative support may not be present during classes that are outside of business hours. To communicate with a teacher **outside of class hours**, please use the contact information provided by the teacher in his/her first-day introductory letter, or leave a message on the Education office line. Emails may be sent at any time to the Director of Education (jonathan@mainstreettheater.com).

My child doesn't feel well. Should s/he go to theater class?

Though we encourage good attendance, please keep your child home for the health of the class (and notify his/her teacher or the Education Director) when any of the following symptoms are observed: sore throat; eye infection; ear ache; vomiting or diarrhea within last 24 hours; persistent cough and/or runny nose; fever within last 24 hours; or head lice.

What if my child needs to take medication during class?

Main Street Theater cannot dispense, monitor or maintain medication (except in the case of an allergic reaction or asthma attack; see below). It is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian to inform the education staff of any illness, injury, chronic condition, disability, allergy or special needs affecting a student's participation in the program. **Please disclose any allergies or medical or behavioral issues in the designated space in the release packet.** This information will be kept confidential (except in the case of a medical emergency) and can be extremely useful when planning the class activities so that everyone feels comfortable and included!

My child has a food allergy or chronic medical condition (ex. Asthma). What steps should I take to alert the staff?

Please communicate with us verbally about the allergy or condition and provide us with a **written** action plan that details allergens, symptoms of a reaction, and steps to be taken in case of emergency. Provide the teacher with the

necessary medications (such as Benadryl tabs, Epi-Pen, Inhaler, and/or Emergency Response Kit). Main Street Theater cannot dispense, monitor, or maintain medication for any student EXCEPT in the event of an allergic reaction and/or asthma attack for which we have received an Action Plan and the necessary medication. In the liability release, you have specifically released us from liability resulting from actions taken in case of emergency. **Please feel confident in the fact that every member of our staff takes part in emergency training, specifically learning to recognize early onset symptoms of medical distress and procedures to administer EpiPens and rescue inhalers.**

WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD WEAR AND BRING

What should students wear?

We welcome individuality and know that our classes have a relaxed atmosphere; however, clothes should not prevent students from participating by being uncomfortable, too short, too revealing or too tight. Clothes that would be ruined by being on the floor or doing messy production work should be avoided. Biking shorts or leggings must be worn under skirts (long and short). “Boy short” undies under skirts are not appropriate. Students should wear closed-toe, flat shoes that stay on their feet. No flip-flops, crocs, heels or clogs. If we feel that a student’s clothing is inappropriate, parents will be asked to bring a change of clothes from home.

What should students bring from home?

If issued a script, students should bring it every day, as well as a pencil to record notes. Participants are often asked to bring clothing or props from home for the production, though most of our showcases do not require elaborate costume construction or purchase. Any items brought for use in the production should be labeled with the student’s name. We take good care of these items, but please do not send ANYTHING that is irreplaceable (for sentimental reasons or any other reasons!). Please make sure your student removes all of his/her belongings from the theater and backstage areas following the showcase performance.

What should students NOT bring from home?

- **Please, no personal items** – Students should not bring personal items like video games, jewelry, or iPods. Main Street Theater is NOT responsible for lost or stolen items. The use of cell phones is allowed *only* in case of an emergency. **Cell phones must be turned off and put away before the beginning of class.** If texting during class becomes an issue, teachers may collect phones daily and return them at the end of class.
- **No baked goods or food treats for classmates** – Many of our students suffer from food allergies. These food allergies are not always disclosed to MST employees due to parents trusting us to enforce “no sharing food” during mealtimes.

CANCELLATIONS, REFUNDS, AND RECEIPTS

What do I do if I need to cancel my registration?

- Each registration includes a \$50.00 non-refundable processing fee. All refunds will be made by check.
- If you cancel your registration less than 30 days before class begins, no refund will be given.
- No full or partial refunds or compensation will be made if class is canceled due to circumstances beyond the control of Main Street Theater (*force majeure*), including but not limited to weather events or epidemics.
- If a student must be removed from the program due to an excessively disruptive health or behavioral problem of which the staff was not notified, there will not be any refund or credit for any portion of the tuition.
- Main Street Theater may cancel a class if enrollment is insufficient. If a class is cancelled, any payment will be refunded in full. All refunds will be issued by check.
- We want all students to be satisfied with their experience at Main Street Theater. If, after attending the first day of class, a student decides that s/he does not want to continue, let us know within 24 hours to receive a credit toward a future Main Street Theater class. No monetary refunds can be given.

How do I get a receipt or tax ID number?

- Our tax ID is 74-2093696. (Please note that Angela Harris has a separate Tax ID for Before/Aftercare. She will need to be contact directly at extnday@yahoo.com for that information.)
- We are happy to provide you with a receipt at the end of each session. You must request this information—it will **not** be provided automatically. Please email your request to jonathan@mainstreettheater.com.

MAIN STREET THEATER'S SUMMER CAMPS AND SATELLITES

In addition to our year-round curriculum, Main Street Theater offers summer performing arts classes for students of all ages. Check our website at www.MainStreetTheater.com around mid-January for details.

How do I get Main Street Theater classes at my child's school?

We participate in after-school programs and in-school arts enrichment all over Houston and the surrounding area. Our satellite programs can take the form of after-school enrichment classes or in-school residencies. For information on how your school can set up a Main Street Theater satellite class, please contact the education office at 713-524-9196 x 104 or email jonathan@mainstreettheater.com.

If you have a question not answered in the policies, or if a concern arises, please don't hesitate to contact the education office at 713-524-7998 or jonathan@mainstreettheater.com or lauren@mainstreettheater.com
Thanks for being a part of Main Street Theater!