Theatre Etiquette

Attending a live performance is a magical experience and even the youngest child can develop an appreciation for the performing arts. The production team and the actors have put in many long hours and hard work to make the experience entertaining and memorable to their audience. Once the audience arrives, the play becomes a performance, not a rehearsal. The actors can see and hear you so be respectful and considerate of them and your fellow audience members.

Here are some things to keep in mind when taking a trip to the theatre:

1. Plan to arrive early and wait for ushers to help find your seats.
2. Use the restroom before the show begins. You should not get out of your seat during the performance and you may not have time before loading your bus after the show.
3. Gum, food or candy are never allowed in the theatre.
4. You will be welcomed to the theatre with a curtain speech and then the lights will dim and then go dark. That is your cue to become quiet.
5. Do not talk, whisper, or disturb others by moving around in your seats or kicking the chair in front of you.
6. Do not take pictures or video of the actors during the performance.
7. Cell phones should be turned off and anything that makes noise should not be brought in to the theatre.
8. The actors love to hear applause. During the play, feel free to laugh or even cry at what's happening in the story. It is customary to clap at the end of songs and at the curtain call when the actors come out to take their final bows and show your appreciation for the performers.
9. Do not leave your seat after a performance until after the curtain call at the end. When the performance is over, wait for your group to be called to the exit.
10. Enjoy the show!

Teachers and Parents: Prepare your students for the production in advance so they are familiar and excited about what they are coming to see. If the play is based on a story, read the book or watch the video prior to performance day. Most plays in RiverPark Center’s Arts Teach Kids series are professional touring productions. Study guides are provided with information such as: synopsis of the show, cast of characters, resources, pre and post show activities, curriculum connections and much more.

For more information or to print a study guide, visit RiverPark Center’s website.