



1801 W. St. Andrews Rd.  
Midland, MI 48640

MIDLAND  
CENTER  
FOR THE  
ARTS



EDUCATION SPONSOR



SPECIAL THANKS  
TO OUR SEASON SPONSOR:



2025/26 SEASON  
**EDUCATION**  
GROUP GUIDE



Dear Educators & Group Leaders,

A transformational renovation is currently underway at Midland Center for the Arts but we are thrilled to continue offering opportunities to **explore, inspire, and learn** through **science, history, and art!** While our A.B. Dow Museum's grand re-opening is on the way, the Center is still here to provide our School Matinee Series on-site in our theater spaces and to bring traveling programs directly to your classrooms and community! The Center is thrilled to present our School Matinee Series for your classroom to visit the theater and experience professionally touring productions here in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

All programs are aligned with Grade Level Content Expectations for preschool through 12th grade. Please note that **scholarships and bus cost reimbursement grants** are available to help make your Center experience more affordable. We hope to serve you and your students with resources and programming that meet at the intersection of **curiosity and creativity** and spark a passion for lifelong learning!

Sincerely,

**Jackie Willsie**

School & Community  
Programs Coordinator



BOOKING & PRICING  
PERFORMING ARTS EXPERIENCES  
CLASSROOM WORKSHOPS  
SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS  
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BOOKING  
& PRICING

Pricing & Payment

PERFORMING ARTS EXPERIENCES  
\$5 / Person (students & adults)

- / Complimentary educator tickets (2) provided per attending classroom; bus drivers also receive free admission.
- / Participant numbers must be confirmed at least 14 days before your program for staff to issue an invoice.
- / Groups of 10 or more only qualify for the Student Matinee Series group rate.
- / Final amount due may be adjusted if 5 or more students are absent due to illness the day of your matinee performance.
- / Weather-related show cancellations are handled on a show-by-show basis.

ART INTEGRATION WORKSHOPS

\$100 / One Classroom (\$50 for additional classrooms)

- / Classroom maximum is 30 students per workshop rotation.
- / Participant numbers must be confirmed at least 14 days before your program for staff to issue an invoice.
- / All on-site programs are subject to a mileage charge: **Round Trip Mileage for On-site Education Programs** a mileage rate of \$.70 per mile will be charged for workshop locations more than 5 miles from the Center.

ALL PROGRAMS

- / Full payment of the invoice is expected before the day of your program in a single transaction. We accept all payment options via our Ticket Office during Ticket Office hours as posted on midlandcenter.org. Please make checks payable to Midland Center for the Arts.
- / Payment in advance is highly encouraged.
- / Busing, ticket, and workshop grants are available to qualifying schools. See pg. 5 for more information.
- / If you have any questions about the booking process, please email schools@midlandcenter.org.

LUNCHES

- / Due to construction, lunch spaces are not available during the 2025/26 school year.

Booking Information

STAFF HOURS / MON – FRI / 9 AM – 4 PM  
989.631.8250 / schools@midlandcenter.org

**PROGRAMS ARE NOW BOOKED ONLINE!** Please visit [midlandcenter.org/teachers](https://midlandcenter.org/teachers) and choose Student Matinees or Hands-on Workshops to fill out one of our Center Experiences Booking Forms.

Please allow up to 3 business days for confirmation of your booking via email.

**BOOK EARLY!** All Center experiences must be requested a minimum of 4 weeks before the program date. Final confirmation must be made no later than 14 days before the experience date. This confirmation must include a total count of the number of students, chaperones, and teachers participating for a contract/invoice to be issued.

**JAN – MAY** are peak times for educational programs! We recommend that matinee tickets and workshops for these months be scheduled well in advance.

Midland Center for the Arts is not affiliated with Whiting Forest and Dow Gardens; educators do frequently schedule additional activities through the Dow Gardens Tours Department.





**STUDENT SHOWS \$5**  
Per Person  
for Students  
& Adults

We are proud to support educators who wish to introduce their students to the wonders of art, science, history, and curiosity through live performing arts experiences!

Classroom study guide materials and social stories are available for all matinee performances via the Center website. Matinee performances are considered relaxed performance environments. Performances are approximately 60 minutes.

STUDENT MATINEE SERIES SPONSORED BY



### The Magic School Bus: Lost in the Solar System

OCT 21, 2025 / 10 AM & 12:30 PM

Recommended Grades K–5

Hop on the Magic School Bus for a ride in this new musical adaptation based on the original book series published by Scholastic. When the class gets lost on the way to the planetarium, Ms. Frizzle saves the day by blasting into outer space for an epic interplanetary field trip! But when rivalries both old and new threaten to tear the students apart, our young heroes must learn to pull together or risk getting forever lost in the solar system.

*Curriculum connections:* Science, Social Studies, Music, Communications and Language Arts

SPONSORED BY GRACE A. DOW MEMORIAL LIBRARY

### Click, Clack, Moo

MAR 9, 2026 / 10 AM

Recommended Grades K–4

When granddaughter Jenny comes for a visit, Farmer Brown declares the farm a tech-free zone. He takes her laptop in the cold barn with the shivering cows who use her computer to type messages requesting blankets. So the cows go on strike and the chickens join them in solidarity. No blankets? No milk! No eggs! Will Farmer Brown give in to the animals' demands? Will Jenny get her computer back? Find out in a hilariously moving musical about negotiation and compromise, based on the Caldecott Honor Book by Doreen Cronin and Betsy Lewin.

*Curriculum connections:* Music, Language Arts and Communication, Relationships and Family

### DRUM TAO

MAR 10, 2025 / 10 AM

Recommended Grades 4–12

DRUM TAO's stage is created through phenomenal performances and the rare and unique expressions of incomparable "Wadaiko-drums" combined with the beautiful melody of Japanese flutes and harps. It is the "Japanese Entertainment" for a new generation that completely surpasses expectations.

*Curriculum connections:* Music, Dance, Language, World Culture

SPONSORED BY MBS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT & THE DR. ANDREA LOUISE JENKINS ENDOWED FUND FOR CULTURAL ENRICHMENT

### Beyond The Matinee: Classroom Workshops

#### The Magic School Bus

Bring learning to life and expand your student's matinee experience with a limited in-classroom or virtual workshop opportunity!

Reinforce key concepts and themes from The Magic School Bus in the weeks leading up to or following the performance. A Center Educator will work with your students right in their very own classroom, or virtually for your convenience. Book one, two, or book all three! Workshops are booked on a first-come, first-scheduled basis.

#### Orbiting Our Sun / Grades K-2

Explore our Solar System and all that is contained within. Through engaging hands-on activities and science experiments, students will learn about the planets (including dwarf planets), moons, asteroids, comets, and, of course, our Sun. Students will create their own planetary beads to create a space keychain or bracelet to keep!

#### Space Explorers / Grades 3-5

Learn about how Astronauts prepare for their missions, from assignment to blast off. From the food they eat, to the suits they wear, students will be able to figure out if they have what it takes to go to space, and students will be able to create their own mission patch!

#### Observing Our Universe / Grades 3-5

Blast off even further beyond our Solar System to the larger galaxy. Explore how scientists discover what lies outside of the Milky Way to galaxies millions of light-years away. Students will craft their own message to the Universe with their own Golden Record!

*Curriculum connections:*

K-2-ETS1-1, K-2-ETS1-3, 3-PS-2-2, 5-ESS1-1, 5-PS2-1, STRAND 1.3,1.4



PERFORMING  
ARTS ARE FOR  
EVERYONE!

Relax and take in the experience, even if you've never been to a theatre performance or concert before! The Center is committed to providing a supportive and welcoming environment that makes live performance and our museums accessible to those with autism spectrum disorders (ASD), developmental and physical disabilities, sensory processing disorders, PTSD, and for other sensory-sensitive people with their families. Our performance spaces have accessible seating, and we are happy to work with educators and families on ways to make attending a school matinee or public performance the best experience possible for individuals with accessibility needs.

- / The performance is a shush-free zone – audience members can talk quietly or express themselves freely during the performance.
- / We provide downloadable social stories that portray the theatre-going experience with pictures and text for use by educators, students, and families.
- / Doors are kept open; audience members are welcome to move around and leave as need be.
- / Audience members are welcome to bring their own manipulatives, seat cushions, comfort objects, headphones, electronics, special snacks, and other support items to the show.
- / Sensory bags provided and are available for use during performances and museum visits.

#### UPCOMING RELAXED PERFORMANCES

MIDLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
**Holiday Pops Concert**  
DEC 13, 2025 / 12 PM

CENTER STAGE YOUTH THEATRE  
**The Emperor's New Clothes**  
DEC 14, 2025 / 2 PM

CENTER STAGE YOUTH THEATRE  
**13 Jr.**  
MAR 28, 2026 / 2 PM





## SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

- / School Matinee Series tickets, workshop fees, and transportation grants are available to qualifying schools and organizations through our Arts & Education Scholarship program. Individual scholarships for Center classes and summer camps are also available. Funds are granted based on funding availability – so plan and apply early!
- / Grants and scholarships are available for programs from SEP 2025-AUG 2026. Scholarship guidelines are available on the Center website. Follow-up documentation must be received by Center staff to receive transportation grants.
- / If multiple classrooms in one school building intend to participate in a Center program, they must apply as a single group.

Learn more and fill out a short form to apply at [midlandcenter.org/scholarships](https://midlandcenter.org/scholarships)

## ARTS INTEGRATION CLASSROOM WORKSHOPS

Bring the art and innovation of the museum right into your classroom or community space, or add-on a workshop to your onsite matinee! These à la carte workshops offer your students dynamic, hands-on lessons in science, English, or history – with an artistic, interdisciplinary twist. Each workshop lasts approximately 1-1.5 hours, and includes all materials participants need to complete the activities.

**\$100 FOR ONE CLASSROOM**  
(\$50 for additional classrooms)

Classroom maximum 30 students. Additional travel fees apply for all on-site programs; see pg. 2 for mileage rates.

### ENGLISH WORKSHOPS

#### From Author to Artist / Grades 3–12

Explore the world of comics and graphic novels while learning about literary and artistic aspects of the genre. Students will enhance their work using dialogue and character development, and discover the basics of illustration, narrative writing, and bookbinding to create their own graphic novel.

#### Novel Ideas: Book Reports to Exhibit Design / Grades PreK–12

This innovative workshop offers students a unique opportunity to develop their literary analysis and creative skills through the lens of museum exhibit design. Focusing on both literature and visual storytelling, students will explore the process of designing and curating museum exhibits while deepening their understanding of a chosen novel.

### HISTORY WORKSHOPS

#### Michigan on the Move / Grades 3–12

See history in motion as we learn how innovations in transportation shaped Michigan! From the Erie Canal to the revolution of the auto industry, students will discover how changes in transportation led to the settlement of Michigan. Along with history lessons, students will be able to design and craft their own transportation methods.

#### History Detectives / Grades 3–8

Embark on a thrilling journey through time! Students will become young historians as they delve into the fascinating world of primary and secondary resources from various historical periods to solve a mystery.

#### Art Influencers / Grades 6–12

Art history is full of amazing artists who used multiple mediums to push boundaries! From Vincent Van Gogh to Andy Warhol and Frida Kahlo, learn all about the background of some of the most famous names in art. Students can then showcase their creativity by designing a social media page for their favorite artist.

### SCIENCE WORKSHOPS

#### A Water Story / Grades PreK–2

Through science, song, and movement, students will learn how water moves around our world! Students will create a model of the water cycle and discover how water impacts the plants, animals, and humans on Earth. This workshop is the perfect blend of tactile, scientific exploration and creative expression.

#### Miraculous Matter / Grades 3–5

Students will become chemists for a day as they investigate the chemical and physical changes of matter! Through engaging demonstrations and hands-on experiments, students will explore the relationships between energy and matter.

#### Mess Makers / Grades 3–12

Splat! Drip! Splash! Meet some artists who aren't afraid to get a little messy to create stunning visual art. Students will analyze art from Jackson Pollock, Sam Gilliam, Joan Mitchell, and Elaine de Kooning and then get a chance to be art detectives.

#### Rocket Power / Grades 6–12

Blast off into the world of rockets! Students will enjoy interactive demonstrations of Newton's Laws of Motion and a brief presentation of the history and science of rockets. Then, students will design, build, and test their own miniature straw rockets.

## LIBRARY OPPORTUNITIES

Dive into the world of dinosaurs, archaeology, and paleontology through engaging workshops and story times designed for young explorers. Whether you're a budding scientist, a curious learner, or someone seeking adventure, Midland Center for the Arts is the perfect starting point! Let us support your guests while you relax and enjoy the excitement of all participants in your space.

**\$100 / SINGLE PROGRAMS**  
(\$50 / per added booking in a season)

On-site library programs are subject to a mileage fee. See pg. 2 for more information.

#### Dinosaur Kids / All Ages

Dig through layers of the dirt to uncover ancient species that once roamed the Earth. Learn about the Earth's different eras and the species that lived through them as well as the paleontologists who expose the past.

#### Fossil by Fossil / Grades PreK–2

Discover the dinosaur in you! Look at the fossils of dinosaurs, compare them to our bones, and wonder what you would look like as a dinosaur!

#### Underwater Field Trip / Grades 3–5

Explore the depths of the Great Lakes as you dive into the world of underwater archaeology and our state's extensive collection of shipwrecks. Learn about the various ways archaeologists and divers find, identify, and document ships.

#### Out of the Blue / Grades 6–12

Dive into ancient seas and unveil the mystery of how organisms evolved in Earth's oceans over the period of 500 million years. Identify real fossils and find a deeper understanding of how the remnants of the past remain today.