

## *Theatrical Courses and Opportunities*

In addition to the deep artistic offerings at U-Prep during the school day, we also offer co-curricular theatrical activities: the Fall Musical and the Spring Play.

### **Fall Musical** (Audition; Open to All Grades)

The goal of the annual U-Prep musical is to have fun while building confidence and communication skills. It is well documented that music supports many academic skills needed to be successful in school from math, memorization, critical thinking, and analysis. Music is also a great way for students to enjoy other aspects of their school experience.

Every year the musical employs 50-75 students including singers, actors, dancers, and the back stage crew. The musical brings together all of the wonderful skills and learning opportunities at U-Prep. Starting in August, the musical production begins a rigorous yet exciting rehearsal schedule culminating in a two week performance run the two weekends before Thanksgiving. The musical is a family in every sense of the word. Many families have discovered valuable family time during the musical, with the students rehearsing and other family members working on sets, props, and costumes.

The U-Prep musical theatre program's purpose is to enrich, educate and entertain our students, school community, and our outside community by providing a superior theatre experience.

### **Spring Play** (Audition; Open to Ninth through Twelfth Grades)

The Spring Play is an opportunity for students who have a dramatic bent for straight plays (no singing) to express themselves on the historic David Marr stage. It is open to all grades but generally the play is oriented to high schoolers. Past productions have included 12 Angry Jurors, The Odd Couple, All in the Timing and Pygmalion.

In addition to acting opportunities, students can also participate through stage crew, costume and prop design, stage construction, music, light and sound design. Auditions are typically right before or after winter break. Rehearsals are rigorous and run after school most days until 5 PM. Students are required to commit fully. There is the expectation that students will spend Saturdays near performance dates in extra rehearsals. In the past, the show has run for three night mid-March. Through U-Prep's VAPA program and co-curricular activities like the Spring Play, students have an opportunity for artistic enrichment at every level.