

# **Tentative Student Contract**

## ***StrandTastics***

### **Spring 2019 Semester**

**Goal and Mission:** This ensemble seeks to present itself as a premier performing ensemble focused on educating students on the performing arts of singing, acting, and dance. Through a focus on these three arts in ensemble and individual settings, the group seeks to help develop students into seasoned young performers.

**Grade Level Eligibility:** Students participating in the ensemble must either currently be enrolled in grades 8-12, or be enrolled in grades 8-12 by the end of the current calendar year. (ex. 7th grade students who will be enrolled in 8th grade in the fall of 2019 are eligible for the Spring 2019 semester).

**Tuition Cost:** There is a tuition cost required of all students. This tuition must be paid with either a check or money order made out to “The Strand Theater” by the first rehearsal date, tentatively slated for Tuesday, March 19th. Tuition costs are as follows, and are based on the number of students in a family who are enrolling:

- Enrolling 1 student: \$200/student
- Enrolling 2 students: \$175/student
- Enrolling 3+ students: \$150/student

\*Multi-student discount available only to siblings living in the same household

\*We consider this Spring 2019 Semester to be an abbreviated semester. As a result, those interested in the Fall 2019 semester should know that the tuition will start at \$300/student.

**Repertoire:** As a show choir, and with a focus of educating students in theatre arts, the ensemble will focus much of its repertoire on pieces from the genres of musical theatre, pop music, and jazz. While other selections are possible these genres will make up the core of the group’s performance repertoire.

**Weekly Lessons:** Along with being a performance ensemble, this group seeks to also educate the students involved in the the arts of singing, acting, and dancing. Each week, time will be taken during rehearsals to educate students on topics from one of these three aspects. Through these lessons, we seek to mold students into well rounded young performers, with not only the required performance skills, but also how to market oneself as a performer. These lessons will be taught by the ensemble staff as well as outside clinicians.

**Rehearsals:** Rehearsals will be held twice a week on Tuesday nights, and Saturday mornings at The Strand Theater. Tuesday evening rehearsals will run from 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm. Saturday morning rehearsals will run from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm. Please see the attached “Tentative Rehearsal Schedule”.

**Rehearsal Procedure:** Students are expected to be on time for rehearsals. This means being prepared to start rehearsal sharply at 6:00 pm on Tuesdays and 9:30 am on Saturdays. “To be early is to be on time. To be on time, is to be late. To be late, is inexcusable.” Rehearsals are scheduled in large time blocks so that a variety of material can be covered in one rehearsal. This could include learning music, choreography, or any lines/blocking or part of their weekly lesson. If at any time a student is involved in any of these, they are to be engaged in what is being taught.

Due to the nature of the group and wanting to develop solo and ensemble performance capabilities, it is possible that not all students will be worked with at a certain point in time. Students should take this time to either actively review the material they have already learned for performance, or have other personal work with them to do. This could be school work, reading, or some other activity that does not distract from those who are rehearsing. However, students must be readily available to rehearse when they are called upon. There is also much to be learned from observing one’s peers in their rehearsals and students may be asked to actively and critically observe a portion of rehearsal that they are not performing in.

During each rehearsal, students will have at least one (1) 15-minute break. These breaks are so students can recharge during long rehearsal blocks. At no point during their break are students permitted to leave the theater. Doors will be locked from the outside for security purposes. Since rehearsals are only twice-a-week, there is much to be covered in that time frame and therefore rehearsals will likely be quick paced and students will need to retain the information being taught. Students should be actively engaged and taking notes. Anytime a student is not actively working with an instructor while at rehearsal is not considered “break-time”. They can and will be asked to rehearse and should be prepared.

Tuesdays and Saturdays will be focused on teaching music and choreography. Tuesdays will focus mainly on teaching new material with some review. Saturdays will focus on review and refinement of performance material. Time will be allocated during Saturday’s rehearsal for the weekly performance lesson. This 30-minute block will be incorporated into the schedule around music and choreography rehearsals. Rehearsal plans are subject to change, depending on the current status of performance material.

**Rehearsal Expectations:** This ensemble is meant for students who are seriously devoted to developing their performance skills. Students will be held to the highest degree of professionalism while at rehearsal. It is our goal and hope that students have fun and enjoy the work that they are doing while at rehearsal, but there is a job to be done at each and every rehearsal. While at rehearsal, students are expected to be focused on and prepared for the material being worked. Cell phones and other electronic devices are not permitted during rehearsals except when directed for recording purposes. Students may not record any materials without permission from an instructor. Students are not allowed to share any recording materials on any website or social media without instruction.

Student focus and dedication is important at all times. It is at the discretion of the director that a student may be asked to not perform in certain numbers due to issues with student behavior. Excess issues with student behavior will result in a student being asked to excuse themselves from the ensemble. Such behaviors that will not be tolerated include, but are not limited to: bullying, harassment, interruption of a director or fellow student, changing an instructor's direction, etc. If a student is aware of any of these issues, they should be made known to an instructor as soon as possible so that the issue can be addressed.

As members of the ensemble, and as growing young professionals, students will be expected to treat the rehearsal space with the utmost respect. Students should be aware of their surroundings, and will be responsible for cleaning up their space before leaving. There should also be no climbing over chairs, running through the space, or other possible behavior that could damage the facilities or harm a student.

Students selected for the ensemble are expected to be committed to the group as a whole as well as their own performance education. If a student who auditions for the ensemble is selected, they are expected to uphold these standards. If at any point a student decides to voluntarily excuse themselves from the ensemble, no refund in tuition will be given.

**Ensemble Solos and Personal Solos:** There will be a number of solo opportunities available to students throughout the repertoire. Many full ensemble numbers will have sections where solos are appropriate and will be referred to as "Ensemble Solos". Students will also have the opportunity to audition for "Personal Solos". These solos are solo performances by students. There will be a maximum 5 available "Personal Solos" in the Spring 2019 semester. One student from each grade level (8-12) will have the opportunity to perform one of these "Personal Solos" as a part of the final performance.

Students wishing to audition for a “Personal Solo” may pick a musical theatre, pop, or jazz song of their choice to audition with. The selection must be approved by the artistic director so that it fits within the performance narrative. Students must then prepare the song on their own for their audition. Students selected will be notified and they will then have time to rehearse their selected piece leading up to the final performance.

Any solo that a student is selected to perform becomes their responsibility. Solos are an opportunity for students to showcase in performance what they have learned as individual singers and performers. They are not however “owed” to a student, but are rather a privilege. Students should treat having a solo as a sign of not only personal ability, but also responsibility. Directors reserve the right to reassign a solo of either category if the student currently in place shows that they are unable to helm the responsibility.

**Rehearsal Conflicts and Absences:** When auditioning, all students are required to list any and all conflicts with the rehearsal calendar (even tentative rehearsal dates). Students will be held accountable to their list of conflicts. Any student selected for the ensemble who has a pre-existing rehearsal conflict that is not mentioned on their audition form, will have that rehearsal treated as an unexcused absence.

Any student who is unable to attend rehearsal due to severe illness or family emergency should notify the ensemble director before the missed rehearsal that they are unable to attend. Any student who does not notify the director prior to the missed rehearsal will receive an unexcused absence.

Unexcused absences of any form are not permitted. Rehearsals are only twice a week, and therefore all rehearsal time is important. Having one (1) unexcused absence will result in a student no longer being eligible for “Personal Solo” selection. Any student who accrues two (2) unexcused absence will be ineligible for an “Ensemble Solo”. Any student who accrues three (3) or more unexcused absences will be prohibited from performing in the final performance. Any excess issues with rehearsal attendance will result in a student being asked to excuse themselves from the ensemble without any refund in tuition.

**Outside Performances:** As the ensemble continues to grow, it is our hope to be able to provide opportunities for students to travel and perform at various locations throughout the Pittsburgh area. If an outside performance opportunity arises once a semester has begun, it will be brought to the attention of the group to see if it would be a viable opportunity for the group to participate in based on available students. Students who are able to attend the performance will be able to use the performance to make up one (1) unexcused absence. Students will not however be able to “bank” an unexcused absence for the future by attending the performance. This will only apply to performances that aren’t scheduled at the beginning of the current semester.

**Rehearsal Materials:** Students selected for the ensemble will be required to provide and bring/wear the following to every rehearsal:

- 1” three-ring binder for music
- Water bottle (only water, no energy drinks, juice, soft drinks, coffee, tea, etc.)
- Pencil
  - All markings in any music must be made in pencil
- Clothes and shoes appropriate for movement
  - Black jazz shoes, athletic wear including leggings, shorts; no jeans, no excessive jewelry
- Approved recording device
- Snack
  - Please be sensitive to common food allergies
  - Snack size portions
- Personal/School Work

**Performance Attire:** Students will be responsible for their own performance attire until otherwise directed. An outfit or uniform may be necessary to purchase at the most reasonable cost possible. Black jazz shoes will be required for performances.

**Audition Packet**  
***StrandTastics***  
**Spring 2019 Semester**

**Audition Dates:** Grades 7-8: Tuesday, March 5th 6pm-9pm  
Grades 9-12: Saturday, March 9th 9am-1:30pm

**Audition Times:** Students must sign up for 5-minute time slots prior to arriving at auditions. Students must attend the dance call immediately prior to their audition time slot. Dance calls will be held at the following times:

- Tuesday, March 5th: 6-6:30, 7:30-8:00
- Saturday, March 9th: 9-9:30, 10:30-11, 12-12:30

To sign up, please email [StrandTasticsAuditions@gmail.com](mailto:StrandTasticsAuditions@gmail.com) with your preferred time slot 6 - 7:30 or 7:30 to 9:00 on Tuesday OR 9:00am - 10:30, 10:30 - 12 or 1:30pm

**Audition**

**Requirements:** Students must prepare the following for their audition:

- **Headshot & Audition Form:** Students must fill out the provided Audition Form, and bring a headshot to their audition. (standard 4x6 works well)
- **Song:** Prepare 32 bars (approximately 1 minute) of a musical selection and provide clearly marked sheet music, in the correct key, for the accompanist. Pre-recorded accompaniment or a cappella auditions will not be allowed. Musical selections should be from the musical theatre, pop, or jazz music genres.
- **Monologue:** Students must select one of the following attached monologues and prepare it to perform memorized for their audition.
- **Movement:** Students will be taught a movement routine upon arriving for their dance call. Students will be asked to perform the routine in a group setting.
- **Additional Material:** Students may be asked to provide additional material such as echoing patterns, improvisation, singing in harmony, etc.

**PLEASE NOTE:** All auditions will be video recorded for additional viewing following auditions.

**Monologues:** Select one monologue to perform from memory from the following list. Select a monologue from your grade level. Monologues must be memorized for auditions.

### **Grades 7-9**

**Option 1:** A 'C'? A 'C'? I got a 'C' on my coathanger sculpture? How could anyone get a 'C' in coathanger sculpture? May I ask a question? Was I judged on the piece of sculpture itself? If so, is it not true that time alone can judge a work of art? Or was I judged on my talent? If so, is it fair that I be judged on a part of my life over which I have no control? If I was judged on my effort, then I was judged unfairly, for I tried as hard as I could! Was I judged on what I had learned about this project? If so, then were not you, my teacher, also being judged on your ability to transmit your knowledge to me? Are you willing to share my 'C'? Perhaps I was being judged on the quality of coat hanger itself out of which my creation was made...now is this not also unfair? Am I to be judged by the quality of coat hangers that are used by the dry cleaning establishment that returns our garments? Is that not the responsibility of my parents? Should they not share my 'C'?

**Option 2:** This morning a bird woke me up. It was a lark, or a peacock; something like that. So I said hello. And it vanished, flew away, the very moment I said hello! It was quite mysterious. So do you know what I did? I went to my mirror and brushed my hair two hundred times, without stopping. And as I was brushing it, my hair turned mauve. No, honestly! Mauve! Then red. then some sort of a deep blue when the sun hit it.... I'm sixteen years old, and every day something happens to me. I don't know what to make of it. When I get up in the morning and get dressed, I can tell...something's different. I like to touch my eyelids, because they're never quite the same. oh, oh, oh! I hug myself till my arms turn blue, then I close my eyes and cry and cry till the tears come down and I can taste them. I love to taste my tears. I am special. I am special! Please god, please, don't let me be normal!

**Option 3:** Betcha never met a talking squirrel before. Well, news flash. We all talk. We just don't talk to humans. But I'm breaking squirrel code because I have to tell you this story. It's about a lady. A real old lady. She's got white hair and she's stooped over like her gnarled old walking stick. And you know what she does? She feeds us. Now, you might think that's not a big deal. But in squirrel world, it's the biggest deal. You see, most people go out of their way to make sure that we don't have food. Oh, they LOVE to feed the birds. And they buy all these fancy contraptions that prevent us from sharing. Most of them don't work, haha. And sometimes when we manage to get a little morsel, we get a BB in the butt. I've gotten a lot of BB's in the butt in my day! But this old lady, she is different. She puts peanuts right on the ground for us. Every day, she does this. We go to her house and see her at her kitchen table, sipping tea and reading the newspaper. And when we come by, she goes over to this big bag and scoops out fresh, delicious peanuts. She even built a little house on her deck so that our food would not get rained on, and she gave each of us a name. The little old lady doesn't get many visitors, so we go by as much as we can. One day soon, she'll be gone, and we will miss her. So, I'm breaking squirrel code to tell you to remember the little guys. Squirrels need love too.

## Grades 10-12

**Option 1:** Sky Masterson! There is the highest player of them all! Higher than anybody. Why do you think they call him Sky? That's how high he bets. I once saw him bet five thousand dollars on a cockroach. And another time he was sick, and he wouldn't take penicillin on account he had bet ten C's that his temperature would go to 104. He's so lucky it went to 106. Good old Sky. With him a thousand dollars ain't lending money - it's betting money. So why don't I bet him? Why don't I bet him a thousand on something? I ain't scared. I am perfectly willing to take the risk, providing I can figure out a bet on which there is no chance of losing.

**Option 2:** I don't like the whole change that's come over you in the last year. I'm sorry if that hurts your feelings; but I've just gotta—tell the truth and shame the devil. Well, up to a year ago, I used to like you a lot. And I used to watch you while you did everything—because we'd been friends for so long. And then you began spending all your time at baseball. And you never stopped to speak to anybody anymore---not really speak---not even to your own family, you didn't. And George, it's a fact---ever since you've been elected Captain, you've got awful stuck up and conceited, and all the girls say so. And it hurts me to hear them say it; but I got to agree with 'em a little, because it's true. I always expect a man to be perfect and I think he should be. My father is and as far as I can see, your father is. There's no reason on earth why you shouldn't be, too. And don't tell me it's the other way around, that men aren't naturally good and girls are. You might as well know right now that I'm not perfect.---It's not as easy for a girl to be perfect as a man, because, well, we girls are more---nervous---Now, I'm sorry I said all that about you. I don't know what made me say it.

**Option 3:** You'd know her if I pointed her out to you. Band chick. I think I might ask her out today. I don't really know her, but we have this thing where we fake head-butt each other in the hallway. A couple of months ago, I was on my way here for some insulin. I was the only one in the hallway, then she comes around the corner. I'd seen her before and thought she was pretty, but seeing her coming right at me like that. So I did that awkward trying to get out of the way shuffle. I juke right, go left, she mirrors me. It's utter chaos and we're about to run into each other, then she grabs me by the shoulders. She looks in my eyes, then goes BSHH! Throwing her head forward, pretending to head-butt me, you know? I smelled her hair for half a second. Then she just smiled and blew right by me. It was hilarious. I remember thinking right then, yeah. I would die for her.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Vocal Range/Part: \_\_\_\_\_ Height: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any experience you have in theater, dance, singing, music, etc.

<b>Activity, Lesson, Production</b>	<b>Year(s)</b>
Ex. Voice Lessons with Joe Smith	7 years
Ex. Sebastian in <i>The Little Mermaid</i> at SVMS Musical	2013

I am in: CHORUS          BAND          Voice Part/Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_

I am most confident in my SINGING   ACTING   DANCING ability. (circle one)

Special Skills: (Ex. Cartoon voices, ventriloquism, burp on command, stilts, painting)

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Song Choice: \_\_\_\_\_ Monologue Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Use the Below Space to list ANY and ALL possible conflicts with the provided "Tentative Rehearsal Schedule":

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*By signing below, I (please print your name) \_\_\_\_\_ agree that all of the above prior experience, conflicts, and other information provided is correct to the best of my knowledge.*

*Student Signature:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Parent Signature (Required):* \_\_\_\_\_

*Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

**Best of luck to all!**

**Tentative Rehearsal Schedule**  
*StrandTastics*  
**Spring 2019 Semester**

The following dates make up the current tentative rehearsal schedule for the Spring 2019 semester. These dates are subject to change and are not final

- **March**
  - **First Rehearsal: Tuesday the 19th**
  - **23rd, 26th, 30th**
- **April**
  - **2nd, 6th, 9th, 13th, 16th, 23rd, 27th, 30th**
  - **NO REHEARSAL Saturday, April 20th for Easter Holiday**
  - **Possible alternative locations for April 13th and 27th (Location TBA)**
- **May**
  - **4th, 7th, 11th, 14th, 18th, 21st, 25th, 28th**
- **June**
  - **1st**
  - **TECH WEEK: June 3rd-6th**
    - **Monday-Thursday: 6:00 PM-9:00PM**
  - **NO REHEARSAL Friday June, 7th for Graduation**
  - **DRESS REHEARSAL and OPENING NIGHT: Saturday, June 8th**
    - **1:00 PM Call Time**
    - **7:00 PM Performance**
  - **FINAL PERFORMANCE: Sunday June 9th**
    - **12:00 PM Call Time**
    - **2:00 PM Performance**