



# AUDITION PACKET

## The Knight at Dawn Kids

Directed by: Kathy Junkins

Choreography by: Tessa Cockrell

Stage Management by: Ken Junkins

Musical Direction by: Sergei Glushonkov

Production Management by: Dani Sobolewski

Show Sponsorship by: SSFA

The Knight at Dawn auditions are for grades 2-5

### **This packet includes:**

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- Show Details
- Cast List/Song List
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### **Overview**

The Knight at Dawn Kids will be presented on February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 2024 with 2 shows on each day (one during school and one in the evening). We will also have a dress rehearsal day on February 7<sup>th</sup> during the day. Attendance to all 4 shows and dress rehearsal day is **mandatory**.

Rehearsals will take place on Tuesdays from 3:15-4:30 starting on September 5, 2023 through show dates. Following the holiday break, rehearsals will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:15-4:30.

**You must be able to commit to the rehearsal, dress rehearsal and show dates to be considered for the show.**

Approximately 40 students will be selected to participate in the show.

If your child is selected to participate in The Knight at Dawn Kids, there will be a \$50 per child participation fee. You do not have to pay for your child to audition. This fee only applies to those students selected for the show. If you are unable to afford the fee, there are scholarships available. Please contact Mrs. Sobo for more information about scholarships at [Danielle.Sobolewski@sarasotacountyschools.net](mailto:Danielle.Sobolewski@sarasotacountyschools.net) once you know your child has been cast.

### **Show details**

Based on the best-selling book series by Mary Pope Osborne, we will follow Jack and Annie as they journey to a magical tree house and into a book that takes them on an adventure to the Middle Ages and a time of chivalry. Once there, they will meet the Black Knight, the Duke, Comedic Sentries, Minstrels and characters of the time that help them live the story.

## Cast List

**Jack – boy** - Jack loves to read, careful and thoughtful, but he is NOT a nerd! Jack is curious about the world around him but he is cautious. Strong singer and actor. Sings solo.

**Annie – girl** - Jack's sister and has the opposite personality from Jack. She is a risk-taker who often follows her heart instead of her head. Strong singer and actress. Sings solo.

**The Jester – boy/girl** - A entertainer and narrator of our story. Their job is to amuse the Duke and his guests, and he or she is the only person allowed to criticize or make fun of the Duke. Over the top personality, good singer, good comedic instincts, loves the spotlight. Sings solo.

**Minstrels – boys/girls** - The castle musicians and singers. We will cast a small ensemble of good singers/dancers. Does not sing solo.

**Black Knight – boy/girl** - A mysterious figure who sends Jack and Annie on their quest. In the Duke's kingdom, the Black Knight is something of a legend and a celebrity. Sings a few lines solo. Must have good physical acting ability as much of the acting is done without words.

**Red – boy/girl** - One of the main Castle Sentries/Guards. Red is the ringleader, a bit of a braggart, and the most ambitious of the three guards. Good singer, good comedic instincts.

**Mustache – boy/girl (will play a boy with a large mustache)** - One of the main Castle Sentries/Guards. Mustache is a tough guy type and most of what he says and does is done in an effort to impress his boss, Red. Good singer, good comedic instincts.

**Squinty – boy/girl** - One of the main Castle Sentries/Guards. Squinty is more childlike than the others, and his guilelessness helps provide much of the comic relief in their scenes. Good singer, good comedic instincts.

**Castle Guards Ensemble -boys/girls** – Will sing, dance and act in scenes with Castle Guards. No Solo Singing

**Commoners – boys/girls** - *Includes Sharon the Sheep Shearer, Chandler the Candle Maker, Bartley of the Barley Meadow, Cartwright the Cart Builder, Tom the Tinker and more.* The common members of the kingdom are an ensemble of actors. No solo singing.

**Duke – boy** - As leader of the castle, the Duke enjoys being the center of attention and showing off his power. Small acting role that requires a strong speaking voice.

**Castle Servants and Castle Staff – boys/girls** - *Includes Rikki, Baxter, Yates and the Other Castle Kids* are the children of the castle servants. They are a high energy ensemble. Ensemble singing.

**Suits Of Armor – boys/girls** - The Suits are housed in the armory and brought to life by the song "To Be A Knight." Some solo singing possible. Must be good movers.

**Keepers Of The Dungeon – boys/girls** - The servants of Keenan and Elf who enjoy every moment of their lives in the dungeon. Good singers and good movers. We will cast 2 or more keepers of the dungeon.

**Keenan – boy/girl** - Keenan is the head honcho and takes great pride for all things concerning the Duke's dungeon. This role requires a strong actor/singer and someone who is very comfortable onstage

**Elf– boy/girl** - Keenan's right-hand man/woman and another big fan of dungeon life. Strong actor and singer.

**Vagrants and Dungeon Prisoners – boys/girls** - Prisoners of the dungeon. Requires good physical acting in mime. Good singers and actors.

**Harry– boy** - The Duke's brother. Small role for a solo singer and good actor.

## **Song List**

**Prologue** – Jester

**How Far Can You See?** – Jester, Jack, Annie, minstrels

**You Must Pass My Test-** Black Knight

**A Spin Before Dawn** – movement to music, no singing

**Mustache, Squinty And Red-** Mustache, Squinty and Red

**The Apple Song** – Jester, Minstrels, Ensemble

**To Be A Knight (Part 1)** – Jack, Annie, Suits of Armor

**To Be A Knight (Part 2)** – Jack, Annie, Suits of Armor

**Welcome To The Dungeon (Part 1)** – Keenan, Elf, Keepers of the Dungeon

**Welcome To The Dungeon (Part 2)** – Keenan, Elf, Keepers of the Dungeon

**A Light In The Dark** – Annie, Jack, Harry, Ensemble

**The Legend Begins** – Jester, Minstrels, Black Knight, Mustache, Squinty, Red, Keenan, Elf, Keepers of the Dungeon,

**You Have Passed My Test (Reprise)** - Black Knight

**Spinning Into Dawn**– movement to music, no singing

**How Far Can You See? (Epilogue)** – full cast

## **Audition Information**

All actors must audition.

Auditions will be held August 21-23, 2023. Auditions will take place during your specials time on these days.

**August 21** – (During Specials) - Dance Auditions – Basic choreography will be taught to actors on this day. All actors must complete a dance audition. No dance experience required

**August 22** (During Specials) – Intro and Singing Auditions – Stage presence and acting will be initially assessed with actor introduction. Audition song(s) will be reviewed with actors prior to

the singing audition but it will be helpful for you to visit the website listed below to review the songs. All actors must complete a singing audition and give their introduction.

**August 23** - (During Specials) – Makeup Auditions (for students who were absent on day 1 or day 2) and Callbacks

Note – only actors called back will be performing an acting audition. If you are not called back, it does not mean you are not in the show. It simply means that we have seen enough to make a determination regarding casting from your singing and dancing audition.

If you are absent on your audition day, contact Mrs. Sobo and she will help you schedule on the makeup audition day.

No experience is necessary to audition for The Knight at Dawn. In the past, we have had many students with absolutely no performance background have a wonderful and successful experience.

Students should only audition if they can commit to the rehearsal schedule which will be **Tuesdays** after school from **3:15 PM to 4:30 PM**. **After Holiday Break, Tuesday and Thursdays from 3:15-4:30 PM**. Not all students will be called for every rehearsal.

Following is information as to what to expect at your audition and an audition form to fill out.

**Students MUST turn in audition forms to Mrs. Sobo by Friday, August 18, 2023. Please fill out 1 form for each auditioning student. If you have any questions about the audition process or the form, please contact Mrs.Sobo at [Danielle.Sobolewski@sarasotacountychools.net](mailto:Danielle.Sobolewski@sarasotacountychools.net).**

- 1. Dancing:** Dance auditions will be on day 1 this year. Mrs. Cockrell will teach the students a short movement combination. Students will be asked to repeat the combination in small groups so that we can evaluate how well the student moves and follows directions. No dance experience required.
- 2. Introductions:** On the SECOND day of audition you will be asked to introduce yourself, an important part of any audition. Please speak clearly and project your voice. This will help us to know how you speak on stage. Please say the following:

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the \_\_\_\_\_ grade. I want to be in The Knight at Dawn because \_\_\_\_\_. Thank you.

- 3. Singing:** Singing will be on audition day 2. You will be asked to sing a part of a song from The Knight at Dawn. All actors MAY be asked to sing either You Must Pass My Test or To Be a Knight (Part 2). To hear or practice the music, please visit <https://www.mtishows.com/magic-tree-house-the-knight-at-dawn-kids> and select SONGS. You will see the list of songs in the show.

## You Must Pass My Test

### Lyrics

If Knights you choose to be  
Then bravely give your best  
To prove to me your gallantry  
You must pass my test

## To Be a Knight (Part 2)

### Lyrics

But we wouldn't be mislead  
Or get a swollen head.  
We'd be very humble but we'd rumble when there's evil to deter  
We'd guide the helpless, feed the poor,  
Aid the weak and hold the door for everyone from high to low,  
Serving justice everywhere we go.  
Oh wouldn't it be great  
Fighting for what's right?  
Wouldn't it be fun  
To be a knight

- 4. Acting:** All students selected for the show will be acting in some manner. This is part of what we are teaching through the show process. Actors with lead and secondary acting roles **may** require an acting audition. This acting audition will only be done for those actors called back on call back day. Mrs. Junkins will be able to assess acting abilities without a specific audition on Singing and Dancing day. NOTE: Students may receive a role without being called back.

## **Callback Information**

Callbacks will be held on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Not all actors will receive a callback. Once you have auditioned you MAY receive a callback notice. Callbacks are an opportunity for the directors to have a second look at the actors when there is more than one student being considered for a role. If an actor receives a callback, there will be additional information for your student to review in a CALLBACK PACKET. We will have each student read/act out the dialogue for the character that the student is being considered for. Students do not have to memorize any callback dialogue but should be familiar with it. If an actor does not receive a callback notice it does NOT mean the actor has not been cast. It simply means that the director team has seen enough from the initial audition to make a casting decision for that actor.

## **Casting Information**

Casting is based on three main criteria: talent, behavior and availability. Unfortunately, not all actors who audition will be cast. We only have room for about 40 students. Students will be considered for a part in this show based on their audition, by demonstrating good behavior and a positive attitude in specials classes, and by their availability for rehearsals. Once the production staff has had the chance to assess the criteria for each actor who auditions, we will assign roles based on what is the best for the actor and the overall production. Actors will be notified of the casting decision by a letter sent home.

## **Attendance Policy**

This production of The Knight at Dawn Kids will require the commitment of both the parent and child. Not all students will be called for every rehearsal and we will provide you with a schedule for several weeks at a time. We will give you as much notice as possible. **Students should consider attendance at their rehearsals as mandatory and they must stay for the entire rehearsal. Conflicts noted on the audition form may be acceptable, but conflicts revealed AFTER casting may result in a change or loss of a part.** If your child has a commitment let us know on the audition form so that we can make an informed decision. If your child is not in school due to illness, they will not be expected to be at rehearsal. Absences of 3 or more rehearsals due to illness or other reason MAY result in a change or loss of a part. Some rehearsals may be mandatory.

## **Rehearsal Information**

Rehearsals will be Tuesdays after school from 3:15 PM to 4:30 PM. Not all students will be called for every rehearsal. The first rehearsal will be on September 5th. After the holiday break, rehearsals will be on Tuesday and Thursday from 3:15 to 4:30 PM. Dress rehearsal will be held on February 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM at Riverview High School.

If an actor is called to a rehearsal, we will work to keep them busy for the entire rehearsal period but there may be down time. Doing homework or reading is an acceptable activity for this downtime.

Students will be required to be prepared for every rehearsal by bringing their script, a folder for handouts, a notebook for taking notes and a pencil (NO PENS).

Students cannot chew gum during rehearsals and we ask that students bring a healthy snack to enjoy before we begin our rehearsal.

During rehearsals we will not only develop a production of The Knight at Dawn but we will be teaching/reinforcing the following skills:

- Basic Stage Direction
- Character Development
- Ensemble Building
- Creative Movement/Musical Theater Dance
- Solo and Ensemble singing
- Stage Etiquette

The show director, music director, choreographer, and/or stage manager may assign responsibilities to an actor. These may include:

- Memorization deadlines
- What to bring to a rehearsal
- General rules
- Responsibility for a prop
- Movement of a set piece
- Warming up in voice or movement

## **Parent Responsibility**

How can I help my actor do his/her best at auditions?

- Review the audition criteria with your child to insure they understand what to expect.
- Encourage/assist your child in finding and reviewing the singing link so that they can give their best audition.
- Ensure that your child understands the meaning of each word in the song/acting selections.
- If there is something you do not understand about the audition process, ask questions. If your child has questions, answer them or help them find the answers.
- Help your child practice for their audition.
- Help your child understand that the director team is on their side and wants them to do well.

When your child prepares at home, listen to them

- Are their voices loud and clear? Are they speaking slowly enough?
- Are they showing emotion in voice and on their faces?
- Are they using their whole body to tell the story when singing their song?



# Audition Form

Please print this audition form, fill it out and turn it into school by August 18th.

Please PRINT information clearly. Use the back for additional information.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_ TEACHER \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Role(s) Interested In: \_\_\_\_\_

If are not selected for the roles listed, will you accept any role? \_\_\_\_\_

Southside shows I have participated in (Circle all that apply)

Annie Kids                  Schoolhouse Rock Live!                  Peter Pan Jr.

Southside shows I have auditioned for and was not cast (Circle all that apply)

Annie Kids                  Schoolhouse Rock Live!                  Peter Pan Jr.

Previous Shows or Training outside of Southside? (Note Show, Role, Theater Company, School)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a commitment (i.e. Sport, Dance Class, Music lesson, Another Show, etc) that will cause you to have to miss or leave early from a rehearsal? If None, please write NONE otherwise, give details.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Conflicts (Please list any known conflicts not listed in above section) (i.e Vacations, science fair, dance competition)

\_\_\_\_\_