

## Education Class Handbook

Applause!

### Contact Information

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Facebook page [www.facebook.com/MCTEducationDepartment](https://www.facebook.com/MCTEducationDepartment)

### Applause! Players Overview

Applause! Players class is offered for students on the autism spectrum. Since theatre by nature is social, collaborative, and a form of play, our goal is to use theatre skills as a tool to help students with autism in the areas of social interaction and communication. The Applause! Players class uses theatre games, pantomime, storytelling and visual arts to develop social skills, collaborate with instructors and peers, and develop leadership skills while working together in a creative based classroom setting.

### General Information

Applause! Players classes meet in the Education classrooms located in the basement of Midland Community Theatre, which is set up with color blocks and low lighting to assist students in maintaining a personal level of comfort in a new social setting. It is important to note that students may participate in art as well as physical activities during class. Be sure to dress appropriately.

### Class Schedule

Applause! Players classes meet weekly on Wednesdays (from 4:15 PM to 5:15 PM for younger students, from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM for older students) during the school year, culminating in a final showcase of skills in April as part of Autism Awareness Month.

### Drop Off and Pick Up Information

The Blakemore Classroom serves as our entrance into Education Classrooms. It is located on the east side of the basement at MCT. It can be accessed through the outdoor amphitheatre and the outside glass doors. Please accompany your child to the classroom on the first day of class to meet their instructors. If a parent will be staying to observe (see Observation Policy), they may walk their child into the classroom and check them in for each class day. If a parent is not staying to observe, you must accompany your child to the classroom if their safety warrants (this is determined on a case by case basis); otherwise you may drop students off via the pull through drive located on the east side of the building. If you need elevator access to our classrooms, you may enter through the lobby doors and cross to the south side of the building to find the elevator. Our Blakemore classroom is straight down the hall once you get off the elevator. Please let us know if you need access to the elevator so we can make sure the lobby doors are unlocked (if needing access after 5:00 PM). Someone will be in the classroom 10 minutes prior to the start of class. At the end of class, parents are required to pick up their child in the classroom as students will not be dismissed until their parent or guardian has come to check them out of class.

### **Observation Policy and Separation Anxiety**

For Applause! Players classes, parents may be asked to stay and observe classes on a case by case basis depending on the unique special needs of their child. If you choose to register for Applause! classes, we will expect an open dialogue with parents so we can serve the special needs of each student to the best of our ability.

### **Parent Observation Day**

On the last class day of the school year session, parents, family members and guests may come to share activities the class has been working on during class time. Each year this process is different based on the class curriculum and what theatre tools are used to reach our class goals. The observation day may include theatre gaming, a dance and movement or music piece, a short film, or a staged performance, to name a few. Please note that after Parent Observation Day students are still required to follow our Pick Up protocol where a parent or guardian checks out with instructors before leaving with their child.

### **Absences and Late Arrivals**

Families are expected to bring students to class on time. Please inform your child's instructor in advance of any necessary absences during the session when possible. Each class builds on skills and activities from previous classes, so a student benefits more from the class if they are present for all meeting times.

### **Inclement Weather**

If MISD has **closed** schools due to weather, the Education Department will likely not hold classes that day. Information about class cancellations will be posted on our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/MCTEducationDepartment](http://www.facebook.com/MCTEducationDepartment).

Note, this policy applies to inclement weather only as MCT often holds classes when MISD is not in session due to student holidays, teacher workdays or student early release days.

### **Wellness Policy**

In order to maintain a healthy environment for our campers, we ask that a child not come to Education Department classes with

- A fever of more than 100° in the past 24 hours.
- Persistent or heavy cough.
- Green/yellow mucus from eyes or nose.
- Sore throat.
- Stomach ache accompanied by vomiting or diarrhea.
- Contagious rash of any type.

## **Class Discipline**

Below is our standard discipline policy which covers most of our education programs. However, Applause! Players may require communication earlier within this protocol to determine the best plan for the special needs student.

### Standard Discipline Policy

Inappropriate behavior during class will result in the following course of action:

1. Student receives a verbal warning.
2. Student will be asked to sit out of the activity until the teacher invites the student to return to participate.
3. Student will be asked to leave class and report to the Education Office. The student may return to class once the problem has been resolved.
4. The Education staff and parent may determine a plan for further action if the behavior persists.

## **Special Needs**

The Education Department will note any medical conditions or allergies a student may have. For more information regarding additional special needs, contact the Education Office.

## **Further Questions**

If you do not see the answer to a question regarding classes at Midland Community Theatre, check the FAQs and Programs sections of the website. You may also contact the Education Office for more information.