

Firefly Creative Educational Classes

Parent Handbook – Fall 2025



Welcome to Firefly Creative's Friday homeschool program! We're so excited to have your student join us for a semester of theatre, teamwork, and growth. This handbook is designed to give you a clear picture of how class will run, what to expect, and how to support your child through the process. Please read carefully and keep for reference throughout the semester.

CLASS OVERVIEW

Program: *The Music Man Jr.*

Day/Time: Fridays, 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

No Class: October 17th (Fall Break), November 7th & November 28 (Thanksgiving)

Location: Riveroaks Reformed Presbyterian Church

1665 S Germantown Rd.

Germantown, TN 38138

Contact Information:

- Executive Director: Oakley Weddle
- Email: oakleyrweddle@gmail.com
- Alternative Email: oakley@memphisfirefly.org
- Website: www.memphisfirefly.org

MEET THE TEACHER

OAKLEY WEDDLE has spent more than 15 years working in children's theatre, directing and producing shows across West Tennessee and helping young performers grow in confidence, skill, and creativity. In 2019, he launched the theatre program at Anchor Cottage Tutorial that gave birth to the idea of Firefly Creative. Since launching in 2024, Firefly has performed for more than 6,000 audience members and worked with over 100 kids.

A graduate of the University of Memphis with degrees in Public Relations and Strategic Media, Oakley brings both artistic vision and professional expertise to his work. His teaching style emphasizes collaboration, leadership, and treating kids like professionals—giving them the chance to take ownership of their work on stage while building life-long skills.

Alongside his theatre work, Oakley is an adjunct professor at the University of Memphis and serves as the executive director of 21 Ministries, a new religious organization dedicated to helping Christian ministries find their footing and haven.

He founded Firefly Creative to make theatre more accessible and impactful for kids in the Mid-South, believing in the power of stories to transform lives—one musical at a time.



SCHEDULE

Every Friday, students will rehearse from **9:00 AM – 12:30 PM**. Each rehearsal will include a combination of acting, singing, and movement. As the semester progresses, we'll move from learning material to staging, refining, and preparing for performance.

Sample Weekly Flow:

- **9:00 – 9:15** Arrival, warm-ups, announcements
- **9:15 – 10:15** Music and vocal rehearsal
- **10:15 – 10:30** Snack break
- **10:30 – 11:15** Choreography/movement
- **11:15 – 12:15** Blocking & scene work
- **12:15 – 12:30** Wrap-up and dismissal

Important Dates:

- **November 14** – Mandatory Performance Preview during Firefly Fall Fundraiser (Rain date: November 21)
- **December 6, 5:00 PM** – Final Performance of *The Music Man Jr.* and Disney's Dare to Dream Jr. (our Saturday class!)

No Class:

- ◆ October 17th (Fall Break)
- ◆ November 7th
- ◆ November 28 (Thanksgiving)

FIREFLY FALL FUNDRAISER

Our **Fall Fundraiser** is one of the highlights of the semester! On **Friday, November 14**, all Firefly students (Friday and Saturday classes) will perform preview selections from their shows as part of this community event.

- **Location:** 9920 Humphrey Rd., Cordova, TN (the original home of Firefly Creative and the site of Anchor Cottage Co-op's annual outdoor productions).
- **Performance:** Students from *The Music Man Jr.* will perform selections for family, friends, and community supporters.
- **Timeframe:** Event runs from approximately 4:00–8:00 PM.
- **Rain Date:** November 21.
- **Details:** Additional event details will be distributed closer to the date.
- **Attendance:** This event is **mandatory**. If your child cannot attend, please notify Oakley ASAP via email.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Because *The Music Man Jr.* is an ensemble show, every student's presence matters. Attendance is expected weekly.

- Please notify us at least **three weeks in advance** of any known absences.

- After Thanksgiving, when we enter final rehearsals, absences will only be excused for illness or emergencies.
- Missing the **final class period and performance** is only excusable in cases of sickness or tragedy. We want every student to experience the magic of live theatre!
- Repeated absences may result in adjusted stage time.

DROP-OFF & PICK-UP

Drop-off and pick-up will take place at Riveroaks under the side portico.

- When you enter Riveroaks from Germantown Parkway, drive straight ahead to the **side of the building**.
- You will see a **portico section** where Firefly staff will be stationed for check-in and check-out.
- **Check-out Procedure:** Every student must be checked out by a parent/guardian showing photo ID. Only those listed on the **approved pickup list** (submitted at registration) will be allowed to pick up a student.
- If someone arrives who is **not on the approved list** or is on the **not approved list**, a Firefly staff member will immediately call the parent for confirmation before releasing the student.
- To add someone to your approved pickup list, please email oakleyrweddle@gmail.com.

SNACKS

- Students should bring a **snack** and a **refillable water bottle** each week.
- No lunch is required.
- Please send snacks that do not require refrigeration or heating.
- We encourage healthy, mess-free snacks to keep energy up for rehearsals.
- Food delivery services (Uber Eats, DoorDash, etc.) are not permitted.

OPEN REHEARSAL POLICY

At Firefly, we want parents to see not just the final product but also the process. **All rehearsals are open to parents.**

We encourage every parent to attend at least one class during the semester to see what Firefly is teaching your kids—how we approach acting, teamwork, and creativity. Watching rehearsal is a wonderful way to understand your child's growth and the professional approach we take to theatre education.

HEALTH & SAFETY

- Please do not send students to class if they are sick.
- If your child is sick, please email Oakley before class begins to let us know.
- In case of emergency, 911 will be called immediately, and parents will be notified.
- Any medication must be self-administered by the student. Staff may supervise but cannot administer.

BELONGINGS & LOST & FOUND

Students should only bring items they need for rehearsal. Firefly is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged belongings.

- Firefly will maintain a **lost and found box** for misplaced items.
- Items will be held for **14 days only** before being donated or discarded.

Phones: Phones should only be brought if necessary and must remain in the student's bag throughout rehearsal. Phones may not be used during class unless in the case of an emergency. Use of phones for non-emergencies may result in contacting parents.

AUDITIONS & CASTING

- Auditions will take place in class. Students do **not** need to prepare material in advance.
- Students will participate in both group and individual exercises covering acting, singing, and dancing.
- Every student will have an important role in the show. However, it's possible some students will not have speaking lines.
- Casting decisions are made by Executive Director Oakley Weddle and are **final**.
- Cast lists will be emailed after auditions.
- Negative reactions to casting will not be tolerated and may result in removal from class.

COSTUMES & CLOTHING

- Students will be provided with a **Firefly Music Man Jr. show shirt** for the final performance.
- Families may be asked to provide basic costume pieces such as black pants or jeans or a specific type of shoe. Specific requests will be communicated closer to performance and within enough time for you to prepare.
- Each week, students should wear **comfortable rehearsal clothes** suitable for movement.
- Closed-toe shoes (sneakers preferred) are required. Sandals, flip-flops, and heels are not allowed.

PERFORMANCE & TICKETS

- **Final Performance:** Saturday, December 6 at 5 PM at Riveroaks Reformed Presbyterian Church
- **Tickets:** Each family will receive six tickets. Additional tickets may be purchased at the door for \$5 each.
- **Recording:** A professional video recording will be available.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

At Firefly, we treat kids like professionals. Students are expected to:

- Learn and **know their dances, lines, staging, and music.**
- Practice at home to make the show better for the whole ensemble.
- Respect directors, staff, and peers.
- Stay focused and engaged during rehearsal.
- Support the ensemble with kindness and encouragement.

If an issue arises that cannot be resolved by staff, a parent will be contacted. Persistent disruptive behavior or any violent actions may result in dismissal from class.

For any behavioral incident or injury, a Parent Report will be issued at pick-up. It must be signed and returned.

PHOTO & LIABILITY WAIVER

By registering, families agreed to the following:

- **Photo Release:** Firefly Creative may take and use photos/videos of your child for promotional purposes (website, social media, flyers, etc.).
- **Assumption of Risk:** Theatre includes physical activity. Firefly takes precautions but is not liable for injuries except in cases of gross negligence.
- **Belongings:** Firefly is not responsible for lost or damaged items.

CANCELLATION POLICY

At this point, no refunds will be issued except in cases of illness, severe weather emergencies, or family loss. Please reach out directly if circumstances arise.

FIREFLY POLICIES

This handbook covers the basics for Fall 2025. Firefly maintains a full list of policies on our website. Please visit:

👉 www.memphisfirefly.org/policies

FINAL NOTES

We're honored to guide your child through this semester of music, movement, and storytelling. Thank you for trusting Firefly with their growth—we can't wait to share *The Music Man Jr.* with you in December!