

Week 1: Broadway Variety Show

MONDAY

Welcome Meeting (15 Minutes)

The first day's morning meeting is going to be a little bit longer, because it is going to be a little bit about Zoom training -- which sounds awful, so let's call it... a "virtual scavenger hunt!" Believe me, spending a few minutes training the kids on where to find important controls on Zoom will endear you to parents forever.

It's probably going to take a few minutes for everyone to get logged on, call roll, and ensure your entire variety show cast is online. When everyone has arrived, tell them how the camp is going to work, how the schedule will run each day, and what kind of performance you are working towards at the end of the week. Then let each student introduce themselves and answer a fun question (favorite musical or movie or TV show, for instance). It might also be fun to play an applause sound effect after each introduction and let your "cast" each take a bow.

This way, they can practice unmuting themselves and re-muting and everyone gets a chance to talk. Let them practice turning their video on and off, selecting "Speaker View" (so that the person talking is biggest on their screen) and how to "pin speaker" if, for instance, they want the dance teacher to remain largest on screen the whole session. You, as the Meeting Host, can also choose on whom the students should focus by choosing to "Spotlight" them in Zoom. This meet and greet time will also give you a chance to see who has challenges with technology, who might be dealing with a slow internet connection, who is shy, who is a talker, etc.

If you're going to use Zoom breakout sessions, this would be a great time to practice with the kids: You create the rooms and assign a teacher and students to each room. The students can practice "accepting" the breakout session, going into that room, and then coming back to the main room. You could even make a "scavenger hunt" out of it: When they go into a room you have assigned them, they will see that teacher and guess what musical his/her Zoom background is from. When they've visited all three rooms, they will have finished the scavenger hunt!