

Creating the Best Assembly Experience

Razzle Bam Boom and **Shows That Teach** have proudly performed assemblies over 1000 schools since 1999. We know that PTA budgets are limited and you should get the most for the money you spend. We have discovered many things which will make the most successful assembly experience for your students.

1. As with classroom teaching, an assembly is a high form of communication. And just as communicate with an individual works best when you are in close physical proximity to the other person; similarly assembly performers should close to an audience. Some schools seat their students 25 feet or more away the front of the stage, which doesn't make for the best communication. We recommend that your students be seated as near to the performers as safely and comfortably possible.
2. We understand that schools typically prefer to seat the students, youngest nearest to the stage and the oldest the furthest from the stage. We challenge you to try something a little different. Since Kindergarten students are new at being an audience and may not know how to react, and in some cases may even become a bit overwhelmed by some assemblies (not by ours); and since the older grades (especially sixth grade) can be emotionally detached from an assembly (because they are "too cool"), try seating the older grades in the front rows on one side of the center aisle and the Kinder students in the front rows on the other side of the aisle, and the middle grades in the back of them? Or just place the kindergarten in the second row. Sounds counterintuitive, but try it. However, tell the older grades that the kinder kids are watching them to see how they are supposed to react with audience manners, applause, etc.
3. The importance of properly lighting assembly performers is often overlooked. Surprisingly sometimes the stage is the darkest spot in the auditorium or MPR. Because assembly performers are so visual (or at least ours are) we have clearly observed a better response from the audience in locations where the stage or performing area is well lit. There are often two problems: 1. Existing lights are not actually pointed at where the performers will stand (sometimes at their feet) and/or; 2. Bulbs are burnt out. We recommend that you ask your custodian to aim lights and replace bulbs as needed.

More assembly tips in the next issue of our newsletter "Inspiring Assemblies".

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