

SCHOOL YEAR ACADEMY SAFETY PROTOCOL

To ensure the health and wellbeing of our students, families, and staff, First Stage is committed to implementing procedures to create a safe environment for all of our School Year Theater Academy classes this year.

We have shifted 60% of our School Year Academy classes to a virtual platform, with programming starting September 23rd. These classes will follow the Theater Academy curriculum, with professional theater artists sharing their expertise, skills, and passion for their art with our students, from ages 3-18 years old. We had major success in our virtual summer programming, and will continue to follow those standards. Feedback from families and students gave very positive feedback and suggestions as we move forward with virtual experiences. Through highly interactive virtual classes led by experienced Teaching Artists, our Academy will remain a place where students are encouraged to take risks and conquer their fears, and actively engage in developing and strengthening their acting skills.

In addition to our virtual programming, we anticipate holding a limited number of in-person classes at the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center. We have developed procedures to ensure secure admittance into our building. All of these policies are designed to follow and exceed CDC guidelines and are enforced without exception. New policies include the following safety measures:

- All in-person classes will be capped at ten students.
- Class start and end times will be staggered, to ensure no more than eight students will be entering or exiting the building at all times. Parents or other caregivers will not be allowed in the building during class time.
- Students and staff will have their temperature taken upon arrival each day. If a student or staff member shows a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, they will not be admitted into the building.
- Students and staff are required to wear masks at all times.
- Classes will be held in our large classrooms and rehearsal halls, with indicators to help students maintain social distancing.
- Rehearsal halls will be cleaned and disinfected in between class sessions and nightly.
- Final presentations will be shared with family and friends through a virtual platform.
- In the event that we do not feel it is safe to carry out in-person classes, these sessions will be moved to a virtual platform.

As artists and educators, we are flexible and resilient, and although the school year may look different, we feel confident in providing our students with the same magical Theater Academy experience we have all come to know and love. We are looking forward to welcoming new and returning students for another year filled with learning, laughter, and fun!

