

PROGRAM

MIDDLETOWN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL DRAMA DEPARTMENT

THE PHANTOM TOLLBOOTH

November 20-22, 2025
MCS CAFETORIUM


MIDDLETOWN CHRISTIAN DRAMA DEPARTMENT

3011 N Union Rd, Franklin, OH 45005

Dustin Brown, Principal

Amy Sowards, *Drama Department Head*

Kelly Kouba, *Play Director*



THE PHANTOM TOLLBOOTH

by

SUSAN NANUS

Based on the book by

NORTON JUSTER

Choreographer

SARAH SHELLEY

Co-Director

AMY SOWARDS

Director

KELLY KOUBA

“The Phantom Tollbooth” is presented by arrangement with Concord
Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

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CAST

(in order of appearance)

Clock/Tock	CAMMIE SKAGGS
Milo	RYAN SHROYER
Whether Man/ Terrible Trivium/	
Undersecretary of Understanding	FINLEY KITTLE
Lethargarian 1/ The Senses Taker	JAMIE COLLINS
Lethargarian 2/ The Dodecahedron	WILLIAM YATES
Lethargarian 3/ The Everpresent Wordsnatcher	NORA WONDERLY
Lethargaian 4/ The Demon of Insincerity	COLSON KELLERMAN
Lethargarian 5/ The Gatekeeper	EMMA SHROYER
Lethargarian 6/ Word Merchant 2	GRACE HICKHAM
Azaz the Unabridged	XANDER KOUBA
The Mathemagician	ELISE BROWN
Princess Sweet Rhyme	MALLORY TODD
Princess Pure Reason	HANNAH KAUFMAN
Word Merchant 1/ Fork	LONDON CHRISTY
Word Merchant 3	MCKENZIE TODD
Letterman	ASHER MARTIN
Spelling Bee/ The Awful Dynne	LOLA SOWARDS
The Humbug	EZRA WONDERLY
The Duke of Definition	JEREMIAH ENGLE
The Minister of Meaning/ Kakafonous A. Dischord ..	KADENCE KOUBA
The Earl of Essence	GRACIE BROWN
The Count of Connotation	AUBREY JOHNSON
A Page	SUSAN SHANE

ACT ONE

Scene 1 -

Milo's Room

Scene 2 -

The Lands Beyond

Expectations

The Doldrums

At the Gates of Dictionopolis

The Word Market

Azaz's Banquet

15 minute intermission

ACT TWO

Scene 1 -

The Valley of Sound

The Fork in the Road

The Numbers Mine

Digitopolis

Scene 2 -

The Castle in the Air

The Mountains of Ignorance

Milo's Bedroom



Stop by the concessions stand in the lobby before the show and at intermission!



SHOUT-OUTS

Asher, Way to go!
Love, Mom and Dad



Happy Birthday, Landon! We are so proud of you!
Love, Mom and Dad



Nora- You make us so proud!
Love- Mom & Dad



Ezra-We're so proud of you!
Love- Mom & Dad



Kids,
Gather up by the
stage after the
production for a
photo opportunity
in Milo's car!

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



CAMMIE SKAGGS (THE CLOCK/TOCK) is thrilled to play Tock in The Phantom Tollbooth! She's grateful to God for every opportunity to be on stage. A sophomore, this is her third show at MCS after The Lion King and Mary Poppins. She's been acting for as long as she can remember and is always ready for another fun role—right on time, of course! When she's not on stage, she loves spending time with her little brothers! She thanks Mrs. Kouba, Mrs. Sowards, Mrs. Shelley, her awesome cast and crew, and her amazing family for their love and support. Thanks for coming—enjoy the show!



RYAN SHROYER (MILO) is 12 years old and this is only his second production. He has a love for acting and in his free time he likes to play basketball and soccer. He would like to thank Jesus my Lord and Savior for being an amazing, wonderful, and just God. He also appreciates Mrs. Kouba, Mrs. Shelley, and Mrs. Sowards for giving him this opportunity and thanks his parents for allowing him to do this production. Milo out!!



FINLEY KITTLE (THE WHETHER MAN/ THE TERRIBLE TRIVIUM) is very excited to be part of this MCS production, The Phantom Tollbooth. Finley has been in a couple of other productions at MCS, including Mary Poppins and The Best Christmas Pageant Ever! When she isn't at practice or onstage, Finley likes to be reading or writing. She would like to give thanks to Mrs. Kouba, Mrs. Sowards, and Mrs. Shelley, as well as Elijah Smoot for helping her pursue her love of theatre! She hopes you enjoy the show!



JAMIE COLLINS (LETHARGIAN/ SENSE TAKER) Jamie Collins is thrilled to be in The Phantom Tollbooth and has performed in many other plays and musicals such as Mary Poppins, Willy Wonka, and The Best Christmas Pageant Ever! She is honored to take on her roles as the Senses Taker and Lethargian. In her free time, she enjoys reading, writing, soccer, and practicing her instruments. She hopes you enjoy the magic of The Phantom Tollbooth!



WILLIAM YATES (LETHARGIAN/ DODECAHEDRON) is in the seventh grade and this is his first production at MCS. He hopes you enjoy the show!

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



NORA WONDERLY (LETHARGIAN/ THE EVERPRESENT WORDSNATCHER) is extremely excited to perform in this year's fall production! Nora has been two performances at MCS, including The Best Christmas Pageant Ever playing Imogene, and also Wonka playing Matilda. She is thrilled to portray the Ever-present Word Snatcher and Lethargian in The Phantom Tollbooth. Nora would like to thank her parents for encouraging her to do drama, as well as Mrs. Sowards and Mrs. Kouba for working so hard to put on this production!



COLSON KELLERMAN (LETHARGIAN/ DEMON OF INSINCERITY) is very excited to be a part of the Phantom Tollbooth performing as a Lethargian, shopper, and the Demon of Insincerity. He has also performed in the Best Christmas Pageant Ever as Charlie Bradley, Willy Wonka as Charlie Bucket, as well as church productions. Other than doing the play, he also enjoys reading and playing soccer. He would like to thank everyone for supporting him and especially to Mrs. Kouba, Mrs. Sowards, and Mrs. Shelley for helping with the production.



EMMA SHROYER (LETHARGIAN/ GATEKEEPER) is very excited to be a part of the Phantom Tollbooth performing as A Lethargian, The Gatekeeper, a miner, and demon. She has also performed in Mary Poppins as ensemble, The Best Christmas pageant ever as Mrs. Slocum, and Willy Wonka as Grandma Josephina. Other than drama, she also enjoys running cross country, track, and spending time with her family. She would like to thank all her family and friends for their support and encouragement and for the fellow actors, directors, and crew for making this play a fun experience.



GRACE HICKHAM (LETHARGIAN/ WORD MERCHANT) is overjoyed to be a part of The Phantom Tollbooth production! She has been a part of The Lion King ensemble, and Willy Wonka Jr. as Grandma Georgina. In her free time, she loves playing with her cats, reading, watching movies, and making crafts. She would like to thank her family for all their support during the play, the directors and Mrs. Shelley for rides home and making the play so much fun, and Mr. Mellish for always giving her fist bumps and brightening her day!



XANDER KOUBA (KING AZAZ THE UNABRIDGED) is joyfully playing King AzAz the Unabridged, the King of Dictionopolis. Before this, he has performed roles in other productions, such as Ralph in The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, and Willy Wonka, in (surprisingly) Willy Wonka. He would like to thank his parents for supporting him, and the directors for their patience, as he may have caused some problems on occasion. He would also like to thank God for grace and forgiveness, because he needs a lot of that.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



ELISE BROWN (MATHEMAGICIAN) is 14 years old and very excited to be a part of the Phantom Tollbooth. This is her fourth production. In earlier productions, she was Mrs. Bucket in Willy Wonka Jr. and Mrs. McCarthy in The Best Christmas Pageant Ever. Outside of theater, Elise loves to get invested with her church and adores taking naps. Elise would love to give the biggest thanks she can to her directors, Mrs. Sowards and Mrs. Kouba. They both have improved her skills immensely. She would also love to thank her mother for being there when she got overwhelmed with the roles of theater. Proverbs 24:17-18 KJV



MALLORY TODD (PRINCESS SWEET RHYME) is 15 years old and is very excited to be part of the Phantom Tollbooth as Princess Sweet Rhyme. She has acted in Mary Poppins, Willy Wonka Jr, and been crew in The Greatest Christmas Pageant Ever. In her free time she likes to do crafts. She would like to give a big thank you to her directors Mrs. Kouba and Mrs. Sowards for giving the best theater experience, and also her friends and her family for all of the love and support. Mallory gives a special thank you to her mom, dad, and grandma for all the time and effort they put into her.



HANNAH KAUFMAN (PRINCESS SWEET REASON) is so glad to be a part of The Phantom Tollbooth at MCS. She has previously performed in The Best Christmas Pageant Ever as Mrs. Armstrong, Mary Poppins as Mary Poppins, The Lion King as Sarabi, and The Matchmaker as Ermengarde. Hannah has taken acting classes through community theater while working on MCS productions. She would like to thank her mom for giving her the opportunity to perform and grow in her abilities with MCS productions, and thanks to Mrs. Kouba and Mrs. Sowards for all they do.



LANDON CHRISTY (WORD MERCHANT/ FORK) is 11 years old. He was previously in Willy Wonka at MCS. He likes being on stage and bringing characters to life. He would like to thank Mrs. Kouba and Mrs. Sowards who have helped him learn a lot about acting.



MCKENZIE TODD (WORD MERCHANT) is 11 years old. In this production she is a word merchant merchant, a waiter, a miner, and a demon. This is her third play. She's been in The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, and Willy Wonka. In her free time she plays with her dogs. She is very thankful for the directors and her sister for inspiring her to do a play.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



ASHER MARTIN (LETTERMAN) is in the sixth grade at MCS and was previously in Willy Wonka as an Oompa Loompa. He hopes you enjoy the show!



LOLA SOWARDS (SPELLING BEE/ THE AWFUL DYNNE) is 12 years old and loves singing, dancing, and acting. This is her ninth production and she continues to bring energy and heart to every role that she plays. Lola enjoys spending her time reading, learning new songs, and exploring different characters on stage. She would like to thank Mrs. Sowards (her amazing mom and drama director), Mrs. Kouba, and Mrs. Shelley, for their constant encouragement, creativity, and support in helping her grow as performer.



EZRA WONDERLY (HUMBUG) is thrilled to be appearing in his fifth Middletown Christian drama production. Some of his previous performances include roles in The Lion King Jr., The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, and Willy Wonka Jr. He'd like to thank his directors, cast mates, and family for their encouragement and support.

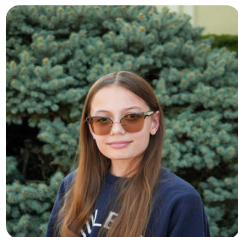


JERAMIAH ENGLE (DUKE OF DEFINITION) is 14 years old and a freshman at Middletown Christian Schools. This is his third production at MCS as he has appeared as Robertson Ay in Mary Poppins Jr (2024) and Grandpa George in Willy Wonka Jr (2025). Jeremiah loves acting and being in productions, and he also loves to sing. He would like to thank his parents, grandparents, friends, and a special thanks to his directors Mrs. Sowards and Mrs. Kouba for all their love and support throughout his acting experience!



KADENCE KOUBA (MINISTER OF MEANING/ KAKOFONOUS A. DISCHORD) is 12 years old and excited to be in this year's production of the Phantom Tollbooth! This is Kadence's ninth production, her favorite being Willy Wonka as Violet Beauregarde. Kadence would like to thank her mom/director for always pushing her to do her best. She would also like to thank her brother for all the laughs and fun he makes her shows. She hopes you all have a great time!

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



GRACIE BROWN (THE EARL OF ESSENCE) is in the seventh grade at MCS. She has previously appeared in Willy Wonka Jr. as a candy kid and The Best Christmas Pageant ever as Beverly. When not acting, she enjoys reading and cross country. She hopes you enjoy the show!



AUBREY JOHNSON (THE COUNT OF CONNOTATION) is 12 years old and is very excited to be in The Phantom Tollbooth. In her free time, she enjoys writing stories, drawing, and reading. She loves musicals and likes memorizing the songs. She is very thankful for the play directors for giving her this amazing opportunity.



SUSAN SHANE (PAGE) is in the sixth grade at MCS. This is her second production. She was previously one of the squirrels in Willy Wonka Jr. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Crew/Backstage Team

Stage Manager.....	GABRIELLA HICKHAM
Assistant Stage Manager.....	ADELYN GROSS
Sound Operators.....	GREG RILEY
	OLIVIA RILEY
Light Operator.....	SAM RIEGERT
Spotlight Operator.....	ROBBY WINFREE
Backstage Crew.....	SARA VALENTE
	BERA MARTINEZ
	AN HYUNH
	TESSA PICKETT
Artistic Team.....	ABIGAIL COLEMAN
	HANNAH KAUFMAN
	TESSA PICKETT
Production Assistant.....	ABIGAIL COLEMAN
Production Photographer.....	JOHN SHELLEY
Concessions.....	MELISSA RIEGERT
House Manager.....	TAYLOR BALL
Set Build.....	ZACH SOWARDS



SPECIAL THANKS

Chris Chernesky
Zach Sowards
John Shelley
Greg Riley
Todd Hester
Melissa Riegert
Karen Sowards
Taylor Ball
Robert Kouba
Chelsie Danielle Brown
Heather Biddle
Tammy Lykins
Christian Vanover



GRACE STUDENTS

MIDWEEK YOUTH GROUP

Join Us
on Wednesdays
@ 6:30pm



Led by the Brown, Kobert, and Mellish families



All students grades 6th through
12th grade are invited!

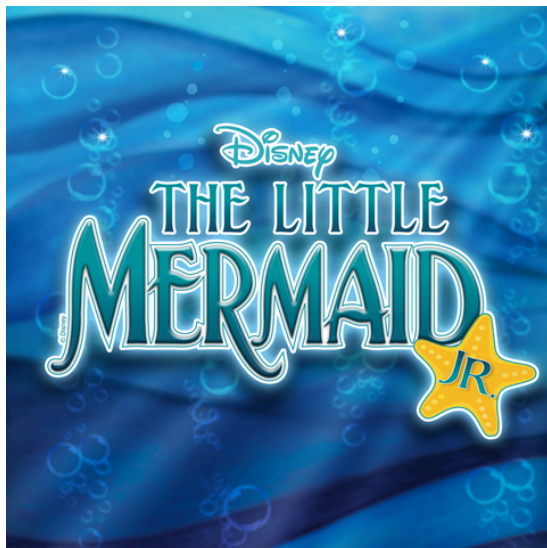
GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

3023 N. Union Rd.
Franklin, OH 45005

AUTOGRAPHS

UPCOMING FINE ARTS EVENTS

Announcing our Spring 2026 Musical!



Auditions will be held December 8th!



MCS ANNUAL FUND DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

LEARN MORE AND
DONATE TODAY AT

GIVING TUESDAY

Tuesday, December 2

Kick off your holiday charitable giving by donating to the MCS Annual Fund.



CHRISTMAS TREE AUCTION

Tuesday, December 2 - 13

Bid on your favorite MCS Homeroom Decorated Christmas Tree, on display at MCS Christmas activities throughout the holidays.

CHRISTMAS MOVIE MARATHON

Saturday, December 13

2-8 PM | MCS Cafetorium

Join us for Christmas Movies throughout the day!
\$5 per person, \$20 max per family. Concessions will be sold. More details to come.

END OF YEAR GIVING

Make a donation to the MCS Annual Fund between now and December 31 and claim it on your 2025 taxes.

Your giving provides critical dollars used in educating students here at MCS!
For more info email advancement@mcseagles.net

