Dear Parents/Guardians & Students:

 The 2018 Detroit Lakes Public Schools fall musical is *Mary Poppins*.Many of you are familiar with the wonderful story of *Mary Poppins*, but for anyone who isn’t, a brief synopsis follows -

**SYNOPSIS:**

*Mary Poppins* is the story of the Banks family who live in a big house in London on Cherry Tree Lane. Things are not going well for the family, the children, Jane and Michael, are out of control and are in need of a new nanny. Jane and Michael have their own ideas about what sort of caretaker they should have, while their parents—and in particular Mr. Banks—are insistent on someone strict for the job. When a mysterious young woman named Mary Poppins appears at their doorstep, the family finds that she’s the answer to their prayers, but in the most peculiar way. Mary Poppins takes the children on many magical and memorable adventures, but Jane and Michael aren’t the only ones she has a profound effect upon. Even grown-ups can learn a lesson or two from the nanny who advises that “anything can happen if you let it.”

**AUDITION AGES, PERFORMANCE DATES, SET STRIKE:**

Auditions for *Mary Poppins* will be open to students in grades 5 through 12. Production dates for the show are November 1, November 3, November 4 (Matinee – 3:00 p.m.), November 8 and November 10. All evening performances are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. (Although rare, some performance dates are subject to change dependent on the athletic competition activity schedule.) Set tear down/set strike is scheduled for Sunday, November 11. Cast members are expected to be in attendance on that day, or expected to find someone to replace them at set strike!

**WHAT DO I NEED TO DO FOR AUDITIONS\*:**

\*THERE ARE THREE COMPONENTS TO YOUR AUDITION – SINGING, ACTING & DANCING. ALL THREE COMPONONETS MUST BE COMPLETED FOR A STUDENT TO BE CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE AS A POTENTIAL CAST MEMBER FOR *MARY POPPINS*.

\*There will be many dance practice sessions offered throughout the week of auditions! Students may choose to attend as many or, as few of the dance practice sessions as they want to attend. It is recommended, however, that they attend enough dance practice sessions to learn the dance adequately for auditions. A detailed dance practice schedule can be found on our *Mary Poppins* website. Dance auditions will take place on Saturday, September 10th from 5:00 – 6:30. Dance auditions will be held on stage in the George Simson Auditorium in the Detroit Lakes Middle School.

\*Students are asked to select a piece of music and scene cutting to prepare for their after school, evening or Saturday audition (when you do your music and scene cutting audition is up to you because you sign up for the audition date and time) with the Director, Kathryn Larson and the Assistant Director, Mark Everson. The scene cutting and the music do not need to be memorized; however, the better a student knows the material, the smoother the audition will go! PLEASE DO YOUR BEST TO BE THOROUGHLY PREPARED. Search for performances of the songs on You-tube so you can hear different examples of the songs being performed! Listen to them very carefully – they can be extremely helpful!

**AUDITION MATERIALS:**

All audition resource materials can be found on our website at [www.dlhsmarypoppins.weebly.com](http://www.dlhsmarypoppins.weebly.com). Audition signups will be done on our website at [www.dlhsmarypoppins.weebly.com](http://www.dlhsmarypoppins.weebly.com). (PLEASE NOTE: AFTERNOON AUDITIONS ARE HELD AT THE HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR ROOM. EVENING AUDITIONS ARE HELD AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR ROOM. ALL DANCE PRACTICES AND DANCE AUDITIONS ARE AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL IN THE GEORGE SIMSON AUDITORIUM.) Please bring your music, scene cutting and **COMPLETED** audition form to your audition. Music, scene cuttings, and audition forms can be downloaded and printed at [www.dlhsmarypoppins.weebly.com](http://www.dlhsmarypoppins.weebly.com). (We will also provide audition forms at auditions.) Please be on time and be patient with the audition process. The directors want to be sure that each student is given his/her “fair amount” of time and his/her “fair share” of attention so that he/she may give the best audition possible. **This means that the auditions may run behind and you may have to wait past your allotted time. We will do everything within our power for you to be seen as soon as possible.**

**JANE & MICHAEL BANKS & YOUNGER STUDENTS:**

There are a limited number of parts for younger students, but two of the younger parts are very significant roles resulting in a large amount of stage time. This will require a large time commitment on the part of any student that auditions and is awarded either one of these roles!

Male students who are auditioning for the part of Michael Banks should have unchanged male voices. In other words, they should be able to sing in the boy soprano/alto range.

Female students in grades 5 - 12 will be allowed to audition for Jane, with the requirement that she looks young and can portray a young girl.

Students auditioning for the parts of Jane and Michael Banks have the option of signing up to audition individually or as a "Jane/Michael pair" for their actual audition time. It is not necessary for the "Jane/Michael pair" actors/auditioners to actually know one another. However, if they do, they can practice with one another ahead of time on the acting cutting and singing selection.

We are planning to audition for the roles of Jane and Michael Banks on the following dates at the following times. At these audition times, the Singing and Acting components of the audition will take place. (The Dance Component of the Audition will take place on Saturday, September 8th from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. In addition, students may be asked to be at Callbacks on Saturday, September 8th from 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Please check the Callback list to see if you need to be at Callbacks! The Callback list for the characters of Jane and Michael Banks will be posted on our website [www.dlhsmarypoppins.weebly.com](http://www.dlhsmarypoppins.weebly.com) by 10:00 a.m. Saturday, September 8th.) Please note - dance practice sessions will also be offered throughout the week of auditions and will be held on stage at the DLMS - a detailed schedule for dance practice sessions will also be available on the website.

Audition Times for the characters of Jane Banks and Michael Banks are on the following days at the following times:

Tuesday, September 4th, from 4:30 - 6:00 (15-minute intervals) DLHS Choir Room

Tuesday, September 4th, from 7:00 - 9:45 (15-minute intervals) DLMS Choir Room

(Possible Conflicts: Boys Soccer Game, JV Football Game, Girls Swimming, Girls Soccer, Girls VB)

Wednesday, September 5th, from 4:30 - 6:00 (15-minute intervals) DLHS Choir Room

Thursday, September 6th, from 4:30 - 6:00 (15-minute intervals) DLHS Choir Room

**CAST LIST:**

The cast list will be posted on our musical website by 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 9th. We will also post the cast list at DLHS on the Music Wing Doors and the Main Entrance Doors by 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 9th.

**IF YOU ARE SELECTED AS A CAST MEMBER:**

Rehearsals for the musical will begin on Monday, September 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the George Simson Auditorium, DL Middle School. All cast members must be present. Cast members will read through the script. Schedules and the scene breakdown of the show *Mary Poppins* will be available on our website at [www.dlhsmarypoppins.com](http://www.dlhsmarypoppins.com). The schedule will be reviewed that night for new musical cast members. New schedules will be provided on our website. It is very important that you are at your scheduled rehearsals and that you are on time and ready to practice. Students will be allowed **THREE TOTAL ABSENCES.** After three absences actors will have their roles in scenes reduced. This is a strict policy that we will adhere to this year! Please be prepared to let us know about all of your conflicts in advance. We will ask you about your conflicts when you audition. Anytime you miss a rehearsal, it will be considered an absence, even if you are ill! It does not matter why you are missing, if you are missing a rehearsal, it is an absence. We will do our very best to not schedule you for a rehearsal when you have a conflict. That is why it is so very, very important for you to list all of your conflicts at your audition! Please be very detailed when you list your conflicts!

**FLEXIBILITY:**

We NEED your understanding and flexibility during rehearsals. There are times when the scenes listed on the schedule may not receive as much attention as the directors allocated. This is usually because there is another scene that needs a great deal more attention than first anticipated. (For example, perhaps the scene just wasn’t as prepared as it could have been or should have been!) The more prepared students are and the more attentive they are during rehearsals the better things may go. However, in order to make sure that students are using their time productively even when they are sitting and waiting for their scene, we would ask that your student bring books and homework to practice nightly and use this opportunity to work on their studies. Students’ education remains our top priority.

**WHITE CARD ACTIVITY FEES:**

Middle school and high school students in the cast must purchase activity/white cards. This is done at your own school office. NO STUDENT MAY PARTICIPATE WITHOUT AN ACTIVITY/ WHITE CARD. Please take care of your White Card as soon as possible as you are not allowed to rehearse without a White Card! The DLHS White Card cost is - $80.00 per activity & the DLMS White Card cost is $50.00 per activity. There is a cap of $370.00 per family on White Card Activity expense per year. Please note that elementary students do not pay a White Card activity fee. If the White Card activity fee is a financial hardship, please speak to Mr. Rob Nielson, Activities Director (847-4491) – DLHS students or Mr. Justin Hegg (847-9228) – DLMS students. FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY: If you are behind credits, this makes you ineligible to participate in the musical. If you wish to be considered eligible, you must go through the petition process. Please see Mr. Rob Nielson, Activities Director, to obtain the proper paperwork. You may audition for the show, but your eligibility will be a factor in determining if you may participate in the fall musical.

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

As the production dates near, cast members will be asked to give more of their time for rehearsals. There will be rehearsals over MEA weekend on October 18th 19th and 20th, during the day and the evening. Some cast members will also be asked to perform at Hodgepodge on 10/23/2018, Library Club on 10/23/2018 Kiwanis on 10/30/2018 and Rotary on 11/1/2018 and; all cast members will participate in the Elementary School Tour on 10/25/2018, the dress rehearsal/full performance for the DLMS Students and Staff on 10/31/2018 and the 5th Grade Presentation on 11/8/2018. **We would ask that, if at all possible, family trips and events be scheduled outside of MEA and the two weeks prior to the first performance**. We realize that there are times when this is not possible and unforeseen things happen. Please let Mrs. Larson know as soon as possible about any conflicts over this time. She can be reached at 218-847-4491 Ext. 2540 or by email at klarson@detlakes.k12.mn.us.

**PARENT VOLUNTEERS:**

We highly encourage parents/guardians to join us as volunteers. There is a space on the audition form where parents can designate their areas of interest. If parents are not sure what their specific areas of interest are, but are willing to help out, they can indicate their general interest with a phone number or email address. We will contact parents that are interested in helping with the production. We are in need of help in all areas of the show! If your student is selected for the cast, parents/guardians may be contacted to help with the production. Even an hour or two is helpful. (For example, costume work can often be done at home.)

In addition, this year we are asking students to sign up for areas in which they might have interest. Students will be supervised and instruction will be given on how to do things such as make props, paint and do set construction. Please know that student safety is ALWAYS our first priority. Generally set crews work on Saturdays (around the rehearsal schedule) and on Sunday afternoons, as well as Wednesday evenings. We expect students to fulfill their church obligations so Wednesday nights will be reserved for older students. We also expect students to maintain their grades and keep up with their homework – school studies come before anything else!

We are looking forward to your student’s participation in this musical. It is a wonderful experience for all of us - students and adults alike.

 Sincerely,

 Kathryn Larson, Director

 Mark Everson, Assistant Director

 Carol Nustad, Production Manager