

St. Celestine School Board Student Club Spotlight

Mrs. Murray Reflects on Her 15th Year of Fostering Theater Experiences



Club History and Membership

I have been involved since the beginning. In 2003, a former student, Fr. Dominic Clemente, approached Mr. Kamptner and asked about starting a Drama Club. Mr. Kamptner mentioned it at a faculty meeting, and I was all on board. Mr. Kamptner and I were moderators for many years, and now Ms. McNulty and I are moderators for the club.

Students in 6th-8th Grade can join. We have an initial meeting, and then we hold auditions in early September. Students are given a monologue booklet and prepare a

3- to 5-minute monologue for their audition. We have always offered a part to everyone that has auditioned, be it a big part or a small part. Some students ask for a small part because they are a bit nervous at first. The part they are given is based on their audition. I feel that every student who wants to be in the cast or crew should be able to be part of our group. We rehearse every Thursday after school until our play in December.

Students who want to work behind the scenes can join the crew. They create sets and get props. Some students are also part of the running crew while the play is being performed. Crew meets twice on month on Tuesdays after school. Ms. McNulty, Mrs. Bass, and I run the crew.

Students involved in cast or crew pay a \$5 fee. This is used toward set materials, costumes, and anything else we need, with an ice cream cast/crew party at the end.

Planning a Performance

Ms. McNulty and I choose the plays. Sometimes it takes time to find a play that is appropriate for all grade levels and has a part for everyone who auditions, but we always find a play that works. We have a subscription to *Plays Magazine* so we can use those plays without paying any royalties.

I enjoy seeing our students get excited at rehearsals and have fun together. It is wonderful to see how it all comes together at the end. I really enjoy seeing the students in the audience laugh and enjoy things that they see on stage, and I know the cast members do, too!

2017's Production

Our December play is called *The Case of the Bewitched Books*. A witch, an evil queen, and two stepsisters put a spell on some traditional fairy tales and things are completely changed. It is a short play of about 20 minutes. We always have two performances, one for the younger grades, and one for the upper grades.

I performed in plays during high school and college. I had many wonderful experiences in the theater and truly enjoyed every minute of performing in various plays and musicals. I am happy to be able to bring that experience to the students of St. Celestine.