

Theatre Arts Parents
Yorktown Theatre Arts Department
5201 N. 28th Street
Arlington, Virginia 22207

Dear Yorktown Theatre Parents:

Like many parents, I volunteer not only to help Yorktown High School and the community, but also to find out all I can about my teenager and life at his school. I'm sure you understand all too well the challenges I face in learning more about my teenager's day than "It was fine." I requested permission to write a letter to you, my fellow Theater Arts parents, because I wanted to share with you what I've learned about our teenagers' lives, just by having a child in Theatre Arts. And I wanted to share with you my belief that Yorktown Theatre Arts is helping transform our sons and daughters into the confident, capable young men and women we all want them to be.

A few things I've learned...

It's not about you. This refers to the philosophy of Theatre Arts at Yorktown. It's a collaborative, cooperative program that focuses on teamwork, respect and consideration for others. It is a process -- not a focus on an end product -- that finds room for every child.

This collaborative process extends to us, the parents, who work together to feed actors at rehearsals, drive to performances, sew costumes and create a community that values and supports our students' hard work. And as Yorktown Theatre Arts Parents, we support an award-winning theater program by assisting the teachers who operate on shoestring budget. Please continue reading to find out what a contribution of **\$57** dollars per family can do for Yorktown Theatre:

The black box. This modified classroom on the music wing is home to our theater program -- at least for a few years. Making it minimally functional was the responsibility of Arlington Public Schools. Making it a quality learning environment requires our support. Your **\$57** contribution would go a long way to creating a fresh and functional classroom while the new theater space is created.

Performance space this year will be cobbled together using space at Williamsburg and Kenmore Middle Schools as well as community rooms around Arlington. Creating movable sets and lighting and transporting actors to and from venues will create new demands on already tight budgets. Your **\$57** contribution will help offset the costs of this traveling roadshow.

The Calendar. This roadmap of our students' theater year outlines 20 opportunities for bringing Yorktown Theatre to the community and bringing the rich experience of our community to our school. Activities this year include community service at the Potomac Overlook Halloween Haunted Walk, a Japanese theater residency, the production of Nora's Lost, the yet-to-be-named spring show, the Theater II One Act Plays and the remarkable Theater IV One Person Shows. Your Theater Arts donation of **\$57** will help to buy costumes, special effects gear, materials for sets and artist-in-residence programs, including Shizumi Shigeto Manale, a renowned instructor in Japanese theater style. Your **\$57** contribution helps bring such talent to Yorktown to teach our children.

Cadby. That would be Carol Cadby. This dynamo has been chair of the highly regarded Yorktown Theatre Department since 1995. She has directed and/or produced approximately 80 shows in that time period, including most recently, *The Imaginary Invalid*, which claimed two top prizes in this year's Virginia High School League competition. Her skilled and thoughtful approach to the process of teaching teenagers has shaped responsible, motivated leaders in the school, on the stage and in the community. Your contribution of **\$57** will help Cadby continue to support the great legacy of theater excellence at Yorktown.

Confidence. It's really what our kids are learning -- confidence in their classmates and themselves. I am confident we can provide the support this excellent program needs and deserves.

I am asking that each of you consider a meaningful contribution to the theater program. A contribution of **\$57** or more from each family will meet the needs of our student's theater program in the year ahead.

Please do feel free to call me or TAP Co-Presidents Patty Kime and Susan Nestleroth, if you have any questions about the program or your contribution.

And thank you in advance for your generosity. This program would not excel without it.

Jenny Denney Lawson
(A Theater III mom)

P.S. Please make out checks to Yorktown Theatre Arts Parents. You may give them to a Yorktown TAP Board Member, Ms. Cadby or mail them in the enclosed envelopes. To learn more about the Yorktown Theatre Arts Department, check out Yorktown's web site under the theatre department. To find out more info about TAP, please go to www.yhstheatre.org