



Tulare County
Office of Education
Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

Mary Poppins Audition Information

For students who will complete 3rd-12th grade this Spring of 2025.

Location: Auditions and callbacks will be held on TCOE's Liberty Campus in the Planetarium and Science Center (PSC) building at 11535 Ave. 264 in Visalia.

Vocal and Acting Audition Day Option 1*: Monday, April 28, 2025

Vocal and Acting Audition Day Option 2*: Tuesday, April 29

**Choose and attend only one day of vocal and acting auditions listed above.*

Grades 6-12 Dance Audition Day: Wednesday, April 30

Grades 3-5 Dance Audition Day: Thursday, May 1

- **Check-in begins each day at 4:00 p.m. The entire group will begin auditions at 4:30 p.m.** The audition form will be available on our website prior to auditions so you can bring it with you, but you will still need to check in on the day of.
- End times for all audition days are impossible to estimate at this time because the number of people who will attend is unknown. Parents/Guardians will sign up for the Remind communication app onsite so we can share when we are wrapping up.
- Tuesday's audition **MUST END** by 7:15 p.m. due to another event. If there are any auditioners left at that point, they will complete their audition on Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. before dance auditions begin.

Everyone must participate in all three disciplines involved in the audition (vocal, acting, and dance) in order 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. There are plenty of roles in every show that are not dance-heavy or don't necessarily have a vocal solo. Just try your best and learn from the experience no matter what happens!

Callbacks: Saturday, May 3

- 9:30 a.m. Tap Callback
- 10:00 a.m. Vocal/Acting Callbacks begin
- Participants will be released from Vocal/Acting callbacks in smaller groups as we learn more. We will communicate with parents/guardians via Remind as we are wrapping up with certain characters. If you are called back for multiple parts or large parts, please plan to work until at least 4:00 p.m. Bring snacks and water. It's a very long but exciting day.

No parents/guardians are permitted in the building during auditions/callbacks. Please plan accordingly.

If you have a scheduling conflict with auditions/callbacks, please reach out to bethany.rader@tcoe.org by April 23 to see if we can accommodate you.

Mary Poppins Audition Instructions and Tips

Vocal and Acting Audition:

You choose your own audition song from a stage or film musical, including animated films, preferably NOT a song from *Mary Poppins*. Select 16 to 32 bars of music (30 to 60 seconds) of the song that you feel most confident about, and that shows off your singing and acting abilities.

Bring the piano sheet music (with the appropriate edits clearly marked) with you to the audition for our piano accompanist. You are not allowed to perform with a pre-recorded backing track or a capella. If you need help with this, email charlotteg@tcoe.org.

You will be given the acting audition scene/slides to review and prepare when you arrive at the audition.

Sing and speak with strong volume, clear words, confident posture, and appropriate expression.

Dance Audition:

Please wear dance attire or athletic/gym/P.E. clothing for your dance audition. You may wear jazz or ballet shoes if you have them. If not, light and flexible sneakers are great. Pull your hair securely off your face. No jeans, dresses, open-toed or slip-on shoes, or hats.

You will be taught the dance combination on-site. We will go through it several times as a group, then you will be divided up into smaller groups for your actual audition. If you have any further questions, email mckenna.hoffman@tcoe.org.

Callbacks:

There will be **invitation-only callbacks in vocals and acting** for students from whom we wish to see more. For this specific show, there will also be a **tap dance callback** for *Step in Time* and other tap sections in the show. Anyone who received a vocal/acting callback for Mary, Bert, Jane, or Michael must participate in the tap callback. The choreographer may also invite some students in grades 6th-12th to the tap dance callback based on their dance audition. Tap shoes are not required. If you do not have tap shoes, you may wear hard-soled shoes without a lot of grip/traction.

We will be giving out any callback materials after each dance audition is complete OR we will be sending out an email to students. **It is VERY important your email is legible on your audition form.**

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

Rehearsal and Show Information for Mary Poppins

*Please review the following so that you may have an idea of the time commitment for this project. **Please list any and all scheduling conflicts on your audition form.** Know that while we try our best to accommodate all your amazing extracurricular activities, your conflicts 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 able and willing to make this project a priority in their lives. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact bethany.rader@tcoe.org*

Cast and Parent Meeting Day

If you are cast in the show, attend this mandatory meeting to mingle with your fellow cast mates and members of the production team, complete your registration, download the Google Drive folders, pay your \$85 tuition, sign up for our communication platform, get measured for your costume, and take home your script and other materials!

- Tuesday, May 13, 2025 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Planetarium (PSC).

Classroom Rehearsals

Please review this information thoroughly so you may accurately and completely list your conflicts on your audition form.

Table Read

- **Tentatively** Monday, May 26 from 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- All leads and featured parts (those with speaking parts) are asked to attend this rehearsal to read and sing through the entire show! Vocal and character development tips will be given as well as talking through the vision for the show. It's a super fun experience!

Vocal Coaching Sessions

- Tuesday-Friday, June 3-6, Charlotte will schedule coaching sessions with leads and vocal features to get a head start on solos, duets, and small group songs. These rehearsals will happen in the afternoons between 2 and 6 p.m. based on student availability.

Classroom Rehearsals

- Begin the week of June 9 using the attached draft schedules. They are different for each grade.
- Rehearsals for 6th-12th graders (**and students cast as Jane and Michael, no matter their grade**) are from **1:00-6:00 p.m.** Please note this is different from previous summer schedules. Not all cast members will be called for all rehearsal times.
- The cast should have all music and lines memorized by the very first rehearsal.
- Cast members may be called for costume fittings outside their regularly scheduled rehearsals.

- Final classroom rehearsal before loading into the theatre venue is Wednesday, July 3.
- Conflicts after our final classroom rehearsal are **not** allowed.

Theatre Rehearsals and Performances

- Performance Venue: LJ Williams Theatre at 1001 W. Main in Visalia.
- Load-In: Monday, July 7 at 9:00 a.m. Load-in is mandatory for most cast members in 6th- 12th grade and requires trucks, trailers, power tools, and elbow grease from our teens and parent/guardian volunteers.
- All of Mary and Bert's call times will be longer and in the mornings due to flying rehearsals.
- Sitzprobe is on Thursday, July 10 from 7:00 - 10:00 pm (tech rehearsal will end early to take an hour unsupervised dinner break before Sitzprobe begins). 3rd-5th graders will be released at 8:00 pm. Sitzprobe location: COS.
- Call times for dress rehearsals and show days (beginning Monday, July 14) are tentative and are subject to change as we get closer and learn more about the show.
- The all-day tech/dress rehearsal on July 12 is a long day! Students should eat a filling and sustaining breakfast to get them through the run. They should bring clean* snacks (for emergencies during the run) and a packed lunch. Students will *not* receive a break to eat their lunch out of costume until after the run is complete (usually around 2 p.m.). *Clean snacks mean food that can be eaten neatly without the possibility of spilling, staining, etc. Examples might include apples, pretzels, raw almonds, celery sticks, and clear water. Snacks that do not fit this criteria include chips, cheesy items (due to grease stains and orange cheese dust), berries, peanut butter, chocolate, anything oily or with sauces/dips/dressing, drinks with any color, etc.
- You can see that our release times for the final two weeks are late! We may release students earlier than those times and will do our best to communicate plans as we get closer.
- Strike occurs Sunday, July 27, the day after the final show. Strike is mandatory for most 6th-12th grade cast members and requires trucks, trailers, power tools, and elbow grease from our teens and parent/guardian volunteers.
- Our program survives on 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.

Conflict Requests

Please list any and all conflict requests with the dates and times listed on the General 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. Two excused absences are allowed during the June 9 - July 3 rehearsal period. We recommend leaving at least one of those excused absences unclaimed as a back-up in case something comes up or you aren't feeling well one day. While illnesses and unexpected family emergencies are reviewed on a case-by-case basis, missing more than the two allotted absences may result in your removal from specific scenes or numbers, or the production entirely. We are unable to accommodate any conflicts beginning July 7.

- By committing to the production, you are agreeing 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. If you have questions about conflicts, please email bethany.rader@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.

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 for the entire summer. This also includes one souvenir show t-shirt.
- 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 onsite lunch during two-show days (~ \$20 each)
- Optional cast party (~ \$15-\$25)
- Optional show DVD (~ \$10)
- Requested concessions and water donations (\$25+)

Again, we never want a student to feel they can not participate due to cost. If you feel this might be an issue, please speak with Bethany.

Volunteer Commitments

- 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. Stay tuned!
- 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. Some of our parents/guardians spend countless hours working on multiple projects, and we can't thank them enough! We also want to help lighten the load so we are asking that each parent/guardian of each cast member volunteer for **at least 6 hours this summer**. To put that into perspective, 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 as 30 minutes. When you register your student, you will select how you would like to volunteer your time. If we all pitch in, who knows what we can accomplish for the success of our show and our students!