

Dear Parents,

October, 2021

Mark Day Theater is BACK!!! I am delighted your child is interested in Chateau La Roach. This is a two-act comedy in the style of a French farce with slapstick, mistaken identities, characters running in and out, pratfalls, surprises, gags, and more. All roles are featured and range from small to medium to large to colossal.

The large roles will be cast with students available all three days a week. Some of the medium and smaller roles may be open to students who can attend two days a week. If your child is available only one day a week, it will be a small role (Day TBD). We may be able to have two complete casts, depending on the signups.

**Rehearsals begin Thursday October 28. We will have a daytime rehearsal during conferences on Tuesday, November 2, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM. For the final rehearsal week, all actors must attend all rehearsals. Tech and performance week at the SAN ANSELMO PLAYHOUSE\* is January 30-February 6. Students will be at the theater everyday during Tech Week and Performances.** When completing the audition form, please have your child be very clear about her availability. It's crucial that I have correct information for casting and setting the rehearsal schedules.

Casting a show is akin to putting together a very complicated jigsaw puzzle. We consider voices, acting characterizations, interplay, facility to incorporate director suggestions, students' schedules, and the students' interests. All students who audition are cast unless their schedule prevents it. I do not cast by seniority, though older students tend to be cast in larger roles. My goal is to provide educational opportunities and a joyful theater experience for everyone AND to give the audience a wonderful night of theater.

Take a look at our **Production Website** [drama.markdayschool.org](http://drama.markdayschool.org). It's a useful resource for audition details, rehearsal schedule, script, and volunteer production crews. Parents have found the weekly rehearsal announcement to be very helpful, particularly when there are changes in the schedule.

**A detailed rehearsal schedule will go home with your child after the first rehearsal.** It will also be downloadable from the website. Assigned rehearsals are mandatory. Actors may miss one rehearsal. Your child may not be rehearsing the entire 3:30-5:30 call time on a given day. We have supervisors, and many students opt to do homework during their off-time.

**Cast members and parents sign a contract.** Please return it at the first rehearsal. A fee of \$245 will need to be paid to Mark Day School through the AFC UltraCamp website (a link will be available soon of the drama website). The fee covers scripts, costumes, makeup, set, food during Tech Week, cast party, and special training. **Our Indexed Tuition policy includes coverage for curricular and co-curricular events.** As part of our commitment to creating a diverse and inclusive community at Mark Day School, we strongly believe that every student should be able to participate fully in school community activities. For information about this or any other aspect of Indexed Tuition, please contact our Indexed Tuition Coordinator, Wendy Broderick [wbroderick@markdayschool.org](mailto:wbroderick@markdayschool.org)

Many volunteer hours are needed to launch a successful production. We ask each family to volunteer a minimum of five hours. **A 30-minute Parent Meeting will be held November 8, 5:00pm in the Flex Room after rehearsal.** Parents sign up for volunteer crews at that time. Look at the website to find out more about the crews. Be ready to sign-up. Some crews fill up quickly.

I look forward to making theater with your children and you. Feel free to contact me, especially if you have questions about your child's schedule and rehearsal times. There may be a little wiggle room!

Tori Truss  
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*\*Our usual venue, the Showcase Theater is NOT available this year due to retrofitting.*

For the most up to date production information, visit [drama.markdayschool.org](http://drama.markdayschool.org).