



2026-2027 Handbook

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First in Fort Worth Theatre Education

WHAT IS CASA MAÑANA SCHOOL FOR MUSICAL THEATRE?

OUR HISTORY

In 1936, Amon G. Carter began making plans for the large amphitheater known as Casa Mañana. In 1958, Casa Mañana Theatre was completed as the famous aluminum-domed theatre known today. Arts programming was expanded in 1962 when Casa Mañana's Theatre School opened to train children in the performing arts. After more than 55 years in operation, Casa Mañana School for Musical Theatre is a nationally recognized program. The studio is listed first in regional theatre training programs for young performers by backstage.com. The studios operate year-round with fall and FALL sessions, Camp Casa, Camp Casa Jr, and the Apprentice Program.

Casa Mañana School for Musical Theatre combines over a half century of educational theatre experience with the standards of a professional Equity theatre to give all students an opportunity to grow and learn within one of the most recognized theatres in the Southwest. Casa Mañana was first in theatrical training in the DFW area and remains a premiere program for young artists today.

OUR BELIEFS

Casa Mañana School for Musical Theatre is committed to creating an exceptional artistic learning experience for all students. We strive to empower young artists with the skills essential to life both on and off-stage.

OUR GOALS

Casa Mañana School for Musical Theatre's vision is to ensure a comprehensive creative education that is accessible and inclusive to everyone. We are committed to removing any barriers or gatekeeping to provide all learners with a dynamic theatrical experience. We are driven to improve students' lives and create meaningful relationships for the future of all North Texas' Arts.

OUR VALUES

Casa Mañana School for Musical Theatre believes that everyone has the right to navigate the world safely and confidently. We must all work together to encourage sympathy, create empathy, and find kindness. Our students, patrons, and community deserve better. Casa Mañana School for Musical Theatre is committed to the action of doing better.

At Casa Mañana School for Musical Theatre, we value:

UNITY

We are committed to encouraging a feeling of togetherness and a sense of belonging.

EQUITY

We are committed to ensuring everyone can share and celebrate themselves comfortably and equally.

DIVERSITY

We are committed to empowering everyone with the tools to express their own unique story.

ACCESSIBILITY

We are committed to making our spaces and services inclusive and welcoming for individuals of all abilities.

Wherever we educate, we also learn. Whenever we speak, we also listen. Whenever we perform, we also connect with the greater community. Casa Mañana School for Musical Theatre is comprised of educators, artists, and fellow humans. We value a safe, welcoming, and culturally conscious environment for every child and their family.



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WHY CHOOSE CASA MAÑANA SCHOOL FOR MUSICAL THEATRE?

When you choose Casa Mañana School for Musical Theatre for your child's creative arts education, they benefit from a well-established program rich in experience, exploration, and engagement located in the heart of Fort Worth's Cultural District. Casa Mañana believes that creative learning, accessible opportunities, and community participation are key in keeping the tradition of North Texas Theatre thriving. Our education program strives to engage all students and their families to explore the arts in a welcoming and inclusive environment.

Casa Mañana School for Musical Theatre provides:

- Creative exploration and education in all areas of theatrical performance for all students.
- Competitive and highly skilled training for young performers interested in a professional career.
- A diverse teaching pool of trained, experienced, and professional artists.
- Exposure to leading theatre professionals through our masterclass programs.
- Individualized student-led pathways through a range of classes ensuring a competent arts education.
- Opportunities to appear on the Casa Mañana mainstage through educational experiences and TYA programs.
- Commitment to our staff; Casa Mañana provides wages and benefits that recognize our instructor's talents, time, and contributions to our studio.

Casa Mañana School for Musical Theatre Teaching Artists are:

- Professional theatre artists with years of onstage and in-class experience.
- Highly trained in their unique fields of study.
- Able to offer a diversity of ideas, thoughts & backgrounds.
- Can provide students with a genuine connection and familiarization to the industry.

Casa Mañana School for Musical Theatre opportunities include:

- Class and Camp performances under the dome.
- Competitive and comprehensive training programs headed by nationally recognized theatre experts.
- Special consideration for Casa Mañana performance opportunities.
- Discounts and advance tickets to Casa Mañana Broadway and TYA Series.
- Connections to union and non-union theatres throughout North Texas.
- Mentorships and genuine relationships with leading artistic professionals.
- Advance notice of Casa Mañana auditions, news, and information.
- Early access to our summer camp registration.



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CASA MAÑANA SCHOOL FOR MUSICAL THEATRE EXPECTATIONS

At Casa Mañana School for Musical Theatre, students can expect to be held at a high standard and:

- To be respected and give respect to others.
- To be a good team player.
- To be on time for class every day.
- To be safe.
- To take ownership of their own educational process.

At Casa Mañana School for Musical Theatre, our education team can expect:

- To be respected and give respect to others.
- To be safe.
- To be given full focus and engagement by their students while in class.
- To be fully supported by Casa Mañana and studio families.

Casa Mañana Expectations

- There will be no cell phones or any other electronic distractions while at the studios for any reason.
- Students can attend CMSMT as young as 4 years old, all students entering CMSMT must be fully potty-trained. If a student does not meet this requirement, they may be removed from classes and no refund will be issued.
- There is no filming of other students or staff at any time. If in the extreme case a student engages in this behavior, they will be immediately removed from class. Parents will be notified to pick up their child. If the issue continues, the student will be removed from the studios, and no refund will be issued.
- There will be no inappropriate language, hate speech, or gestures in the studio. If in the extreme case a student engages in these behaviors, they will be immediately removed from class. Parents will be notified to pick up their child. If this issue persists, the student will be removed from the studios, and no refund will be issued.
- There will be no eating or chewing gum during class. **DO NOT BRING ANY TYPE OF PEANUTS TO CLASS!**
- Only waters bottles or cups with a lid are permitted in the studios. Please bring YOUR OWN water bottle to class, we do **not** have cups to hand out. We do have water to refill your bottles though.
- All personal items are personal responsibility. Casa Mañana is not responsible for any lost or misplaced items. Casa Mañana School for Musical Theatre reserves the right to have our Teaching Artists confiscate all items which cause disruptions. These objects will be returned to **PARENTS/GUARDIANS ONLY** at the end of class.

CMSMT Dress Expectations

- Closed-toe shoes are required. NO Crocs.
- Students should be *“dressed to move and or dance.”* Clothing can be comfortable, yet not prohibitive for stretching.
 - No short shorts, no crop tops, no jeans, etc.
 - Jeans are okay for Acting classes only.
- Hair pulled back away from face.
- No jewelry.

Behavior Expectations

The well-being of our staff, students, and families is the heart of Casa Mañana School for Musical Theatre. It is expected that those in the studios will engage with others in a safe and respectful manner. That stated, Casa Mañana employs a two-strike behavior policy.

- **1st Offense:** The Education Office is contacted by the teacher and parents are called. A discussion between student, staff, and parents will occur and a plan of action will be decided on.
- **2nd Offense:** The Education Office contacts the parents to pick up their child. The student will not be permitted to return to the class. If the behavior continues, the student will be removed from the studios, and no refund will be issued.

In extreme cases, Casa Mañana reserves the right to remove students who violate studios expectations from the premises at any time. In such cases, parents will be contacted immediately to retrieve their child. The student will not be permitted to return to the studios and no refund will be issued.

CASA MAÑANA SCHOOL FOR MUSICAL THEATRE POLICIES

Payments & Payment Plans

- We accept Master Card, Visa, American Express, Discover, or Check (made out to Casa Mañana Inc.). There is a \$25.00 fee for returned checks.
- For your convenience, we also offer payment plans. The payment plan is available for those using a credit/debit card only; we will automatically charge your card on the dates given at checkout.
- Tuition is due in full at the time of registration or can be divided into three or five payments. The payment plan includes the \$25.00 non-refundable registration fee and is only available for those paying with a credit/debit card. Subsequent payments will automatically be charged to your credit/debit card on the dates given at checkout.
- All tuition must be paid in full by **November 20, 2026** for the Fall semester classes and by **April 20, 2027** for the FALL semester classes.

Fall Semester & Year Long Class Refund Policy

- A full refund will be issued for classes canceled due to low enrollment.
- All class registration cancellations are subjected to a \$25 registration fee and a \$75 cancellation fee. **These fees are non-negotiable.**
- Registrations cancelled on or before August 3, 2026 will be issued a full refund, minus the \$75 cancellation fee and the \$25 registration fee.
- Registrations cancelled on or after August 10, 2026 from the start date will only receive a refund, minus the \$25 registration fee and the \$75 cancellation fee, **if** their spot can be filled.
- There are absolutely no refunds after August 17, 2026.
- If you enroll in a payment plan and choose to cancel, **your remaining balance is still due according to your payment plan and the refund policy.**

Spring Semester Refund Policy

- A full refund will be issued for classes canceled due to low enrollment.
- All class registration cancellations are subjected to a \$25 registration fee and a \$75 cancellation fee. **These fees are non-negotiable.**
- Registrations cancelled on or before **December 28, 2026** will be issued a full refund, minus the \$75 cancellation fee and the \$25 registration fee.
- Registrations cancelled on or after **January 4, 2027** from the start date will only receive a refund, minus the \$25 registration fee and the \$75 cancellation fee, **if** their spot can be filled.
- There are absolutely no refunds after **January 11, 2027.**
- If you enroll in a payment plan and choose to cancel, **your remaining balance is still due according to your payment plan and the refund policy.**

Absences

No child will be penalized for missing class due to illness. For the health and safety of our staff and students, please do not come to class if you are unwell. If you have a class conflict, please notify the Education Office as soon as possible by emailing them at education@casamanana.org. For classes with final performances, numerous absences may result in diminished participation in the performance.

****Please see specific contracts for performance-based classes****

Inclement Weather and Cancellations

We will not have class if Fort Worth ISD is closed due to inclement weather. No refunds or make-up classes will be scheduled if classes are cancelled for weather related issues.

Open Door Policy

Casa Mañana always welcomes parents to the studios! However, we ask that you understand our students' need for uninterrupted class time. Parents are asked to wait in the studio lobby during class.

CASA MAÑANA SCHOOL FOR MUSICAL THEATRE PROCEDURES

Student Drop-Off/Pick-Up Procedure.

- Enter from W. Lancaster Avenue into the Casa Mañana's parking lot. Drive through the main parking lot for drop off at the Rehearsal Studio located behind the dome. Exit from Casa Mañana onto University Dr. You can return to the main parking lot by exiting onto university then turning back to Lancaster.
- Staff will be outside the studio/theater to direct students. You can **ONLY** park in the main parking lot and walk your student(s) to the studios. **DO NOT PARK IN ANY NAMED SPOTS OR IN FRONT OF THE STUDIOS** or on the left side of the street between the dome and rehearsal studio, as these are reserved for staff, or are fire lanes. **You may be towed if you park in a named spot or a fire lane.**
- If you choose to wait for your student(s) during class, you may park in the main parking lot. Please use the car line for pick-up and drop-off outside the rehearsal studio.
- If you utilize the car line, please use **ONE LANE** closest to the studio, there should **NEVER** be a second lane at **ANY TIME**. **Creating a second lane creates a safety hazard for students and staff.** Please be patient in the car line, even if you have *already* dropped off your student. Do **NOT** make a second lane.
 - **Arrival:** Do not enter the car line more than 5 minutes before your child's class begins or ends. Please wait in the MAIN parking lot until that time.
 - **Drop-off:** Students may only be dropped off within 10 minutes before class starts — there will be no adult supervision earlier than that. CMSMT is not responsible for your students before that.
 - **Pick-up:** Please be prompt when picking up your child at the end of class.
 - If you are late picking up, our staff will phone the contact number(s) provided. Late pick up fees will be applied after 5 minutes late. Please be mindful of unknown callers during this time and answer all calls.

Failure to follow any of the above procedures, your student will be removed from class without refund.



CASA MAÑANA SCHOOL FOR MUSICAL THEATRE FAQ

(Got questions? We got answers.)

How can my child perform under the dome?

We get it. Casa Mañana has grown into the largest performing arts organization in Tarrant County. Today, the dome houses a very active professional performance schedule. Due to these time commitments, **not every educational opportunity available includes a full stage performance.** However, at Casa Mañana School for Musical Theatre we strive to bring a bit of that theatre magic to everyone. Students can perform onstage with our Spotlight Series, Apprentice Program, Camp Casa High School and Camp Casa.

What is the All-Abilities Program?

This is a performance-based learning environment specifically for students with special care needs. Performers of all-abilities are given the tools and opportunity to learn, grow, and explore their talents.

What is the Apprentice Company Spotlight Class?

Casa Mañana's critically acclaimed Apprentice Company Spotlight Class is the most advanced musical theatre training for middle and high school students. This audition-based year-long program connects students in grades 8th-12th with professional teaching artists. Professional teaching artists instruct students to focus on both technique and performance. Throughout the semester students will also have the chance to learn from guest instructors – industry professionals working in the field; learning auditioning, college preparation, acting, singing and dance technique and more. Students will receive special consideration in casting for Casa Mañana productions AND early access to masterclasses. At the end of each semester, students demonstrate their skills on the Mainstage at our Spotlight Showcase.

Can my child audition for Casa Mañana Broadway & TYA Shows?

YES! We want Casa kids onstage-only not every production is the right fit for our students. Casa Mañana is the largest Equity house in Tarrant County with a nationally recognized performance venue. Unlike smaller local theaters, Casa routinely casts professional talent from all over the United States to ensure the expected quality of our productions. This means there is considerable competition and commitment when casting youth performers. Casa Mañana also adheres to all Equity and professional union guidelines. Check out our Auditions for our Mainstage and TYA Shows here - <https://casamanana.org/auditions/>.

How many classes are in a semester?

Each semester is 12 classes.

Why does Casa Mañana School for Musical Theatre have hiatus weeks?

Hiatus weeks happen when a mainstage production is utilizing all space available within the studio. All curriculum and productions are scheduled with these breaks in mind. Your child will still receive a strong arts education.

Is there financial aid available?

YES! Casa Mañana School for Musical Theatre is happy to offer financial assistance to all families who want to participate in our classes and camps. **No student should have financial hardship stand in the way of a quality arts education.** More information on scholarships can be found on our website.

What does my child need to bring to class?

Please bring a Journal, Pencil, and Highlighter to the Acting and Apprentice Company Spotlight classes.

Please bring a Pencil and your folder to the Spotlight classes. Folders will be provided to all students by CMSMT.

What should my child wear to class?

Acting, Acting Performance, Creative Studios classes: Please wear something you can move in and are comfortable in. Closed-toed shoes only. Preferably tennis shoes or dance shoes. Jeans are fine for these classes.

Spotlight, Dance classes and Musical Theatre classes: Please wear dance clothes; leggings, dance shorts/skorts, t-shirt, tennis shoes/jazz shoes. *Please do not wear crocs, open-toed shoes, skirts, short shorts or crop tops to any class.*

Important Information and Schedules

2026 Fall Class Schedule

Week	Class Date	Class Information
	August 20	Open House in the Studios at 5pm!
1	Aug 24-28	First week of classes!
2	Aug 31-Sept 4	
3	Sept 7-11	
4	Sept 14-18	
Sept 21-25 – HIATUS WEEK – NO CLASSES! (Mainstage Rehearsals)		
5	Sept 28-Oct 2	
6	Oct 5-9	
7	Oct 12-16	
8	Oct 19-23	
Oct 26-30 – HIATUS WEEK – NO CLASSES! (Mainstage Rehearsals)		
9	Nov 2-6	
10	Nov 9-13	
Nov 16-20 – HIATUS WEEK – NO CLASSES! (Mainstage Rehearsals)		
Nov 23-27 – THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASSES!		
11	Nov 30-Dec 4	
12	Dec 7-11	Final week of classes: This week will consist of in-class Presentations for Creative Adventures, Explorers Club, Dance, Acting, Vocal & Homeschool classes. (more specific information to come from the teacher)
Thursday, December 10		The Acting Performance class will perform their One Act Play on the stage at 5:30pm . (more specific information to come)
Friday, December 11		The Apprentice class, Spotlight classes, Company Dance class & All Abilities only rehearsal TBD Rehearsal time in the Evening .
Monday, December 14 Fall Showcase & Rehearsal Featuring Apprentice class, Company Dance, Spotlight & All Abilities only		Apprentice class rehearsal 5-6pm Apprentice, Company Dance, Spotlight classes & All Abilities rehearsal 6-7pm Showcase at 7:30pm

CMSMT Facebook Parent Group

Stay connected and join our CMSMT Facebook group! We will be posting information on class updates, performances, audition opportunities, and so much more! Click the link below to join. To join, you **must answer all the membership questions**. This is to keep this group safe and for CMSMT families only. [JOIN HERE!](#)

2027 Spring Class Schedule

Week	Class Date	Class Information
	January 14	New Parent Zoom Meeting at 5:30pm!
1	Jan 18-22	First week of classes!
2	Jan 25-29	
3	Feb 1-5	
4	Feb 8-12	
Feb 15-19 – HIATUS WEEK – NO CLASSES! (Mainstage Rehearsals)		
5	Feb 22-26	
6	Mar 1-5	
7	March 8-12	
March 15-19 – SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES!		
8	March 22-26	
9	March 29-April 2	
10	April 5-9	
11	April 12-16	
12	April 19-23	Final week of classes: This week will consist of in-class Presentations for Creative Adventures, Explorers Club, Dance, Acting, Vocal & Homeschool classes. (more specific information to come from the teacher)
Thursday, April 22		The Acting Performance class will perform their One Act Play on the stage at 5:30pm . (more specific information to come)
TBD		All Abilities Rehearsal 4-6pm
Monday, April 26		The Apprentice class, Spotlight classes, Company Dance class & All Abilities only rehearsal TBD Rehearsal time in the Evening.
Tuesday, April 27 Fall Showcase & Rehearsal Featuring Apprentice class, Company Dance, Spotlight & All Abilities only		All Abilities at 5pm Showcase at 7:30pm

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

(Please add the information below to your contact list.)

The Education Department

education@casamanana.org

Our main communication line, all our emails will come from this email
817-321-5040

Kelsey Dahlke, Director of Education

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