

# TALKING POINTS FOR CLASSROOM DISCUSSION: *THE MAGIC SCHOOL BUS: LOST IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM*

## Show & Theater Company:

- *The Magic School Bus: Lost in the Solar System* by TheaterWorksUSA

## Art Form:

- Musical Theater

## Context:

- This show is based on *The Magic School Bus*, an educational entertainment franchise that includes books, TV shows, and video games. It's based specifically on the book by the same name: *The Magic School Bus: Lost in the Solar System*.
- *The Magic School Bus* series features a wacky science teacher, Ms. Frizzle, who takes her class on amazing field trips with, you guessed it, a Magic School Bus.
- ? Have you read or watched any *Magic School Bus* stories before? Where did they travel to?
- ? If you could magically take a trip anywhere, where would you want to go?

## Main Concepts:

- The Solar System: The Sun and everything that orbits it, including the Earth and other planets.
  - ? Why is the Sun important to us?
  - ? What other planets do you know about? What makes them different from the Earth?
  - ? Why is the Earth such a special planet?
- Teamwork and Forgiveness: The whole class has to work together to save the day.
  - ? Can you remember a time you forgave someone? How does forgiveness help us solve problems?

## Special Things to Look for:

- In this show we imagine travelling far away, to different planets.
  - ? What clues help you know what planet the characters are on? Do you notice any changes to the lights, music, props, or the way the performers act?

## Theater Etiquette:

- Respect the theater, one person to a seat, limit bathroom breaks, do not kick the seats, no food or drink in the theater (bottled water okay), and turn off cell phones/no texting.
- ? How is watching live theater different than watching a movie or TV?
  - We can't pause, rewind, or fast forward with live theater.
  - Live theater is exciting because each performance is unique.
  - Students are in the same room as the performers. Moving around and making sounds can affect the performers and other members of the audience.