

THEATRE – CONNECT K-8 FALL, 2026



Diane Feldman

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Curtain up on our **fourth season**! Can't wait to see everyone's sweet, energetic faces and meet some new friends!

Below, details and information about this semester's **theatrical** programming. Please notice two changes: **1)** Classes will begin at the Kindergarten level (no longer TK) **2)** Due to scheduling changes at ESPAC, we will not have a Winter Performing Arts Showcase. Instead, each class will do a Performance Parlour on each last class session day in the Blackbox Theater. (We **WILL have a Spring Performing Arts Showcase in April** at ESPAC instead!)

We are also excited to welcome back our Choreographer, Lindsey Rei Bishoff, for the Musical Theatre classes and introduce dancer, Victoria Lambert, as our new Wednesday Dance Class instructor!

As always, I am available for questions, thoughts, suggestions.

Let our Fall 2026 theatrical adventures begin!

With warmth, gratitude and a whole lot of excitement ~

Diane

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GOAL

With an emphasis on strengthening self-celebration, ensemble awareness, teamwork, trust and authenticity, I am committed to ensuring students work toward manifesting and applying their full creative, theatrical and personal potential. Profound pride, an ardent sense of accomplishment, and genuine joy await!

FORMAT

*Tuesday and Thursday students will be divided into three groups for theatre: **K-2nd grade, 3rd-5th grade, and 6th 8th grade.**

*Wednesday classes will combine **3rd - 8th grade** (you may take both classes, or only one class)

WEEKLY THEATRE SCHEDULE

Tuesday classes (for Th/Fri cohort) – **September 15th – November 17th, 2026**

K – 2nd [10:00 – 11:00am]

3rd – 5th [11:45 – 12:45]

6th – 8th [1:45 – 2:45pm]

Performance Parlour: November 17th (during regularly scheduled class time)

Thursday classes (for Mon/Tues cohort) – **September 17th – November 19th, 2026**

K – 2nd [10:00 – 11:00am]

3rd – 5th [11:45 – 12:45]

6th – 8th [1:45 – 2:45pm]

Performance Parlour: November 19th (during regularly scheduled class time)

Bonus Wednesday classes (for both cohorts combined) – **September 16th – November 18th, 2026**

3rd – 8th [1:00 – 2:00pm]

DANCE: 9/16, 9/30, 10/14, 10/28, 11/18

Dance & Acting/ Improv Performance Parlour: November 18th (during regularly scheduled class time)

ACTING& IMPROV: 9/23, 10/7, 10/21, 11/4, 11/18

Dance & Acting/ Improv Performance Parlour: November 18th (during regularly scheduled class time)

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

K – 2nd

Through participation in creative drama and musical theatre explorations and activities, students will build and develop performance skills, discover individual artistic expression, overcome trepidation, and work together as a collaborative community building teamwork, trust, awareness, and authenticity. Activities will include imaginative improvisation, acting/creating character, singing/vocal expression, story building, movement/physicalizing story, theatrical vocabulary, prop and costume play, performance techniques, and theatre etiquette. Environment will be engaging, energetic, nurturing and fun!

3rd – 5th

Through a variety of musical and non-musical theatre participations, students will have an opportunity to grow and evolve performance skills, explore personal artistic expression, work as a collaborative community building teamwork, trust, awareness, and authenticity, and strengthen their ability to take creative risks and embrace their distinctive capabilities. Activities will include: character development; story development; verbal and non-verbal storytelling; choice-making; improvisation; foundations of acting; fundamentals of vocal training and movement for musical theatre; exploring content and context; theatre vocabulary, performance techniques, and etiquette.

Students will have an opportunity to engage with published work, as well as create their own original material. Environment will be validating, energetic, focused, and joyful.

6th – 8th

Through a variety of specially designed musical and non-musical theatre participations, students will have an opportunity to grow and evolve performance skills, explore personal artistic expression, work as a collaborative community building teamwork, trust, awareness, and authenticity, and strengthen their ability to take creative risks and embrace their distinctive capabilities. Activities will include: character analysis and development; story analysis and development; verbal and non-verbal storytelling; navigating choices; improvisation; foundations of acting; fundamentals of vocal training for theatre; movement/dance for musical theatre; exploring content and context; theatre vocabulary, performance techniques, and etiquette. Students will have an opportunity to engage with published work, as well as create their own original material. Environment will be validating, energetic, focused, and joyful.

3rd – 8th grade ACTING & IMPROVISATION (with Diane!)

Through theatre exercises and foundational improvisation, students will discover spontaneity, creativity, self-confidence, active listening, and team trust while developing fundamental acting techniques including objectives, beats, intentions, activated words and phrases, and paralleling (Diane's method!). Students will create characters and stories through physical and vocal expression, and explore solo, small-group and ensemble work. No prior experience is required. Whether new to theatre or already passionate about performing, students will strengthen their creative problem-solving, public speaking, and confidence, as well as enhance their spirit of collaboration!

3rd – 8th grade DANCE SKILLS & STYLES (with Victoria!)

This class introduces students to foundational dance skills and a variety of dance styles (jazz, ballet, tap, musical theatre, lyrical.) Students will learn basic technique, musicality, coordination, and stage presence through fun warm-ups, across-the-floor exercises, and simple choreography inspired by varying Broadway styles. Emphasis is placed on confidence, storytelling through movement, and working as an ensemble. No prior dance experience is required—just a willingness to move, learn, and have fun!

THEME

This semester, our collective Theatre theme will be: **Broadway Villains!** Class content will include material that brings this theme to life.

MATERIALS

- Students should wear clothes they can move/dance in freely. (Ex: sweatpants, leggings, shorts, etc.)
- Closed-toe shoes (ex : tennis shoes, jazz shoes, etc.) No slides, sandals, flip flops as they are not safe for dance and/or movement
- pocket folder (for handouts)
- pencil (for writing, taking notes, etc.)
- water bottle
- healthy, quick snack if desired (for 6th – 8th grade students who are staying for both choir and theatre)

-6th – 8th graders are invited to bring a cell phone to class so they can record vocal melodies and harmonies during rehearsal (phones will only be permitted during vocal rehearsals)

CLASS LOCATION

The Blackbox Theater
201 N. Douglas St.

note: We share the Blackbox with everyone, so some days we will work in The Music Room across the hall from The Blackbox. (This semester Music Room days will be Tu 10/6, Tu 10/13, W 10/14, Th 10/15.)

COMMUNICATION

Unless you request otherwise, your email will be shared with our parent volunteer Coordinators. You will also be invited to a shared Google Folder that will contain schedule spreadsheets, announcements, handouts, sheet/lyric music, etc. so everything, including pertinent information, will be available in one location any time you need.

ADDITIONAL REHEARSALS

None this semester!

PERFORMANCE PARLOURS:

Tuesday Musical Theatre classes (for Thurs/Fri cohort)

Performance Parlour: November 17th (during regularly scheduled class time)

Thursday Musical Theatre classes (for Mon/Tues cohort)

Performance Parlour: November 19th (during regularly scheduled class time)

Wednesday 3rd – 8th classes (for both cohorts combined)

Dance & Acting/Improv Performance Parlour: November 18th (during regularly scheduled class time)

WDV BACKSTAGE (VOLUNTEERING)

Volunteering is a wonderful way to support your young artists and our performing arts programs. (Also, a great way to make connections with other DV Connect families!) Stay tuned for further information about how you can support the process...!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOUR FAMILY!