



Dear Parents / Guardians,

The CNBA Middle School Language Arts teachers are excited to let you know that the middle school LA classes are each working on a Shakespeare play! We hope you will be able to join us for our performance, which will be held on June 20th (invitations with specific times will be going home before the performance).

Performing plays are a lot of fun – but they also tie into the **SPEAKING AND LISTENING** strand of the Language Arts curriculum. Beyond that, classroom plays are incredibly valuable for all sorts of reasons. Here are just a few of the things that plays do:

- Improve vocabulary, reading skills, and reading comprehension
- Improve speaking and presentation skills
- Bring the curriculum to life in a way that makes it relevant
- Build new friendships and classroom camaraderie and teamwork
- Include EVERY student, regardless of academic ability or language fluency
- Build confidence and social skills
- Motivate students and encourage good behavior
- Give students a sense of ownership and pride
- Incorporate drama, music, art, and movement into the learning process

Because these plays are specifically designed for classroom use, **every student will have the opportunity to have a speaking part**. We won't be holding formal auditions, but instead after we've all gotten familiar with the script, the teachers will ask the students to choose a few roles they'd like, and teachers will make the casting decisions from there. Everyone will have the chance to shine!

Once each student has been assigned a role, we'll be giving them their highlighted script, these are to come to class with them daily, but also go home with them at night. That way you can help your student practice. Practicing and memorizing lines will take the place of 20 minutes of reading each night for Reading Logs. A due date will be given to have lines memorized as we get further into the unit.

In class we'll be creating simple costumes for each character as well as making props, decorations and backgrounds. Classes will be reading / rehearsing the plays at least once daily, therefore **daily attendance for this unit is extremely important** as students need to be able to interact with one another in their roles and become comfortable with the script. Your support in making sure your child is attending school on a daily basis will be greatly appreciated as this unit will make up a large portion of their final Language Arts report card.

Dates to remember:

Monday, June 19th – Dress Rehearsal

Tuesday, June 20th – Class Production

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact one of us at the school.

Thanks,

K. Brawn

J. Munn

J. Quondam

R. Spencer

Please sign and return this slip to acknowledge that your child has informed you of our upcoming literacy unit.
