Executive Summary

Department of Instruction

Initiative: Performing Arts Magnet (Heritage High School)

Performing Arts Magnet Program Description

The Performing Arts magnet is designed for the serious musical theatre student who is interested in pursuing a career in this field. The program will offer specialized training that is unique to what is currently offered in the LCPS high school curriculum. The goal of the program is to prepare students for collegiate and professional auditions, expose them to the business of the industry, and equip them with the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful in this competitive industry. We seek to provide a specialized, unique, and rigorous musical theatre curriculum for passionate and motivated students throughout the county.

The development of the program will be actualized after multiple years servicing up to 70 students at Heritage High School.

Benefits for the Performing Arts Students

- Neither dance, nor solo voice study is currently offered in LCPS music or theatre programs. Experience studying and performing solo voice is a prerequisite to almost all vocal and musical theatre programs at the collegiate level.
- Greater opportunities for student connection and collaboration with the professional musical theatre community.
- In-depth, individualized feedback and training for the student actor.
- Students will be provided opportunities for comprehensive connections between the disciplines of acting, singing, and dancing.

Benefits for Loudoun County Public Schools Community at Large

- Students will be able to continue enrollment in their home school’s choral and drama department, if scheduling allows. Students able to remain enrolled in those classes could still be eligible to represent their home school in VHSL, District/Honors/State Choirs, and VMEA (The 2016-17 Performing Arts students will not compete in any of these programs).
- The magnet will serve as a pilot to create and test an academy model which could be replicated in the development of additional fine and performing arts programs and academies across the county.
- Students will bring their skill set back to their home school programs to contribute to the success and growth of their home school’s music and theatre programs. Students could remain a part of their home school’s Cappies entries.
- The magnet will help continue to advance the Arts in Loudoun County Public Schools as a whole, highlighting the value of Arts as a cornerstone of a well-rounded and effective education.
Approximate Timelines for Applications and Auditions

Proposed Schedule for 2016-2017 school year

- February—Upon budget adoption, communicate application procedures and audition requirements to schools. Determine audition committee and application review committee. Students submit application packets (no later than February 28th).
- March—Auditions Held; Audition Committee and Application Review Committees determine final candidate selections.
- Candidates are notified by April 15th with a deadline of May 1st to accept or reject the offer.

Course Offerings

- 6 elective classes over two years (3 per year)
  - 2 Dance electives with a focus on theatre dance and current Broadway choreography.
  - 2 Theatre electives with a focus on musical theatre scene work and acting.
  - 2 Voice electives with an emphasis on solo musical theatre style and repertoire.
- 2 Virtual Loudoun courses over two years, if necessary, to complete graduation requirements (1 per year).

Scheduling & Credits

- Students alternate attendance between their home school and Heritage High School (for the Performing Arts electives), although they would remain in the enrollment of their home school, making them eligible for participation in extra-curricular activities.
- Students would be earning credits toward a high school diploma as outlined by the Virginia Department of Education.
- 24-35 rising LCPS juniors and seniors would be selected through an audition process held in early spring of 2016.
- Transportation for the 24-35 students will be available (via a single bus from Monroe Tech) in order to offer a program option that is equitable to all students within the county.

Admission Requirements

- Student Information Form
- 400 word essay demonstrating a commitment to the two year program.
- 1 Letter of Recommendation (from a teacher or performance coach)
- Guidance Counselor Signature Form stating that applicant is on track to graduate & has 6 open classes
- GPA of 2.0

Selection Criteria & Processes

- Auditions will be adjudicated by an independent professional body selected by LCPS staff.
- An optional audition coaching workshop for students prior to the auditions to level the playing field for all applicants is recommended.
- A screening system may be necessary to reduce the number of applicants who are eligible to audition for the 24-35 spots.
- A waiting list may need to be structured.
Facility Requirements *(All facility space described here is at Heritage High School)*

- Chorus & Practice Rooms: vocal classes
- The Black Box Theatre: theatre and dance classes

Startup materials needed

- 6 portable ballet barres
- Musical Theatre Anthologies and other appropriate musical scores
- Piano (semi-annual tuning)
- Accompanist (for quarterly performances)
- 8-10 tablets
- Video Camera with Tripod
- Students may need to provide their own
  - Character shoes
  - Ballet/Jazz shoes
  - Tap shoes

Staffing/Qualifications *(VDOE requirements will be followed in securing personnel for the Musical Theatre Academy.)*

Dance (Health/PE Licensed or eligible for License Teacher, .2 position) - Professional/collegiate dance experience, experience in musical theatre, experience teaching theatre dance.

Theatre (Licensed Theatre Teacher, .4 position)-Professional/collegiate musical theatre experience, teaching experience. Demonstrates competency and success in the specific genre of Musical Theatre as a director/teacher. The teacher in this position would be expected to co-teach the theatre and voice classes with the Voice teacher.

Voice (Licensed Music Teacher, .4 position)-Professional/collegiate musical theatre experience, private voice teaching experience. Demonstrates knowledge of musical theatre styles, skills and repertoire. Has experience developing the solo voice in the genre of musical theatre including both classical and contemporary belt. The teacher in this position would be expected to co-teach the theatre and voice classes with the Theatre teacher.

Implementation Costs *(approximate)*

FY17 – 1.0 FTE Performing Arts and related operational costs totaling $126,523 serving up to 35 students

FY18 – Add an additional 1.0 FTE and related operational costs totaling $126,523 serving up to 70 students