

# AARON F. BRATEMAN

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## Sample Elementary School Parent Letter

Dear Families,

I am grateful and excited for the opportunity to collaborate with you and your students in our theater class this year. I hope that over our time together I will get to know you, earn your respect, and work with you as a team to help your students thrive. I will do everything I can to make sure this year is fun, educational, challenging, and surprising. I intend to forge a community with your students in which their voices are vital and their bravery enables them to achieve the impossible.

This year, we will be focusing on musical theater. In the first semester, we will explore the history of the American musical, investigating a diverse set of influential works and artists. We will pay particular attention to how musicals are constructed and structured in order to develop our own ideas about how to create these kinds of works. In the second semester, we will put those theories into practice as we devise our own show. We will develop characters through improvisation, write songs, invent choreography, deepen our acting skills, and even design sets and props to use in our production. We hope you will be able to join us at the end of the year so that we can share our creation with you. Get ready to be blown away.

In our classroom, there will be moments for each of us to have the spotlight, but at its core, theater is very much a team sport. (Don't worry—no need for anyone to score any field goals.) Rather, what this means is that we succeed and fail as a group. To this extent, it is very important that all of us do our part to support each other—this means making sure that we are present at all classes and rehearsals in clothes and shoes that we can comfortably move around in, learning our lines by assigned deadlines, taking some time to review new choreography at night, and staying healthy. Being prepared in this way allows us to be leaders in every moment. It is certain that there will be days when all of us need a little help to get by, or fall short of meeting these goals, and we want to be able to jump in for each other when that time comes. That's what theater people do. If you can help your student stay accountable to our community, I will make sure that we are all there to catch them when they fall.

If you ever have any questions or concerns about our class or your student, please feel free to contact me. I will do my best to listen and figure out how we can enact a solution together that will be beneficial for your student and your family. Similarly, if your student loves something we do in class, let me know that, too! I encourage you to check in with them and see what they have to share. I learn a ton about theater from the students that I work with, and I'm sure you will, too.

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Looking forward to a wonderful year,

Mr. Aaron F. Brateman  
(he/him)