



2023-24 Educator Resource Guide



The University of Wonder and Imagination

February 15, 2024 – 9:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.



With a myriad of offerings allowing your students to explore their identity and the identity of others, this season's Amcor Education Series has a show for everyone.

Thank you for allowing your Fox Cities Performing Arts Center to partner with you to provide your students with engaging educational arts experiences.

For any questions, contact the education sales team at (920)730-3786 or educationsales@foxcitiespac.com.

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Education Series
Title Partner:



Education Series
Co-Partners:



Thank you to our partners for making this performance possible!

Education Series Title Partner



Education Series Co-Partners



Community Partners



A note from our Series Title Partner – Amcor

At Amcor, we make the packaging you use every day on your food and beverages, healthcare products, personal care items and more! As a global leader in packaging design and material science, Amcor is proud to sponsor programs in STEM education and the arts in the communities where we have operations. We are thrilled to support the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center and their efforts to provide enriching educational programming for young people in our area. Enjoy the show!

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Welcome to the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center!



When entering the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, remember to **show respect for others and your environment** so everyone can fully enjoy and participate in the experience.

- During the performance, the performers can see and hear you, so give them your full attention. Unlike a video, we can not rewind and replay a scene if we miss it.
- **Applause** is the best way to express how much you enjoyed the performance! For other Theater Expectations tips, visit our website [here](#).
- **Important things to remember:**
 - Student backpacks, gum, drinks and food are not allowed in the theater.
 - Cell phones should be turned off and stowed.
 - Note that recording or taking photos in the theater is strictly prohibited; however, photos may be taken in the lobby.
 - It's a long way down – please do not drop items off balconies.

Be prepared to arrive early

- You should plan on arriving to the Center 20 minutes before the show. Allow for travel time, parking and trips to the restroom.

Questions about your show reservation? Contact our education sales team at (920) 730-3786 or educationsales@foxcitiespac.com.

Health and Safety

- The Center has created a touchless experience with the Evolv Express Security System. Upon entry, all bags entering the building are subject to search and prohibited items will not be allowed.
- Teachers and chaperones are discouraged from bringing bags, however, necessary backpacks or bags may be searched and tagged before being allowed in the theater.
- We ask that students leave their backpacks at school for Amcor Education Series performances. However, if students do bring them, they are subject to search and will need to be checked at the registration table in the lobby upon entry.

Accessibility Services

- To best serve the needs of you and your students, please indicate if you have individuals who require special services or seating needs upon making your reservation.

Please see our complete list of policies at foxcitiespac.com.

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About the show

Journey to the most unusual of universities where the mysterious Professor Bamberg will guide you and your class through this interactive theater experience. By choosing the subjects of study to engage with (such as math, space and art), the audience will shape a unique course. During this one-of-a-kind performing arts experience, audience members will interact with the liveliest of lecturers and encounter all kinds of problems and puzzles, unlocking magical powers along the way. *The University of Wonder and Imagination* combines magic and illusion with multi-media technology creating an innovative, engaging and theatrical performance that sparks the imagination...Come join the class!

Wisconsin Academic Standards

SCIENCE

- Standard SCI.ESS.1: Students use science and engineering practices, crosscutting concepts, and an understanding of Earth's place in the universe to make sense of phenomena and solve problems.
- Standard SCI.ESS.3: Students use science and engineering practices, crosscutting concepts, and an understanding of Earth and human activity to make sense of phenomena and solve problems.

SOCIAL STUDIES

- Standard SS.BH2: Wisconsin students will investigate and interpret interactions between individuals and groups (Sociology).

WISCONSIN MODEL EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS

- B.EL.2: Demonstrates self-awareness.
- C.EL.2: Engages in social interaction and plays with others

THEATER

- Standard 3 – RESPOND: Students will critically interpret intent and meaning in order to evaluate artistic work.

Lesson One

Objective: Students will utilize artistic skills to bring an optical illusion to life.

Materials:

- White 8 ½ by 11 paper
- Coloring utensils
- Pencils
- Ruler



Activity:

- Ask your students, what is an optical illusion?
 - Definition: An experience of seeming to see something which does not exist or is other than it appears.
- Trace your hand on the paper, with pencil, including a bit of the wrist.
- Using the ruler to draw straight lines in the background, making sure that your lines do not go through your handprint.
- Now, draw a curved line, connecting the background lines in the handprint (second picture.)
- Using a light color and a dark color, color in the lines, alternating colors. Watch as your handprint seems to hover above the page!

Closing Discussion: Do you understand optical illusions? How does art create optical illusions?

Did You Know?

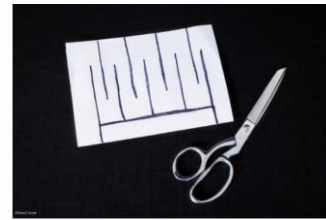
The History Museum at the Castle seeks to inspire people to discover and appreciate the rich history of the Fox Valley through exhibition, education and collections. The Museum's regularly rotating exhibits offer something for everyone, including the newest addition, "You Are Here," opening in spring 2024. Through a diverse offering of programs ranging from city walking tours to hands-on field trips to behind-the-scenes tours of the Museum's collections of over 20,000 artifacts, visitors of all ages can learn about the vast history of the Fox Cities and east central Wisconsin. Visit www.myhistorymuseum.org.

Lesson Two

Objective: Students will watch magic unfurl as you change the perimeter of a piece of paper with just a few cuts, showing math and magic relate!

Materials:

- 8 ½ by 11 piece of paper
- Scissors
- Template (if helpful)
- Lesson taken from: <https://www.pbs.org/parents/crafts-and-experiments/math-magic-tricks>



Guiding Questions: How can you change the perimeter of a piece of paper with only a few cuts and no adhesive?

Activity:

- Review what perimeter means when relating to mathematics. Definition: The continuous line forming the boundary of a closed geometric figure.
- What is the perimeter of a regular piece of paper?
- Explain to your students that you are going to expand the perimeter of the piece of paper, with only a couple cuts.
 - First, fold the paper hamburger style.
 - On the folded side, cut out a skinny rectangle, make sure the two edges are not near the edges of the paper (see above photo of rectangle on the bottom)
 - Continue cutting, making sure to alternate on the folded side, and not folded side, making sure you are not cutting to the edge.
 - When you are done, a circle will have formed when you unfold the paper! Go ahead and measure the circumference of the circle with your students.

In The Spotlight

Harry Houdini, one of the most famous magicians in the world, was not actually born in Appleton, Wisconsin like he claims. Ehrich Weiss, Houdini's birth name, was born in Budapest, Hungary and immigrated to Wisconsin when he was around four years old. Houdini is famous for his escapism, where he dazzled audiences with getting out of rather difficult predicaments. To really capture his audience's attention, Houdini even made motion pictures. His first film was called *The Master of Mystery* and was created in 1918. This way, his escapes could be watched over and over by various audiences (and he would only have to perform them once). Houdini unfortunately passed away from an infection after not getting his appendix removed in a timely manner, but his legacy lives on!

Source: <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/houdini-biography/>

What's Next?

Don't let this experience end with the drop of the curtain. Keep the conversation going with your students and reflect on the performance that you just attended.



Here are a few questions to get the conversation started!

What was your favorite part of the performance?

What was your favorite illusion or magic trick from the show?

What subject areas did *The University of Wonder and Imagination* cover with their illusions and tricks? Did any surprise you?

What moment do you remember most from the performance? What was happening?

If you were going to tell a friend about the performance, how would you describe it in one sentence?

What excited you about the performance? On the following page, write or draw something that excited you or made you curious.

My Reflections

Education Series
Title Partner:



amcor

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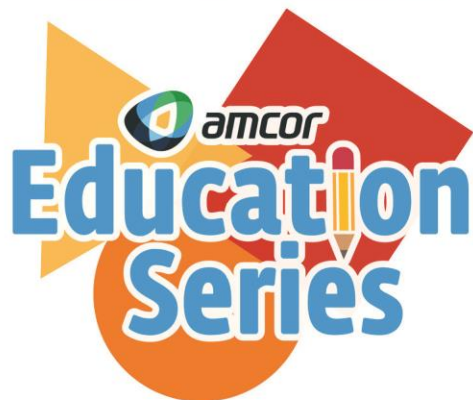


Kimberly-Clark



Miller

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Student Showcase



What was a light bulb moment for your students?
What was something new they learned?
Was it anyone's first time to the Center?
Share with us!

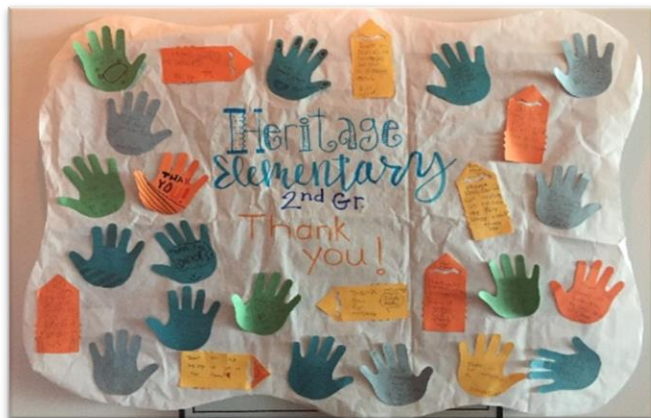
After your class attends the show we would appreciate photos, letters, posters and cards to share what your students are learning with our partners.

The Center's education programs are not possible without the support of our Annual Partners and grant funders. They enjoy learning about the schools and students that participate in the education programs so we would appreciate your help in telling the story.

Items may be sent via email to sstelzl@foxcitiespac.com or mailed/dropped off at:

Fox Cities Performing Arts Center
Attn: Sammi Stelzl
400 W. College Ave., Appleton, WI 54911

Thank you for your help in sharing the great work you are doing in the classroom with our partners!



Please note items will not be returned and will be shared with our partners and/or used in Center marketing materials.

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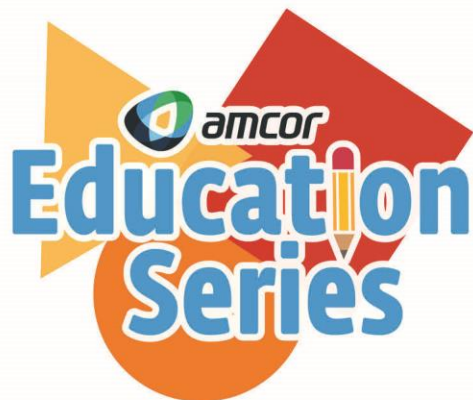


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Resources

Books

- "Everyday Magic for Kids: 30 Amazing Magic Tricks That You Can Do Anywhere" by Justin Flom
- "Harry Houdini for Kids: His Life and Adventures with 21 Magic Tricks and Illusions" by Laurie Carlson
- "Magical Mathematics: The Mathematical Ideas that Animate Great Magic Tricks" by Persi Diaconis and Ron Graham
- "The Everything Kids' Magical Science Experiments Book" by Tim Robinson
- "The Science of Magic" (TIME FOR KIDS Nonfiction Readers) by James D. Anderson
- "Who Was Harry Houdini?" by Tui Sutherland

Websites

- History Museum at the Castle: AKA Houdini: <http://www.myhistorymuseum.org/aka-houdini.html>
- Math "Magic" Tricks: <https://www.risingstars-uk.com/blog/march-2018/blog-march-2018-magic-maths-blog>
- National Geographic Science Magic Tricks: <https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/parents/magic-science-experiments-for-kids/>
- *The University of Wonder and Imagination* Website: <https://cahootsni.com/shows/theuniversityofwonder/>

This resource guide was created for you by the programming team as part of The Boldt Company Beyond the Stage Education program. To download copies of this resource guide or to find additional resources for this performance or view past resource guides, please visit foxcitiespac.com and click on the education tab.

Fox Cities Performing Arts Center
400 W. College Avenue, Appleton, WI 54911
education@foxcitiespac.com