

2026-2027 PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

AWESOMEPLAYS

All programs will be held in the Performance Hall located inside Mitchell Museum at Cedarhurst Center for the Arts, Mt. Vernon, Illinois. Attendance for all daytime performances is by reservation only.

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS

for your class or school call 618.242-1236 ext. 248 or email: tracy@cedarhurst.org. You will receive an email confirmation from Cedarhurst five (5) weeks before the performance date. Fee: \$3.50 per student. Please verify the number of students stated in your reservation is correct as this is the number of students you will be billed for. Reservation cancellations must be made 1 month prior to the performance date to avoid being invoiced for the reservations. Your group is allowed one free adult admission for every 15 students.

November 4, 2026

DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS!

Presented by GreatWorks Theatre
10:00 & 1:00 | Grades K-4

Based on the beloved book by Mo Willems, this lively musical follows the determined Pigeon as he tries every trick imaginable to convince the audience to let him drive the bus! Filled with catchy songs, puppetry, humor, and audience participation, this delightful performance celebrates imagination, perseverance, and creative problem-solving.



Curriculum Connections: Language Arts • Theater • Character Education

March 18, 2027

FIRE AND ICE!

Presented by Mad Science
10:00 & 1:00 | Grades K-8

This spectacular show thrills audiences with impressive science experiments. The event includes foggy dry ice storms and demonstrates how giant beach balls can float in the air. Students are amazed by dry ice with sizzling, shivering scissors and special bubbly showers!



Curriculum Connections: Science (Physical Science) • STEM • Scientific Inquiry

April 8, 2027

AFRICA TO AMERICA

Presented by Alicia Sunshine Gbaho - Beyond Measure Dance Theater, St. Louis
10:00 & 1:00 | Grades K-8

This vibrant, multi-dimensional performance narrates the rich history of how diverse dance forms traveled from Africa to America.

Experience highlights of the African diaspora as the root and foundation for many of our most iconic dance styles, music, and cultural fashion. It celebrates the interconnectedness of dance and musical traditions. Filled with dynamic choreography, intricate instrumentation, and rhythmic storytelling, this lively performance showcases how these elements unite to express identity and heritage from the past, present, and future.



Curriculum Connections: Social Studies • Fine Arts • Music • Cultural Studies

April 15, 2027

THE GIVER

Presented by GreatWorks Theatre
10:00 & 1:00 | Grades 5-8

Lois Lowry's award-winning novel comes to life in this powerful stage adaptation. In a seemingly perfect society where everyone is the same, twelve-year-old Jonas is chosen to become the Receiver of Memory. As he uncovers the truths of the past, Jonas must make difficult choices about freedom, individuality, and what it truly means to be human.



Curriculum Connections: Language Arts • Literature • Social-Emotional Learning • Critical Thinking

May 13-14, 2027

SMARTYPANTS' GREAT BALLOON SHOW

Presented by Mr. SmartyPants
10:00 & 1:00 | Grades K-8

Celebrate the end of the school year with an unforgettable performance packed with comedy, magic, giant balloon creations, and audience interaction! Inspired by classic vaudeville, this award-winning show delights students of all ages while encouraging creativity, imagination, and joyful participation.



Curriculum Connections: Fine Arts • Theater • Creativity • Character Development

Notes in the Classroom

Inspire your students through musical performances by renowned musicians featured in the annual Cedarhurst Music Series.

A partnership between Cedarhurst, regional schools, and the musicians gives students and educators access to master level classes, demonstrations, and other unique performing arts programs.

Visit CEDARHURST.ORG for details on the upcoming Notes in the Classroom performances or call 618-242-1236 x 224



TOURS

Bring learning to life with a docent-led tour at Cedarhurst! Designed to complement classroom curriculum, our interactive tours encourage students to look closely, ask questions, and discover the many ways art connects to the world around them.

Tour themes include: Art That Tells a Story | Animals in Art | Colors and Shapes in Art

Tours are customized to the grade level and interests of each group and may include visits to current exhibitions, the Permanent Collection, and the Goldman-Kuenz Sculpture Park. School tours are free for groups of 10 or more and must be scheduled at least one month in advance.

Scan the code for details and complete an online reservation request or call 618-242-1236



MAKE IT A DAY OF DISCOVERY!

Enhance your Cedarhurst experience by combining your visit with a trip to the Jefferson County Historical Society. Students can explore both art and local history in one memorable field trip, making meaningful connections across visual arts, social studies, and Illinois history. Contact the Jefferson County Historical Village at 618-246-0033