



Starlight is excited to partner with Disney to implement Disney Musicals in Schools, a program that develops sustainable musical theatre programs in area elementary schools. Starlight's mission is to connect our community through live arts experiences that entertain, inspire, and engage.

## GOALS

- Create sustainable musical theatre programs in under-resourced public elementary schools.
- Provide school faculty with the training and tools necessary to support student performance and production, and to empower them to do so.
- Develop a critical awareness and appreciation of the arts within the school.
- Develop a strong community including students, parents, faculty, staff, and neighbors.
- Expose students and school faculty to the wide spectrum of skills that are developed when producing a piece of musical theatre, including: critical thinking, problem solving, ensemble building, communication, self-confidence, and interpersonal skills.

## 2026-2027 PROGRAM DETAILS

Starlight will select up to five elementary schools in the Kansas City metro area to participate in the 2026-2027 Disney Musicals in Schools program. Participation in the program involves a three-year commitment to the program and partnership with Starlight. Upon successful completion of Disney Musicals in Schools: Year One, recipient schools will be invited to participate in our alumni programs (Year Two and Year Three). While Year Three is the last year of Disney Musicals in Schools programming, it is our hope that schools will have gained the skills necessary to continue a tradition of musical theatre for years to come.

### Selected schools receive:

- Free performance rights (valid for one year) to a 30-minute Disney KIDS musical (available shows include *101 Dalmatians*, *Aladdin*, *The Aristocats*, *Frozen*, *The Jungle Book*, *The Lion King*, *Finding Nemo*, and *Winnie the Pooh*).
- Free ShowKit materials, including Director's Guides, Student Actor Scripts, and additional resources through Disney Theatricals' StageConnect (Disney's digital teacher resource)
- A School Team Field Guide containing additional guidance and resources.
- Free in-school support from a team of two Starlight Teaching Artists for 17 sessions (during one 90-minute school visit each week). Teaching Artists will serve as production and creative advisors who will train and empower the School Team to run the program themselves.
- Lastly, the selected schools will participate in a culminating Disney Musicals in Schools Student Share Celebration. At this event, each school will share selections from its production at Starlight Theatre.

### Selected schools are expected to:

- Produce a 30-minute Disney KIDS musical involving third through fifth graders both on- and offstage.

- Identify a School Team comprised of at least three teachers/staff members, who will partner with the Starlight Teaching Artists and oversee and manage the program from beginning to end. There will be two 90-minute rehearsals each week. The selected School Team will receive on-site support from a team of two Starlight Teaching Artists at one rehearsal each week. The School Team will also run a 90-minute rehearsal on their own once each week.
- Commit to 17 weeks of after-school rehearsal consistently attended by designated School Team members.
- Attend a School Team orientation in mid/late November 2026.
- Provide space, time, materials, and resources for students and the School Team to rehearse and prepare for the musical production.
- Provide opportunities for the whole school, parents, and larger community to be connected to the production.
- Hold a minimum of one public performance of the musical.
- Participate in the culminating Student Share event at Starlight Theatre, and arrange transportation for participating students, staff, and chaperones.

### FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

Performance rights, ShowKit materials, professional development, and onsite teaching artist support will be provided at no charge to selected schools. Selected schools will be responsible for a production budget of any amount, determined by the school. Disney KIDS musicals are designed to be produced inexpensively, and have been successfully mounted within a budget of \$300–\$1500. Starlight Teaching Artists will work to maximize the school’s production budget. Any other costs, such as payment for additional after-school staff beyond the School Team, will be the school’s responsibility.

### PROGRAM TIMELINE

April 13, 2026	Applications open
September 25, 2026	Applications close
October 2026	Finalist school site visits
November 9, 2026	All applicants notified of status
Week of November 30, 2026 – exact date TBD	New School orientation and training at Starlight (3 hours)
Week of November 30, 2026 – exact date TBD	Returning School orientation and training at Starlight (7 hours)
December 2026 – May 2027	Disney Musicals in Schools residencies (17 weeks)
May 2027	School performances
May 2027	Student Share Celebration at Starlight

