Add a little magic to your school with Disney Musicals in Schools, an initiative of Omaha Performing Arts (O-pa) that ignites a passion for storytelling by building sustainable musical theatre programs in Nebraska and Iowa public schools.

By providing free performance materials and free professional development to participating schools, Disney Musicals in Schools has helped schools across the US and UK launch new theater programs, inspiring the next generation of diverse storytellers, artists, and audiences.

Up to five schools will be selected to participate in the 2027/2028 school year **free of charge**. Any Omaha metro, Lincoln and Western Iowa public elementary or middle school with a great need for the program, has a Title I status or has a free/reduced lunch rate of 40% or greater is eligible to apply, but hurry—the application deadline is **Friday, April 23, 2027.**

The goals of Disney Musicals in Schools are to:

1. Create sustainable musical theatre programs in public elementary and middle schools.
2. Provide school faculty with the training and tools necessary to support student performance and production, and to empower them to do so.
3. Develop a critical awareness and appreciation of the arts within the school.
4. Develop a strong community, including students, parents, faculty, staff, and neighbors.
5. Expose students and school faculty to the wide spectrum of skills that are developed when producing a piece of musical theatre, including critical thinking, problem solving, ensemble building, communication, self-confidence, and interpersonal skills.

Disney Musicals in Schools presents a special opportunity to introduce the collaborative art of musical theatre to your school, strengthen your arts programming, and develop partnerships among students, faculty, staff, and the greater community.

Please note: Recipient schools will receive various levels of support over a period of three years. Since the goal of the program is to build sustainable theater programs, applications from schools that have participated in the program in the last five years will not be considered.

Complete the following application and email it to DMIS@O-pa.org by **Friday, April 23, 2027.**

Selected ELEMENTARY schools will receive:

- **Free** performance license to a 30-minute Disney KIDS musical (available shows include *101 Dalmatians, Aladdin, The Aristocats, Finding Nemo, Frozen, The Jungle Book, The Lion King, The Little Mermaid* and *Winnie the Pooh)*
- **Free** ShowKit materials, including a director's guide, student scripts, accompaniment and rehearsal tracks, choreography videos, and cross-curricular activities.
- **Free** weekly 90-minute in-school visits from a team of two O-pa Teaching Artists to train and guide your team throughout the process.
- Lastly, the selected schools will participate in a culminating Disney Musicals in Schools Student Share Celebration. At this event, each school will share selections from its production at the Holland Center.

Selected ELEMENTARY schools will be expected to:

- Produce a 30-minute Disney KIDS musical involving 3rd-6th graders both on and off stage.
- Identify a School Team comprising at least three teachers and staff members, who will partner with the O-pa Teaching Artists and oversee and manage the program from beginning to end. The selected School Team will receive on-site support from a team of two O-pa Teaching Artists who will visit the school each week. The School Team will also run a 90-minute rehearsal on their own once each week.
- Commit to a full semester of rehearsal /production in an after-school setting.
- Host a site visit for the selection team during the application process.
- Provide space, time, materials, and resources for students and the School Team to rehearse and prepare for the musical production.
- Provide opportunities for the whole school, parents, and larger community to be connected to the production.
- Hold a minimum of one public performance of the musical.
- Participate in the culminating Student Share event at the Holland Center and provide transportation for participating students.

Selected MIDDLE schools will receive:

- **Free** performance license to a 60-minute Disney JR. musical (available shows include *Alice in Wonderland, Aladdin, Beauty and the Beast, Finding Nemo, Frozen, High School Musical, The Lion King, The Little Mermaid, Moana, Mary Poppins, Newsies)*
- **FREE** ShowKit materials, including a director's guide, student scripts, accompaniment and rehearsal tracks, choreography videos, and cross-curricular activities.
- **1-2 FREE** weekly two-hour in-school visits from a team of two O-pa Teaching Artists to train and guide your team throughout the process.
- Lastly, the selected schools will participate in a culminating Disney Musicals in Schools Student Share Celebration. At this event, each school will share selections from its production at the Holland Center.

Selected MIDDLE schools will be expected to:

- Produce a 60-minute Disney JR. musical involving 5th-8th graders both on and off stage.
- Identify a School Team comprising at least three teachers and staff members, who will partner with the O-pa Teaching Artists and oversee and manage the program from beginning to end. The selected School Team will receive on-site support from a team of two O-pa Teaching Artists who will visit the school 1-2 times each week. The School Team will also run 1-2 two-hour rehearsal(s) on their own once each week.
- Commit to a full semester of rehearsal /production in an after-school setting.
- Host a site visit for the selection team during the application process.
- Provide space, time, materials, and resources for students and the School Team to rehearse and prepare for the musical production.
- Provide opportunities for the whole school, parents, and larger community to be connected to the production.
- Hold a minimum of one public performance of the musical.
- Participate in the culminating Student Share event at the Holland Center, and provide transportation for participating students.

Financial Commitment

Performance rights, ShowKit materials, Professional Development, and onsite Teaching Artist support will be provided at no charge to selected schools. Selected schools will be responsible for a production budget. Disney KIDS and JR Musicals are designed to be produced inexpensively, and have been successfully mounted within a budget of $300-$1500. O-pa Teaching Artists will work to maximize the school's production budget by using reclaimed and existing materials, such as cardboard boxes and t-shirts brought from home. Any additional costs, such as after-school payments for school staff, will be the school's responsibility.

Disney Musicals in Schools Timeline:

October 1, 2026	Applications open online and sent to Eastern Nebraska and Western Iowa schools
April 23, 2027	Applications due (please contact us if your school requires an extension)
May 3- 14, 2027	Finalist school site visits
May 21, 2027	All applicants notified of status by the end of the school year
September 20, 2027	School Orientation at 5:00pm at the Tenaska Center
October 2027 – February 2028	Rehearsals/on-site support from Teaching Artists
Late-February 2028	School Performances
February 28, 2028	Student Share Celebration at 5:30pm