



Lawrence Arts Center's Summer Youth Theatre 2026 Parent & Caregiver Guide for Mainstage Productions

SYT MAINSTAGE PRODUCTIONS

For **53** years, the Summer Youth Theatre program has provided intensive training in all aspects of dramatic theatre through our Mainstage SYT productions. Using Broadway musicals, classic dramas, and original works, students learn by doing. They receive training from professional directors, costume designers, stage designers, stage managers, choreographers, actors, and dancers.

Mission

Summer Youth Theatre cultivates positive working relationships between young people, professionals, and the community to create high quality, thought-provoking productions.

Program Overview

Welcome to the Lawrence Arts Center's Summer Youth Theatre program! We are excited to have you on board and hope you have an exciting time with us this season. Four Mainstage productions comprise the summer. Each age group has 1 production in June and 1 production in July. **Novice/Junior Players** are 4th-8th graders, and **Senior Players** are 8th-12th graders. A Technical Theatre class and a Costuming class (5th-12th graders) are in session both months.

COMMUNICATION

Emails are very important. so please make sure to check it regularly. You'll receive important updates about schedules, costumes, volunteer opportunities, and more.

Each production will also have a Cast Hub, where we'll post all the essential information in one convenient place.

For quick, real-time updates, we'll use the REMIND app—so be sure to join the group for your show.

To Join Remind - Send a text to 81010

Text the following for each group

Little Mermaid Jr: @lmjsyt26

Lost Girl: @lgsyt26

Pied Piper: @pipersyt26

Once Upon a One More Time: @omtsyt26

CAST HUBS - click on the name to go to the cast hub!

[Little Mermaid Jr](#)

[Lost Girl](#)

[Pied Piper](#)

[Once Upon a One More Time](#)

Front Desk Phone: (785) 843-2787

Regular Building Hours: 9am-8pm, Monday- Thursday & Saturday, 9am-9pm Friday, Closed on Sunday

www.lawrenceartscenter.org

Justin Harbaugh

Director of Performing Arts

justin@lawrenceartscenter.org

(785) 843-2787 ext. 128 desk

Joshua Day

Technical Director

joshua@lawrenceartscenter.org

(785) 843-2787 ext. 107 desk

DATES & TIMES

The June session begins May 26th and ends June 21st. There will be no rehearsal or class on June 19th.

The July session begins June 29th and ends July 27th. There will be no rehearsal or class on July 3rd or 4th.

Tech Class will meet 9am-12:30pm each day until production week during which they will join the actor rehearsals as worked out by the production's Director and Technical Director.

Costume Class will meet 9:30am-12:30pm each day until production week during which they will join the actor rehearsals as worked out by the production's Director and Technical Director.

June

Novice/Junior: 4th-8th Grade

The Little Mermaid Jr

Rehearsals: 3 weeks, May 26-June 11. M-F | 1-5PM.

Performances: June 12 | 7PM, June 13 | 2PM & 7PM.

Strike: 30 mins after the last show

Cast Party: June 13, following the 2pm performance

Rehearsals will be held on the Mainstage and Black Box Theater

SYT Senior: 8th-12th Grade

Lost Girl

Rehearsals: 4 weeks, May 26-June 17. M-TH | 4-9:30PM, F

| 4-7PM. **No Rehearsal/Performance June 19**

Performances: June 18 | 7PM, June 20 | 2PM & 7PM.

Strike: Sun, June 21, 2-4pm

Cast Party: Sun, June 21, 4:30-6pm

Rehearsals will be held on the Mainstage, Black Box, & 10th & Mass Studios

July

Novice/Junior: 4th-8th Grade

The Pied Piper of Hamelin

Rehearsals: 3 weeks, June 29-July 16. M-F | 1-5PM. **No**

Rehearsal July 3rd.

Performances: July 17 | 7PM, July 18 | 2PM & 7PM.

Cast Party: July 18, following the 2pm performance until 4pm

Rehearsals will be held on the Mainstage and Black Box Theater

SYT Senior: 8th-12th Grade

Once Upon a One More Time

Rehearsals: 4 weeks, June 29-July 23. M-TH | 4-9:30PM, F |

4-7PM. **No Rehearsal July 3rd.**

Performances: July 24 | 7PM, July 25 | 2PM & 7PM.

Strike: Sun, July 26, 2-4pm

Cast Party: Sun, July 26, 4:30-6pm

Rehearsals will be held on the Mainstage, Black Box, & 10th & Mass

SYT TEAMS!

Overall Production Team

Justin Harbaugh– Director of Performing Arts/SYT Producer
 Joshua Day - Technical Director/SYT Tech Class Teacher

Novice/Junior: 4th-8th Grade

The Little Mermaid Jr.

Director - Trish Averill-Neuteboom
 Asst. Director. - Jillian Grieve
 Music Director - Ric Averill
 Piano - Carol Cooper
 Choreographer - Anna Shelton
 Costume Designer - Maya Sabatini
 Scenic Designer - Nox Angelone & Joshua Day

SYT Senior: 8th-12th Grade

Lost Girl

Director - Craig Fisher
 Asst. Director - Becky O'Keefe & MK Shultz
 Costumer - Kristina Eronat-Davis
 Scenic Designer - Nox Angelone & Joshua Day

Novice/Junior: 4th-8th Grade

The Pied Piper

Co-Directors - MK Shultz & Jillian Grieve
 Play Rewrites & Music - Ric Averill
 Costumer - Trish Averill-Neuteboom
 Scenic Designer - Nox Angelone & Joshua Day

SYT Senior: 8th-12th Grade

Once Upon a One More Time

Director & Co-Choreographer - Justin Harbaugh
 Asst. Director Co-Choreographer Maya Tillman-Rayton
 Music Director - Emily Boedeker
 Piano - Jen Hosler
 Costume Designer - Knox McClendon
 Scenic Designer- Nox Angelone & Joshua Day

Technical Directors/ Teachers

Joshua Day
 Nox Angelone
 Cassidy Coles

Costuming Class Teacher

Josephine Mitchell
 Kristina Eronat-Davis

Intern Instructors

Justin Harbaugh
 Joshua Day

ENROLLMENT

Students must be enrolled to participate.

The Little Mermaid Jr

Enrollment Deadline: June 5

[Enroll HERE](#)

Lost Girl

Enrollment Deadline: June 5

[Enroll HERE](#)

The Pied Piper of Hamelin

Enrollment Deadline: July 10

[Enroll HERE](#)

Once Upon a One More Time

Enrollment Deadline: July 10

[Enroll HERE](#)

Email Justin Harbaugh with any enrollment questions justin@lawrenceartscenter.org

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Financial Aid and payment plans are available. Please visit our website [HERE](#)
 If you need assistance or have ANY questions please contact Justin@lawrenceartscenter.org

SYT Jack Powell Memorial Scholarship

In honor of Jack Powell, we are also offering the Jack Powell Memorial Scholarship, awarded to SYT students who demonstrate a commitment to theatre and are in financial need. Special consideration is made to those students who wish to participate in more than one production during the current Summer Youth Theatre season. Contact Justin Harbaugh Justin@lawrenceartscenter.org for questions or to apply.

NEW! Ric & Jeanne Averill Fund

This fund began in 2025 to honor the dedication and commitment of our Director Emeritus Ric Averill and his wife Jeanne Averill who have given so much to the theatre community. This fund can also be utilized for students who wish to participate in more than one production during the current Summer Youth Theatre season. Contact Justin Harbaugh, justin@lawrenceartscenter.org for questions or to apply.

SYT POLICIES & PROCEDURES

DROP-OFF & PICK-UP POLICIES

- Drop-off:
 - NOVICE/JR (4th-8th Graders): Students should go directly into the **LAC MAIN BUILDING, MAINSTAGE THROUGH THE MAIN LOBBY DOUBLE DOORS** for all rehearsals.
 - SENIORS (8th-12th Graders): Students should go to **10TH & MASS STUDIOS, LOBBY AREA** for all rehearsals.

- Pick-Up:
 - NOVICE/JR (4th-8th Graders): Students should be picked up at the **LAC MAIN BUILDING, MAIN LOBBY AREA**. ****Caregivers of students Pre-K thru 5th Grade must visibly pick up their children. Students 6th grade & up are permitted to leave the building on their own. We also have a self release form if your student is under 6th grade and are permitted to walk home on their own.*** Instructors/staff members will wait with students until they are picked up. If a caregiver is not at pick-up within 10 minutes, please have the student call their family (if they have their own phone, otherwise go through the front desk).
 - SENIORS (8th-12th Graders): Students should be picked up in the **LAC MAIN BUILDING, MAIN LOBBY AREA**.

GENERAL SYT GUIDELINES

- **Students MUST sign in when they arrive for every rehearsal & performance.**
- Please email us if there are any medical, behavioral, personal, or family concerns our staff should be aware of. This helps us create a safe and supportive environment for every student.
- We welcome feedback and questions—our team has an open-door policy for caregiver communication.
- We are not able to provide complimentary tickets to parents or families, **but the Final Dress Rehearsal is free and open to FAMILY audience members.**

ABSENCE/CONFLICT POLICY

- Any student that has 3 or more conflicts will be cast in an ensemble role.
- It is expected that each performer attends every scheduled rehearsal. We are aware that there may be an occasional conflict. *It is crucial for us to be aware of your conflicts at auditions* so we can cast and schedule accordingly. Each student must list their conflicts on their audition form.
- **No** absences are permitted during production week.
- All students must list their conflicts on a calendar at auditions. No absences are allowed production week. If a conflict arises, you may talk to the director of your production at least a week in advance, however, it is at the director's discretion to permit that absence.
- Absences for emergency, illness, and funerals are permissible, but should be communicated to the Program Director as soon as possible. Please contact Justin Harbaugh to report any absences related to emergency and illness, 785-843-2787 ext. 128, message him on the Remind App, or email him at justin@lawrenceartscenter.org

WHAT DO I BRING TO REHEARSAL?

Students are expected to bring their script and a pencil to every rehearsal. They should wear closed toe shoes (sorry, no flip flops or Crocs) and clothes they can move in. A water bottle and snack are highly recommended. If you need assistance securing snacks let our staff know.

SNACKS & DINNER BREAKS

- **4th-8th Grade, Novice/Junior Players** will have a break for snack time between 3:00 and 3:15 every rehearsal. Actors are expected to bring their own snack. This break will occur with supervision. Always bring a water bottle, labeled w/name.
- **8th-12th Grade, Senior Players** will be released from rehearsal for dinner break at approximately 5:30pm each day. Dinner break is one hour long. Students must be back promptly at 6:30pm. Returning five minutes early is advisable. *****Caregivers: please fill out the form [HERE](#) It lets us know if you are giving your child permission to leave the building WITHOUT adult supervision.** Students are welcome to bring their dinner and stay in the building, however, they will not be supervised during that hour.

STRIKE

- **4th-8th Grade, Novice/Junior Players:** *All* students are expected to participate in their show's strike (clean-up, putting away props & costumes) for 30 mins after their last performance.
- **8th-12 Grade, Senior Players.** *All* students are expected to participate in their show's strike (clean-up, putting away props & costumes, and striking the set) on the Sunday after their last Saturday show, from 2-4pm. Please mark your calendars.

CAST PARTIES

- **4th-8th Grade, Novice/Junior Players:** Held between the 2nd and 3rd performance on the final Saturday. Ice cream or popsicles, provided by LAC.
 - **8th-12 Grade, Senior Players.** Held on the Sunday following the last performance and strike, from 4:30-6pm. Ice cream or popsicles, provided by LAC.
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VOLUNTEERS

We would love your help making SYT a success! We will need help with costumes, cast parties, ushering, and more.

We welcome and encourage parents, siblings, guardians, and grandparents to volunteers as an important component of our process. We believe that parents enhance the experiences of young actors. Your involvement helps us maintain a safe, secure, and nurturing environment for our performers, technicians, patrons, and staff.

There are a lot of areas to choose from and it is an excellent opportunity to experience the show with your child.

Costumes - assist costume designer/coordinator with taking measurements, assigning, approving and constructing costumes

Concessions - to sell refreshments before the show and during intermission

Cast Party - plan and coordinate the Cast Party

Hair and Makeup: With so many cast members, we rely on the help to make sure all hair and makeup is done. Tutorials will be provided.

Room Monitors - help supervise the black box during dress rehearsals and performances

Ushers: Help patrons find their seats in the theatre before the show & make sure all programs and cups are picked up after the show.

You MUST be registered before you can be added to our Volunteer Sign up. You can [REGISTER HERE](#)

Keep an eye out for more information, there will be signup links in your emails and Cast Hubs!

SYT PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS & FOCUS

SYT NOVICE/JUNIOR PROGRAM: 4th-8th Grade

The Little Mermaid Jr.

The Pied Piper of Hamelin

Focus: Character development, ensemble-building, evaluating a script, building fundamentals in the actor's tool box (body, voice, imagination), script analysis

Join us for Summer Youth Theatre for 4th-8th graders. This program offers opportunities in both dramatic & musical theatre. Using their bodies, voices, and imaginations, students will work with professional directors to develop characters and analyze a script. Using these skills, young actors will present performances on our Mainstage.

SYT SENIOR PROGRAM: 8th-12th Grade

Lost Girl

Once Upon a One More Time

Focus: Making bold choices, building character relationships, collaboration

Join us for Summer Youth Theatre for 8th-12th graders. This program offers opportunities in both dramatic & musical theatre. Students will work with professional directors to develop characters who make bold choices, build character relationships, and collaborate with others. Using these skills, young actors will present performances on our Mainstage.

SYT TECHNICAL THEATRE PROGRAM: 5th-12th Grade

Focus: Team building, problem solving, building technical skills

Guided by professionals, technical theatre students will learn the basics of "behind the scenes", specializing in the area that they are the most interested in: lighting, painting, carpentry, sound, property, and rigging. Using these skills, students will work with a team to build full-fledged stage productions for 4th-8th & 8th-12th grade SYT main stage productions.

SYT COSTUMING PROGRAM: 5th-12th Grade**Focus: Storytelling through costuming, communication, building costuming skills**

Guided by professionals, students will learn the basics of storytelling through costume design, communicating with a designer, and basic costuming skills. Using these skills, students will work with a team to bring costumes to life for full-fledged stage productions for 4th-8th & 8th-12th grade SYT main stage productions.

SYT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM: 8th-12th Grade**Focus: Building leadership skills, resume & website development, goal setting**

Summer Youth Theatre Intern students will learn what it takes to become future theatre leaders in this eight week program. This leadership program will provide students with opportunities for professional skill-building, resume building, and collegiate audition preparation. In addition, students will be assigned to a leadership production position for SYT Rookie, Novice, Junior, or Senior programs.

Weekly meetings 12:30-1:30pm required: 6/1,6/8, 6/15, 6/22, 7/6, 7/13, 7/20, 7/27

SYT Program Policies & Information

To find more information regarding SYT audition details, age guidelines, enrollment information, or simply have a question:

Justin@lawrenceartscenter.org

CALL 785-843-2787, EXT 128

BROWSE www.lawrenceartscenter.org

VISIT 940 New Hampshire St.

Lawrence, KS 66044

THEATRE TERMS

Backstage – The area behind or to the side of the stage that is not visible to the audience. Only cast and crew are allowed backstage during performances.

Blocking – The planned movement of actors onstage, including where they stand, walk, or gesture during a scene. Blocking is taught during rehearsal and should be memorized along with lines.

Call Time – The time you are supposed to report to a rehearsal or performance.

Cast Party – A celebration where cast and crew come together to honor and enjoy a job well done.

Conflicts – Any time a student will miss 75% or more of a rehearsal. Arriving late or leaving early must be cleared in advance and will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Costumes – The outfits worn by actors to portray their characters. Cast members are asked to provide basic pieces from their own wardrobe. All participants are required to provide their own shoes. A detailed list will be emailed to families by the Costume Designer.

Reminder: There is absolutely NO EATING IN COSTUME.

Cue – A signal for something to happen, like an actor's line, a sound effect, or a lighting change.

House – The part of the theatre where the audience sits.

House Manager – The staff member responsible for audience seating, front-of-house operations, and guest safety.

Off-book – When an actor has memorized all of their lines and no longer needs to carry the script.

Props – Moveable objects used by actors during a performance.

Rehearsal – A scheduled time for the cast and/or crew to practice under the guidance of the director and creative team.

Run-through – A rehearsal where the cast performs the show (or a portion of it) straight through without stopping.

Stage Left / Stage Right – Directions from the actor's point of view while facing the audience. Stage Left is the actor's left, Stage Right is the actor's right.

Strike – The process of taking apart the set, putting away costumes and props, and removing all personal items from the dressing rooms after the final performance. All cast members are required to assist.

Tech Week – The final week before performances when all technical elements—sets, lighting, costumes, props, and sound—are added to the show. Crew members also join rehearsals during this time.

Understudy – A cast member who learns another role in case they are needed to perform it due to illness or emergency.