

James and the Giant Peach Jr.

Permission and Parent form

Thank you for your interest in auditioning for **James and the Giant Peach**

Jr. and becoming a member of the Junior Theatre troupe!! We are not only preparing for several performances in November, but also for The Junior Theatre Festival held in Atlanta on January 13-15, 2023. Please read slowly and take in all of the information BEFORE auditioning. **LIVE** Performances will be November 4 & 5, 2022 at North Gwinnett High School. There will be 2 performances on Saturday, November 5th, 3:00 and 7:00 p.m.

Auditions

When: August 8-12, 2022, before and after school – sign up sheet will be on the website: www.ngmsdrama.weebly.com – sign up in groups of 5

Who: Open to ALL NGMS 6th, 7th and 8th graders

Where: Ms. Davison's Classroom, tower section of the building #2.126

What to sing: A 1:00 minute part of a musical theatre song or Disney song. No pop tunes or songs from *James and the Giant Peach Jr.* please. You will need an accompaniment track!
NO ACAPELLA SINGING!

What to bring: an accompaniment track for your 1:00 minute music theatre solo, your ipad, phone, mp3 player, USB for your song, speaker for device if it is not loud enough), your parent permission form with listed conflicts. (attached/below) **DO NOT RELY ON INTERNET FOR THE ACCOMPANIMENT TRACK on ITUNES – UPLOAD IT TO YOUR DEVICE AND SAVE IT.** If you do not have the track ready, I will ask you to sit down until it is ready.

How long is the audition: Your audition will be 20 minutes in length. You may leave after your audition time is complete. You will be singing and reading scenes from the show in front of 4 other people. You will also be dancing an 8 bar sequence. You may not listen to or watch another person other than the ones in your group. No parents allowed in the audition room. You may pick up your student at the front of the school.

Callbacks: I will post callback names on my website the evening of Thursday, August 11 after 7:00 p.m. for a Friday, August 12th call-back after school. Callbacks are from 4:15-6:15 p.m. If you are not called back, please do not think you are not cast. I will only be calling back people I need to see again for larger roles. Callback songs will be posted on my website. **Callback list will be posted on Thursday, August 11th after 7 pm.** If you have been asked back for callbacks and cannot make it, just email me and we will work something out. **Callback songs and sides will be posted on the website AFTER the list is posted.**

Hints for the audition: All roles are extremely animated. The basic type of song I need for you to choose is one that shows off your animation of sound! I need for you to be happy, full of spunk and lots of facials - yes even grouchy old Centipede!!! Some of the roles will be up for

grabs by either male or female actors; Ladahlord, Centipede, Earthworm, Bobby-cops, Grasshopper and even James. When you are choosing a song to sing, it doesn't have to be a "boy" song or a "girl" song. For instance, if you are wanting to audition for James and yet you want to sing a "girl" song, go for it! I am looking for a character within the song and you can show me your specific character when I ask you to read for that particular role. **THESE SONGS ARE SUGGESTIONS IN THE LIKENESS OF...YOU DO NOT HAVE TO SING THESE SONGS!**

***James** must have a beautiful voice! If you are a male, your voice must be unchanged due to the range of the tunes that he sings. If you are a female, note that the songs go pretty high so you should be comfortable singing high and bell-like. You should have a silly side to you as well! Think about singing "I just can't wait to be King" from *The Lion King*, "Giants in the Sky" from *Into the Woods*, "Little People" from *Les Mis*, "The Girl I mean to be" from *The Secret Garden*, "When I grow up" from *Matilda*.

***Ladahlord** is the storyteller of this musical and has many different songs to sing. He is the mysterious character who moves the show along much like a Greek Chorus. I will cast a male or female in this role. Choose a song that is full of animation as well as range! For instance: "Singing in the Rain", "Put on a Happy face" from *Bye, bye Birdie* or

***Spiker and Sponge** are the comedic duo throughout the musical and sing a lot of tunes! This kind of singing is called character singing so you don't have to sound beautiful but you do have to have no fear when "screaming" out some of the notes - I will instruct you and how to do them without hurting yourself! Choose songs that are character in nature: "Surface pressure" from *EnCanto*,

***Spider** is a sassy character that doesn't have one song to sing but sings with everyone! Choose something that is fun and that is very projected like "What Else can I do" from *EnCanto*, "Beyond my Wildest Dreams" from *The Little Mermaid*, "Journey to the Past" from *Anastasia*, or "Live out loud" from *A Little Princess*.

***Grasshopper** is the fatherly role and has a great solo with his "fiddle" called "Floating Along." Choose a song that is happy and has a lot of spunk. Choose a song like: "I wanna be like you" from *Jungle Book*, "How Lucky you are" from *Seussical*, "The Kite" from *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*.

***Earthworm** is a very nervous and frightened character but finds strength to sacrifice himself in his song "Plump and Juicy." This is a Bossa Nova type song that is hilarious and so much fun! Choose a character like song that can really show off your acting skills! Choose something like: "Bare Necessities" from *The Jungle Book*, "You're Welcome" from *Moana*, "We don't talk about Bruno" from *EnCanto*.

***Ladybug** is the motherly role and sings the squishy, tender song "Everywhere that you are." Choose a song like "My house" from *Matilda*, "Come to my Garden" from *The Secret Garden*

***Centipede** is the pessimistic character that eventually warms up to James and the rest of the gang. I will cast either gender. He doesn't have a song to himself but sings with the other insects. Choose a song that will show character. "The Mob Song" from *Beauty and the Beast*, "Poor unfortunate Souls" from *The Little Mermaid*.

* If you just want to be a part of this fun show and have a great time with friends, I would choose a musical theatre song that you LOVE to sing. I want everyone to SHOW OFF and have FUN!!! Also, please look at the Musical Theatre rubric that I will be using for the auditions; it's in this packet as well as on the website. **My "big items" I am looking for besides a music theatre**

voice: Enthusiasm, Passion, Confidence, Stage presence, Physical and vocal expression.

This is music theatre – NOT reality!! **Make it big!!**

Go to my website and look at the descriptions of each character or groups of characters. This will help you determine what role you would like to audition for.

Audition results: will be posted on my website: www.ngmsdrama.weebly.com

Sunday, August 14th after 5:00 p.m.

Junior Theatre Festival: This is a weekend chalked full of over 6000 musical theatre fans and parents celebrating our love for performing! Everyone who is in the musical *James and the Giant Peach Jr.* will have the opportunity to attend this weekend. We will take a 15 minute version of *James and the Giant Peach Jr.* to this festival where we will be adjudicated by professionals in the Broadway community. The dates are January 13-15, 2023. We will also attend many workshops and performances during the weekend as well. The registration cost is \$300.00 per person, both students and chaperones. **This does not include hotel or food.** If you want to be a part of the Fall musical but cannot attend the Junior Theatre Festival, January 13-15, 2023, please note that on the audition form. **The fee for JTF may be split into 2 payments. Final payment date will be October 15th as that is our final date to pay the JTF company.** The earlier we get our money in, the better our seats will be for the event. My suggestion is to pay early and parents, think about becoming a chaperone!! I need male chaperones too!!! **Hotel and food fees will be due in early part of January before we leave on the 13th.**

Rehearsals: Most of the rehearsals, (large ensembles), will take place either at 8:00 a.m. or after school, (solos, duets, smaller groups), from 4:20-5:15 p.m. **in my room or outside depending on how large our group is.** There is one exception; **tech week; one week before the show dates.** Tech week rehearsals will be directly after school **Monday – Thursday from 4:30-7:45 p.m.** at North Gwinnett high school theatre. Monday, October 31st is obviously a holiday and rehearsal will last only until 6:30 so that the kids can get home and go trick or treating! These rehearsals are extremely important as we need to rehearse all technical aspects of the show, with costumes, lighting, sound etc. Please postpone any dentist or doctor appointments during that week. **A carpool will be set up to take over all students to the performance site. Parents are responsible for picking up their students after each rehearsal in a timely manner.**

JTF rehearsals: There will be a separate schedule for those going to JTF. Typically, we rehearse 3-4 times in December and then another 4-5 times once we get back from Holiday break. Those rehearsals will be in the morning.

TBD: There will also be a full Saturday practice - a lock-in of sorts - sometime in late October so that we can get as much large ensemble work in as possible. There will be **3-4** parent workdays – these days will be on Saturday mornings for about 3 hours - depending on when the school is open for Saturday school. We will also use this time for costume fittings, pictures, some prop building and even rehearsals. The general calendar of rehearsals is listed on the website as well as in this packet. Please note that specifics of each rehearsal will be outlined once the cast is set in stone. Example: the schedule will read at this point, full cast rehearsal or Insect rehearsal, Seagulls/Sharkss rehearsal, etc. If I have listed the Ladahlord rehearsal on a Thursday afternoon and he/she can't attend, I will change that on the schedule to fit his/her schedule.

Before school rehearsals: I will also walk down to get all students from the cafeteria at 7:55 for the morning rehearsals for the first week or so. **You must be in attendance for all rehearsals unless you have previously let me know of your excused conflicts!!! Your academic teachers will be asking some of you to come in early to redo a test or sit in on a study session. That's awesome however, try to make it on a NON – musical rehearsal morning and please let me know when these occur.**

Parent Help: YES!!! I LOVE PARENTS WHO HELP!! We will have a **parent meeting TBD - I**

will let you know asap!!! We will discuss the production and ways in which the parents can assist. I want to make sure that all parents get to know me, the expectations of my productions, what this show means to the students, as well as details about the Junior Theatre Festival!! Students are welcome! If you cannot make the meeting, no worries as the power point will be on eclass, website, as well as in an email.

Cost for James and the Giant Peach Jr.: It is typical within the theatre world to charge a nominal fee to participate in the musical or play. This cost will cover most of the royalties, costumes, set building materials, paint, show t shirt, light dinners during tech week as well as “dinner” in between shows on Saturday, November 5, props for the show and provide you with your own personal script of the musical. **The fee will be \$75.00, payable to NGMS** with a due date of Wednesday, August 31, 2022. If you are cast in the musical and feel like you cannot pay this fee, please come and talk to me in private. Please don't let the financial situation hold you back from participating in the show! **This cost is ONLY for the James and the Giant Peach Jr. production at the High School and does not cover the cost of the Junior Theatre Festival or hotel fees associated with the Junior Theatre Festival!!** Total cost for participation fee AND JTF is: \$375.00 – **again, this does NOT cover hotel fee while at JTF.** Anticipated hotel cost and food for the weekend is: \$115.00 for two nights. The breakdown of all costs are as follows:

James & Peach participation fee: \$75.00

JTF participation fee: \$300.00

Hotel for 2 nights, Dinner Friday night, 2 lunches for JTF: \$115.00 per person (4 to a room; one chaperone & 3 kids) I will pay for catered dinner on Saturday night and students will purchase their own Sunday eve dinner at the mall.

**Approximate Total cost for Frozen & JTF per student:
\$490.00**

Expectations:

Personal practice time away from class is a must!!! Please do not expect all of the lines, musical numbers and blocking to stick just by being in rehearsals. Each student must practice at home!!!! I will have all tracks listed on my Google Classroom page, both demos and accompaniment tracks.

Although I have the hopes and dreams of this production “going off without a hitch”, there have been times when I've had to remove students out of shows due to poor behavior both to me and to fellow cast mates. If at any point, the student displays rude, arrogant, or belligerent behavior during rehearsal time, that student will get one warning. I will call the parents and let them know about this warning. After the first warning and if the behavior continues, he/she will be dismissed from the show as well as from the final production. **All school rules apply during before and after school rehearsals and during performances.**

****Guard yourself with social media!! I understand I have no control over your personal lives with Snapchat, Facebook, Instagram, Group chats, etc. however, please note that whatever you post, both the positive and the negative, will always find a way back to the people who may, in your future, hire you for a role or a job. And for those who have been involved with other production companies, SAA, FAPA, etc. everyone wants to belong to THIS production and feel respected and valued. Please do not talk excessively about how your other company did things or their choreography vs. our choreography. We are starting a new show together!!! Let's keep up the team spirit!**

Something to think about... Actions of the cast should be focused on the good of the show, not the individual's wishes! This is a learning environment for everyone involved!! NO DIVA'S!

JAMES and the Giant Peach Jr.

Junior Theatre Festival

Permission Form for Parents

(return permission form prior to or at the auditions)

James and the Giant Peach Jr. November 4-5, 2022

North Gwinnett High School

November 4 & 5, 7:00 p.m. November 5, matinee at 3:00

I give my permission for my student, _____, grade _____ to audition for the 2021 Fall Musical, **James and the Giant Peach Jr.**

*If my student is chosen to be a part of the cast, I understand that she/he is responsible for attending **all** of the rehearsals and performances unless previously stated below. I will list the known conflicts with rehearsals and performances below on the attached sheet and return at the audition.

*I understand that my student will be videotaped at the auditions for the purpose of the **audition only** and will only be viewed by the director and the other adjudicators; the taped files will be destroyed after casting is complete.

*I understand that **we** will provide shoes for the costume, black jazz shoes and black pants for the Junior Theatre Festival as well as undergarments for my student's use only.

*I understand that we are responsible for paying the **\$75.00 participation fee by August 31, 2022. Payments will be posted on MyPaymentsPlus after the cast list has been posted.**

*I understand that this musical will also be going to the **Junior Theatre Festival in Atlanta** on January 13-15, 2023 and I will be responsible for paying the entrance fee per student/chaperone of \$300.00 **in full by October 15, 2022 if my student will be attending.** I understand that the cost for the hotel/food during JTF will be approximately \$115.00 for Friday - Sunday, January 13-15, 2023.

*I understand that my student will be transported by chaperones to and from the high school during tech week as well as JTF.

*I understand that I will check **Google Classroom** often for changes after the cast list has been posted. Every student who is cast will be asked to join **Google Classroom James and the Giant Peach Jr. page.**

PARENTS...PLEASE SIGN BELOW TO ACKNOWLEDGE the aforementioned points above. When submitting an email address, please be very neat when writing!

Parent Signature: _____

Parent Email: _____

Parent Phone Number: _____

YES, my student will be attending JTF in January 2023 _____

NO, my student can not attend JTF in January 2023 _____

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Student Acknowledgment of Audition and Performance Requirements and Expectations

I, _____, understand all of the rehearsal and performance requirements and expectations. I will give 100% to my audition and to the other performers if I am cast. **I am willing to trust that the director knows the strengths and direction of the show based on the individual talents shown at the audition, not based on previous acting experience.** I understand that this is a group effort and that my dedication affects the entire cast rehearsal process as well as performances. I will do everything in my power to be a positive role model and a team player in this production.

Student Signature: _____

Student Height: _____

Student School ID number: _____

Please circle any of the roles you will accept and put a star ☆ on top of the role you are auditioning for.

James	Sponge	Spiker	Ladahlord	Matron Nurse
Centipede	Lady Bug	Earthworm	Grasshopper	Spider
Bobby Cops	Singing Vagrants	Singing Reporters	Singing Ladies Garden Guild	Hollywood Agents
Sharks and Seagulls	New Yorkers	Zoo crowd	Any small speaking parts	Any small singing parts

List your other talents such as tumbling, juggling, playing an instrument, ballet dancing etc.

