



FOR MEDIA PLANNING PURPOSES

**Contact: Jessie Smiley
Media Relations**

[Jessie Smiley@dpsk12.org](mailto:Jessie.Smiley@dpsk12.org)

**o. 720-423-3190
c. 303-906-8225**

April 25, 2018

The Show Must Go On! Students to Perform at DPS Shakespeare Festival

5,000 DPS Students Anticipated to Attend 34th Annual DPS Shakespeare Festival

Denver – Approximately 5,000 students from 90 schools across the city will celebrate the works of Shakespeare at the Denver Public Schools' 34th Annual Shakespeare Festival in downtown Denver, despite the nearly statewide cancellation of classes on Friday. [The DPS Shakespeare Festival](#) is the oldest and largest student Shakespeare festival in the country, perhaps the world. The festival is a day of great joy for the thousands of students and teachers from schools across DPS.

The day-long festival provides a forum for students to perform sonnets and scenes from the works of Shakespeare, as well as demonstrate dance and vocal and instrumental music of Shakespeare's time. The festival opens with ceremonies at the Skyline Park, followed by a short parade down the 16th Street Mall to the Denver Performing Arts Complex. Performances are scheduled throughout the day on 18 indoor and outdoor stages. [View a list of stages and performance schedules.](#)

This robust festival is presented in partnership between DPS, DPS Foundation and the Denver Center for the Performing Arts.

The Opening Ceremony will kick off the day-long event at Skyline Park (16th and Arapahoe) at 10 a.m. Friday, April 27, followed by a parade from Skyline Park, down the 16th Street Mall to the Denver Performing Arts Complex. **Please contact Jessie Smiley at 303-906-8225 if you need assistance with live-shot prep or student and teacher interviews during the event.**

WHAT: 2018 DPS Shakespeare Festival

WHO: A crowd of about 10,000, including 5,000+ DPS students, grades K-12, from 90 schools
DPS Superintendent Tom Boasberg

WHEN: Friday, April 27
10 a.m. – Opening Ceremony at Skyline Park (Arapahoe and 16th St.), followed by a parade to the Denver Performing Arts Complex.
10:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. – Continual performances on 18 indoor and outdoor stages
FREE and open to the public

WHERE: Denver Performing Arts Complex
Speer Blvd. & Arapahoe St.

###

Unified Purpose

The Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Denver Public Schools and Denver Public Schools Foundation are proud to co-produce the 34th annual DPS Shakespeare Festival. Our 30+ years in the community offers a common history. Our focus on great theatre classics provides a shared vision. And our commitment to engage youth through theatre education motivates us with a unified purpose. Together we will combine history's greatest plays with passionate teachers and inspired young actors to expose thousands of students and spectators to the joy of live theatre.

About the DPS Shakespeare Festival

The mission of the DPS Shakespeare Festival is to provide a whole child experience in the arts that is available to 100% of DPS students. The Festival will present a joyful, rigorous, and fun exploration of Denver's rich culture of collaboration and community. Learn more: shakespeare.dpsk12.org.

About the Denver Center for the Performing Arts

The Denver Center for the Performing Arts is the largest non-profit theatre organization in the nation, presenting Broadway tours and producing its own original theatre, cabaret, musicals, and innovative, multimedia plays. Last season the DCPA engaged with more than 1.1 million guests through 49 productions, 937 performances and 233 events. Learn more: denvercenter.org.

About Denver Public Schools

Denver Public Schools is committed to meeting the educational needs of every student with great schools in every neighborhood. Its goal is to provide every child in Denver with rigorous, enriching educational opportunities from K-12. DPS is comprised of more than 200 schools with an enrollment of 90,000+ students. It is the fastest-growing urban school district in the U.S. in terms of enrollment and the fastest-growing large school district in Colorado in terms of academic growth. Learn more: dpsk12.org.

About Denver Public Schools Foundation

The Denver Public Schools Foundation is the strategic fundraising partner to DPS and catalyzes change for our students and schools. We invest in accelerating progress; we connect the community to our classrooms; and we inspire confidence in the promise of public education for DPS' more than 92,000 students and nearly 200 schools. Learn more at dpsfoundation.org.