

2026 Fall Musical Audition and Show Information



DreamWorks' *How To Train Your Dragon The Musical JR.* is open to Tulare County students in **1st-12th grade** as of Fall 2026 and will perform at LJ Williams Theater **November 19-21, 2026**. See the tentative rehearsal schedule for more information.

Each day of auditions will cover three disciplines: singing, acting, and dancing! **Auditions are held at TCOE's Planetarium & Science Center 11575 Ave. 264 in Visalia.** See guidelines on the next page.

Grades 6-12 Audition Day

- Tuesday, August 11, 2026
- Check-in begins at 4:00 p.m. with auditions for everyone starting at 4:30 p.m.**

Grades 1-6* Audition Day

- Wednesday, August 12, 2026
- Check-in begins at 4:00 p.m. with auditions for everyone starting at 4:30 p.m.**

Dragons Dance Callback Day

- *By invitation only for 4th-12th graders who completed their previous grade-level audition day.*
- Thursday, August 13, 2026
- Check-in begins at 4:00 p.m. with callbacks starting at 4:30 p.m.**

**6th grade students may choose which audition day to attend based on their interest and fall scheduling availability. Students interested in the traditional fall "Youth" track of Wednesday and Friday rehearsals should audition on Wednesday, August 12.*

***The end time for the first three days is impossible to announce because we do not know how many people will show up to audition. In the past, it has been around 7:30 p.m. We will communicate with parents/guardians about pick-up times via the BAND App group that you will join at check-in.*

Last Chance and Main Callbacks Day

- Saturday, August 15, 2026
 - o 8:30-9:30 a.m. **Last Chance Auditions** for all grades.
 - o 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (end time is an estimate) **Callbacks** by invitation only.

If you have a conflict with any audition dates, please reach out to charlotteg@tcoe.org by August 7, 2026 to see if there is anything that can be done to accommodate you.

Audition Guidelines and Tips

Everyone must participate in all three disciplines (vocal, acting, dance) to be considered for casting.

The directors and audition panel fully understand that students have strengths and weaknesses and varying levels of experience and confidence in the three disciplines. Do not count yourself out because you consider yourself a weak dancer or, alternatively, have little experience singing. Just try your best and learn from the experience, no matter what happens. We believe in you and are cheering you on!

Auditions and callbacks are closed to parents/guardians.

Auditioning for a fall show differs from a TCOE summer show, so read on for more information.

- All students will audition with the same song and dialogue (this is called a cattle call audition). We will provide you with the song selection and dialogue excerpt. These selections will be made available on our website by the end of July. At that time, go to our callboard at tcoe.org/theatreco/callboard to find those materials and practice with them.
- We will review the song and dialogue as a group before we call you up individually to audition.
- You will be taught the dance combination on-site. We will go through it several times together, then you will be divided into smaller groups to audition in front of the panel.
- Wear dancewear or fitted athletic attire that you can jump, kick, roll, etc., in comfortably. Fitted sweatpants and a fitted t-shirt will work fine! Bring your ballet/jazz or athletic shoes and pull your hair securely off your face.

Callbacks Information

There will be invitation-only callbacks for students that we wish to see more from. At the end of the audition, we will be letting students know if they will be invited to callbacks OR we will be sending out an email to students. Your email must be legible on your audition form!

If your student is invited to callbacks, they may have some additional music to learn to sing and/or another dance combination to learn independently and have ready to perform. We will briefly review these additional songs or dances on the day of callbacks as a quick warm-up. Getting familiar with the show in advance always helps the callback process.

PRO TIP: If we give you callback material early, look at it and know it. We don't expect you to be memorized, but we want to see your faces out of your scripts as much as possible, whether singing or acting. We can tell how much time you have spent on it when you come to callbacks.

Always remember, just because you didn't get a callback doesn't mean you didn't get cast or didn't get a role. Check the cast list for that! Callbacks are for those we want to see more from or learn more about.

Casting Information

After callbacks, the directing team casts the show. We evaluate all of our gathered information from the students' auditions, and based on our audition turnout, we place students in the groups or roles that they are ready for. A lot of effort goes into making sure we are giving each student a role they can learn, grow, and feel great performing in! We want to inspire their talents in an achievable way that nurtures their confidence and abilities. The cast list is posted on our website callboard the day after callbacks.

Parent/Guardian Commitments

Financial Commitments

PLEASE NOTE: Scholarships and financial support are always available. Do not let this section deter you from participating. Please email bethany.rader@tcoe.org for more information.

- \$85 tuition fee that goes toward the cost of producing the show. This also includes one souvenir show t-shirt per student.
- Performers will be asked to provide their own specified show shoes, specific costuming undergarments, hair/makeup supplies, and potentially some simple costuming items (e.g., their own white t-shirt). We suggest planning for an additional ~\$100 to cover these supplies.
- There are no complimentary tickets. All audience members must purchase a ticket (~\$17).
- Optional on-site lunch during two-show day (~ \$20 each)
- Optional cast party (~ \$15-\$25)
- Tentative (depending on show licensing) and optional show DVD (~ \$10)
- Requested concessions and water donations (\$25+)

Volunteer Commitments

A parent or guardian of each cast member is asked to volunteer for at least 4 hours.

- Our program survives with the help of our parent/guardian volunteers! Be prepared for calls to help with crafting, sewing, building, painting, cleaning, laundering, chaperoning, etc., throughout the entire process. Costume or set building workdays are usually 2-3 hours each. Chaperoning at one performance is around 4 hours. Taking home one load of laundry counts for 30 minutes. When you register your student, you can select how you would like to volunteer.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to join our Theatre Company Boosters Club. More information will be available once casting is complete. Our Boosters are responsible for our concession stand, ticket taking and ushering, lunches on our two-show days, keepsake show t-shirts, videography and photography, and many other important tasks.

Other Notes

- **Understudies and Swings:** Since returning to live performances after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, TCOE Theatre Company has made it standard practice to have understudies and swings for various roles. Our understudies are not guaranteed a performance and will **only perform if** the person cast in the role is unable to perform due to an emergency, sickness, or injury (which has happened!).
- Understudies will have at least one full run-through rehearsal in the classroom and a possible run-through on stage. Their family will be invited to attend the on-stage rehearsal.
- **Incident Reports:** If a student complains of illness or pain or is injured during rehearsal, the “incident” will be reported to the primary parent/guardian via email if nothing else. This is to ensure that parents/guardians can seek professional medical advice if necessary.

Regarding Conflict Requests

Please **list any and all conflict requests** with the dates and times listed on the Tentative Rehearsal Schedule **on your audition form**. Know that while we try our best to accommodate all your amazing extracurricular activities, your conflict requests may affect your casting. We want this experience to be as stress-free as possible for everyone (including you!), and we want to honor those who are willing to make this project a priority in their lives.

We expect students to attend all required rehearsals unless absences have been approved by the directing team ahead of time and as soon as possible. While we do our best to schedule around pre-approved absences, understand that you are not guaranteed to be included in the scene, song, or dance being taught while you are out.

Three excused absences are allowed during the August 25 - October 30 rehearsal period. We recommend leaving at least one of those excused absences unclaimed as a backup in case something comes up, or you aren't feeling well one day. We also understand that teachers and coaches can add conflicts at the last minute, so having a backup can help with that as well.

While illnesses and unexpected family emergencies are reviewed on a case-by-case basis, **missing more than the three allotted absences may result in your removal** from specific scenes or numbers, or the production entirely.

Remember that unless your conflict for the beginning of November was pre-approved back at auditions, **no new extracurricular/non-graded conflicts are accepted in November**, especially during show week.

Here are our rules and guidelines regarding conflicts:

- By committing to the production, you agree to schedule personal commitments (like vacations, birthday parties, doctors' appointments, etc.) around our rehearsal schedule.
- All conflict requests (like school functions, sports activities, dance classes, etc.) should have been submitted on your audition form.
- We **NEED** to know about unforeseen school-related conflicts **AS SOON AS YOU DO** in order to work with you on them.

- Planned sporting events or fall concerts where venues are reserved like formal dances and big game days are probably already scheduled, or you will know early in the semester. Don't wait until the week of the event to tell us you have to be there and will be missing rehearsal.
- Check in with your teachers, coaches, directors, etc. early and ask them if they already have dates or schedules. Things might already be confirmed but not announced yet. Do your due diligence to find out prior to auditions!
- Just because it is a school-related conflict, doesn't automatically make it an excused absence...we need to discuss it and try to find a workable compromise.
- If the conflict is for a grade, we understand that and will take that into consideration. We will also check in with your teachers to verify.
- If you are in a show at your school at the same time, fantastic! Congratulations! You need to make sure you are communicating our rehearsals as a conflict with them understanding that you committed to our show already. You are responsible for working out a compromise if our rehearsals are at the same time. If your directors/instructors would like to speak with us, we are happy to chat and work with them.

If you have questions about conflicts, please email charlottteg@tcoe.org.

TCOE Theatre Company's Conflict Appeals Policy:

We make a great effort to create a detailed calendar that allows students to only come to rehearsal when we are working on material in which they are involved. For this reason, if a student requests to be absent from a rehearsal or performance date, and if this request was not submitted by callbacks, then the absence may not be excused, and the student may face adverse action including being replaced by another student for the performance and production. Requests for absences received after callbacks may or may not be approved based on the discretion of the directors. In determining whether to grant the request for the absence, the directors shall take into consideration factors including, but not limited to: (1) whether the absence is school-related; and (2) the impact of the absence on the rehearsal process and the rest of the production. If the directors deny the request for an unscheduled absence or absence date change, the student or the parent/guardian may appeal in writing the directors' decision to the County Superintendent or his designee. The appeal to the County Superintendent or his designee must be filed within three (3) business days of the directors' decision to deny the absence. The decision of the County Superintendent or his designee on appeal shall be final.

Notes Regarding the General Rehearsal Schedule

Please see the accompanying TENTATIVE Fall 2026 Rehearsal Schedule

Rehearsals begin in late August and run through mid-November. The fall show typically performs the weekend before Thanksgiving. Below you can find some TENTATIVE details regarding rehearsal schedules. All details are subject to change based on the show.

- Detailed rehearsal calendars with specifics for who is called to which rehearsals will be made available throughout the rehearsal process and will periodically change as needed.
- At the **mandatory cast and parent meeting on Tuesday, August 18** you will meet your fellow cast mates and members of the production team, complete your registration, pay your \$85 tuition, sign up for our communication platform, get measured for your costume, and take home your script and other materials!
- Charlotte and McKenna will communicate directly with leads & features regarding their availability for Bootcamp (vocal, dance, tumble, flying) rehearsals the week of August 25-29.
- The table read on **August 20** is only required for cast members with speaking parts. The entire cast is encouraged to attend if available.
- **Rehearsals will begin on Tuesday, September 1 for Teen Vikings & Dragons and Wednesday, September 2 for Viking Kids.**
- The cast should have all **music memorized by September 18** and all **lines memorized by October 16**. Scripts can no longer be carried after this point.
- At the **mandatory cast and parent meeting on Tuesday, October 27** you will meet with head chaperones, confirm show-week plans, finalize costuming, discuss ticketing protocol, etc.
- Cast may be called for a costume fitting outside of their regularly scheduled rehearsal times.
- All rehearsals will take place at the TCOE Planetarium and Science Center (PSC) at 11535 Ave. 264 in Visalia.
- Remember that unless your conflict for the beginning of November was pre-approved back at auditions, **no new extracurricular/non-graded conflicts are accepted in November**, especially during show week.
- Theatre days are long days! Students should eat a filling and sustaining meal prior to arrival to get them through the run-through. They should bring clean* snacks (for emergencies during the run).
 - *Clean snacks mean food that can be eaten neatly without the possibility of spilling, marking, staining, etc. Examples might include apples, pretzels, raw almonds, celery sticks, and clear water.
 - Snacks that do not fit this criteria include chips and cheesy crackers/snacks (due to grease stains and orange cheese dust), berries, peanut butter, chocolate, candy, etc.
- You can see that our release times once we are in the theatre are late! We may release students earlier than those times and will do our best to communicate plans as we get closer.

- Load-in and strike are mandatory for most cast members and require trucks, trailers, power tools, and elbow grease from our **teens and parent/guardian volunteers**. Please communicate any conflicts on your audition form.

Thank you, and we hope to see you at auditions for *How to Train Your Dragon The Musical JR.*!

TCOE Theatre Company Staff Contacts:

Fall Show Director, Vocal Specialist: Charlotte Garcia Da Rosa, charlottg@tcoe.org

Choreographer and Theatre Co. Support Staff: McKenna Friend-Hoffman, mckenna.hoffman@tcoe.org

Theatre Company Director: Bethany Rader, bethany.rader@tcoe.org