

Spring Musical: *Carrie: The Musical*

Dear Fossil Ridge parents and students,

My name is Mikayla Assmus and I am the director of our Spring Musical, *Carrie*. I am emailing you to both inform you and your students of our musical and to encourage you to audition/get involved in tech! I have listed all audition and tech interview information below:

Audition Information:

- Spring Musical Auditions and Callbacks
 - November 11th - Initial auditions and callbacks will all happen on the same day. Sign Ups are available now, [HERE!](#)
 - Initial auditions will be held in the Black Box and begin at 9:00am and go until 10:30 am. There are 15 minute slots with 8 students in each slot.
 - Callbacks will be held from 11:30am-4:00pm in the Choir Room. The Callback list will be posted at 11:00am
 - Dance Auditions are posted on Google Classroom. Your video audition will need to be submitted by Nov. 8th at 4:00pm (Code-**ngnj6ym**)
 - We will be holding a Dance Audition workshop next Monday 11/4 in the PAC from 4:10-6:00.
 - Come prepared with a 30 second memorized monologue, a minute long memorized song in the style of the show and your [audition packet](#), dressed in modest audition black clothing. Please be sure to review the packet and have it signed by a parent before you attend auditions.
 - If you are unable to attend auditions on November 11th please come and have a conversation with Ms. Assmus and Mrs. McCormick about how you can still audition.
- Parent Meeting
 - If your student is cast in *Carrie* or interested in getting involved in tech, we will be holding a Boosters parent meeting on November 13th at C.B. & Potts at 5:00pm. It is highly recommended that you attend.
- Tech Information - Access the Tech Application Form [HERE](#). Please bring your application to your interview or the tech fair.
 - Stage Manager Interviews - November 4th - If interested in applying email Ms. Assmus and Mr. Garner to set up an interview time.
 - Crew Lead Interviews - November 12th - If interested in applying email Mr. Garner to set up an interview time.
 - Tech Job Fair/Interviews - December 16th after school in the Choir Room.
- The Class will take place during 3rd and 4th quarter during 9th hour (After school)
- Show Dates

○ April 10th-12th, 2025 at 7pm

I wanted to take some time to inform you all about our show and my vision for it. Some of you may ask, what is *Carrie: The Musical*? *Carrie: The Musical* is a show about a girl named Carrie White who is a teenage outcast who longs to fit in. At school, she's bullied by the popular crowd, and virtually invisible to everyone else. At home, she's dominated by her loving but cruelly controlling mother. What none of them know is that Carrie's just discovered she's got a special power, and if pushed too far, she's not afraid to use it.

Carrie: The Musical is set in the present day, reflecting a shift from the 1974 novel and the 1976 film. This contemporary approach empowers our students to authentically share their experiences of high school life in America today. Our production aims to spark conversations about the bystander effect, using video projections to highlight different perspectives and convey the message, "Once you see, you can't unsee."

As a directorial team, we have always wanted to tackle this powerful story. From the rock score to the challenging tech elements to the relatability of the story, we want to be able to tell this tale from a powerful perspective, which is by the teens that live in this reality everyday. Set in the real town of Chamberlain, Maine, Carrie embodies the struggles of her community. Her actions are a response to how she is treated, prompting us to reflect: what if everyone had chosen to act towards her with kindness?

The epilogue of the show invites us to consider, "What does it cost to be kind?" While Carrie is often labeled horror, the true horror lies in the indifference of those who bullied her. The heart of the story challenges us to ask: who is the real monster? We aim to instill the message, "Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle." To complement our production, we will also prepare an anti-bullying campaign, reinforcing these vital themes.

I want to take some time to discuss questions you may have for our directorial team when deciding to select this show for our 2025 Spring Musical. The questions and answers are as follows:

- Why would you produce a show that explores many intense societal issues ranging from bullying to religious extremism to violence?
 - Carrie allows students to stretch performance skills while grappling with subjects that encourage them to consider their role within the school and greater community, growing them as empathetic beings. With the permission of our school and district administration, this genre of musical theater addresses culturally relevant subjects and creates space for sensitive consideration of challenging current issues.
 - This show includes depictions of bullying, religion, violence, death, child abuse, blood, mentions of menstruation, and school violence/mass casualty. There is a mention of sexual assault. This show is rated PG-13
 - At Fossil Ridge we have produced many shows with the same

rating such as *Bright Star*, *She Kills Monsters*, *Rumors*, *Legally Blonde*, *Noises Off* and *Rent*

- *Carrie* depicts aspects of Christianity from the viewpoint of someone who uses religion as a tool for power, because she has lost power due to traumatic incidents in her life. The depiction of Carrie's mom does not represent the tenets of Christianity; it is a narrative portrayal of a character's experience.
 - In our production of *Carrie*, the mother character will be portrayed as a victim, not a perpetrator. There are no depictions of sexual assault on stage. Her mother is very aggressive with her, but no more aggressive than the Witch in our production of *Into the Woods* was with Rapunzel.
- While menstruation is mentioned in this show, it's important to clarify that the focus isn't on this topic itself. Instead, it serves as a backdrop for mature conversations about the biological realities many of our students face. Carrie's lack of understanding about menstruation contributes to the initial bullying she experiences, highlighting themes of understanding one's body and empathy in this story.

We're thrilled to invite your students to be part of Fossil's Theatre program! This is a fantastic opportunity for them to boost their confidence, collaborate with others, and unleash their creativity all while being part of a supportive and inspiring community. We'd love for them to audition or sign up for tech for *Carrie* and become a cherished member of our Fossil Theatre Family! Thank you for supporting your child's exciting journey in the arts. If you have any questions or need more information, don't hesitate to reach out – we're here to help!

Thank you for your support,
Mikayla Assmus