

HOLLAND TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mrs. Stephanie Snyder, Superintendent & Supervisor of Special Services

908-995-2401

Mrs. Susan Wardell, Principal/Curriculum & 504 Coordinator

www.hollandschool.org

August 2023

Dear Parents:

My name is Matt Bigelli and I am a new employee to Holland Township School. This year we are excited for a brand new program opportunity for the students in the elementary school. There will be two new drama programs being offered for the students in Grades K-5 for the 2023-2024 school year. The programs will focus on acting, singing, dancing, and stage craft as well as working on building confidence, oral communication, team-building, motivation, commitment and so much more. The previous clubs my wife and I have had the pleasure of running have gone on to produce many child actors who are now paid working adults in places like NYC and California. The main thing we pride ourselves in with our past drama club programs is that we are an all inclusive club. Everyone is welcome. There is a place for everyone in the spotlight,

The first program will be for grades kindergarten through second and be called *The HTS Drama Club Pee Wees*. During the time we work on the show, students will focus on the basics of acting, singing, and dancing by presenting a 25-30 minute performance to the community over two nights (Thursday/Friday) sometime in January/February. Rehearsals will start in October and will take place one day a week for about 1 hour until tech week, which will be everyday after school leading up to performance night. We will be presenting a show called *Pajama Party* with the Pee Wee program.

The second program will be for grades third through fifth and be called *The HTS Drama Club Juniors*. Since this is the first year of the program, students may not have much experience on stage, so we will be working on the basics of theater (acting, singing, dancing, stagecraft, auditioning, etc.) and what it takes to put on a production, but also making sure it is age appropriate for all participants. Students will be required to rehearse any material that is completed during rehearsals at home. Rehearsals will start in October and will take place one day a week for about 90 minutes. Once the Pee Wee show is concluded, rehearsals will pick up two days a week. More rehearsals will be added closer to show time. Performances will be some time in April.

In order to determine the number of students we may have interested in participating in the drama programs, please take a few minutes to fill out the attached questionnaire: [HTS Drama Club Interest Survey](#). Filling out the form does not secure a spot for your child in the program, nor make your child committed at this time, it only provides more insight on how we should approach the selection of our musical this year. My wife will be available to answer any questions that you may have during back to school night between meeting our own daughters' teachers. Please be on the lookout for the display we will have promoting our clubs.

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I am very excited for this opportunity and look forward to having the students of HTS shine on stage! We feel that the arts are very important to everyone in the community and we can not wait to get started. We are also looking forward to expanding the drama program into a third club, *The HTS Drama Club Players* for the middle school in the 2024-2025 school year after what we are sure will be a major success with our two starter clubs this year.

Thank you,

Mr. Matt Bigelli