

July 4th Youth Musical

The 4th of July youth musical production has been an eagerly anticipated event since its introduction in 1999. An all-star cast of regional high school students participates in an intensive theater camp experience at the end of June, and performances take place over the July 4 weekend. Auditions are held in early spring and the cast is announced shortly thereafter. Students arrive with lines memorized and receive instruction in choreography, vocal production and acting from experienced directors. More than 100 high school students from many area schools participate annually, both on stage and behind the scenes. The Turrell Fund has provided important financial support for this youth musical theater experience.

Past performances have included *The Wizard of Oz* (1999), *The Music Man* (2000), *South Pacific* (2001), *Guys and Dolls* (2002), *Oklahoma* (2003), *Grease* (2004), *Once on this Island* (2005), *Oliver* (2006), *Brigadoon* (2007), and *The Sound of Music* (2008), and *The King and I* (2009).

Volunteer efforts provide a significant contribution to life at Chandler. We really are a *community* arts organization. The time parents spend helping with set construction, sewing costumes, monitoring the dressing rooms on performance nights, working in the box office, or preparing food for hungry cast and crew members, not only assists the directors and ensures the success of the production, it is an essential ingredient in the community that is created at Chandler each summer. Long after the set is dismantled, costumes are cleaned and put away, and the scripts are returned, this sense of community remains and enriches life throughout the year.

A small registration fee is charged and scholarship assistance is available. For information about the productions, please call the Betsy Cantlin at 802-431-0204 or email her at outreach@chandler-arts.org.