



RYAN MACKENZIE

U.S. CONGRESS



Investing in Affordable,
High-Quality Child Care

By Congressman Ryan Mackenzie

Access to affordable, high-quality child care is essential for working families. That's why I recently introduced the bipartisan Child Care Modernization Act to help expand child care options and reduce barriers for families and providers alike.

The legislation would modernize and reauthorize the Child Care and Development Block Grant program, helping states better meet the needs of working parents while supporting the providers who care for our children every day.

The Child Care Modernization Act:

- ? Creates new grants to construct and renovate child care centers.
- ? Updates and improves reimbursement rates for providers.
- ? Adds new support for home-based child care providers.
- ? Helps states expand child care access for more families.

Child care costs skyrocketed 29% from 2020-2024, creating challenges for both parents and providers. This legislation takes practical steps to increase the availability of child care, reduce costs, support providers, and help ensure families have access to the care they need to live, work, and thrive.



Strengthening our
Health Care Workforce

By Congressman Ryan Mackenzie

I recently welcomed Acting U.S. Secretary of Labor Keith Sonderling to the Lehigh Valley for a visit to St. Luke's University Health Network.

During our visit, we toured St. Luke's College of Health Sciences and the Temple/St. Luke's School of Medicine, where we met with students and educators and saw firsthand how future health care professionals are being trained through hands-on learning opportunities and innovative medical education programs.

We also joined a roundtable with local leaders to discuss workforce development and the challenges facing health care providers. Our conversation focused on strengthening the health care workforce, expanding training opportunities, improving worker safety, and supporting policies that help recruit and retain qualified workers.

Thank you to everyone at St. Luke's for hosting us and for your continued commitment to training the next generation of health care professionals and delivering high-quality care throughout the Lehigh Valley and the Poconos.

Shawnee PLAYHOUSE

S.T.A.R.S. Academy 42nd Street Youth Edition Summer Musical Theatre

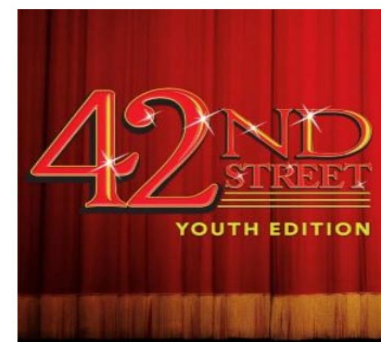
By Samantha Cameron

Shawnee on Delaware, PA – The Shawnee Playhouse, celebrating its forty-eighth season, will be hosting a three-week S.T.A.R.S. Academy 42nd Street Youth Edition Summer Musical Theatre Intensive, on weekdays, from Monday, July 27th, 2026 through Friday, August 14th, 2026, with a guaranteed weekend of four performances for all participants, at The Shawnee Playhouse, from Friday, August 14th, 2026 through Saturday, August 15th, 2026. This one-of-a-kind, summer intensive is open to middle school, junior high, and high school aged children, and will be held from 9AM until 3PM, weekdays, at The Shawnee Playhouse and The Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort. All intensive participants will be cast in roles for this production, and will receive musical direction, choreography, professional mentoring, and training from Midge McClosky, veteran performer, thespian, and executive director of The Shawnee Playhouse.

42nd Street: Youth Edition is a one-hour adaptation of 42nd Street, specially tailored for middle & high school-aged actors. Come along and listen to the lullaby of Broadway! 42nd Street celebrates Broadway, Times Square and the magic of show biz with wit, humor and pizzazz. At the height of the Great Depression, aspiring chorus girl Peggy Sawyer comes to the big city from Allentown, PA, and soon lands her first big job in the ensemble of a glitzy new Broadway show. But just before opening night, the leading lady breaks her ankle. Will Peggy be able to step in and become a star? The score is chock-full of Broadway standards, including "You're Getting To Be A Habit With Me," "Dames," "We're In the Money," "Lullaby of Broadway," "Shuffle Off to Buffalo," and "Forty-Second Street."

This three-week program is designed to provide intensive instruction in drama, music and dance, while mounting a full-scale junior production, comprised solely of program participants. Prior theatre experience and training is not necessary. All shows will be on stage at The Shawnee Playhouse, and all participants will be evaluated through entertaining, hands-on class participation, activities, and auditions to determine casting. There will be a plethora of singing, dancing, acting, and theatre games. Every participant will be cast and will be familiarized with the story of 42nd Street Youth Edition. Cast members will finalize learning the script, the songs, movement, staging, and blocking, whilst having a ton of fun. During the third week of camp (tech week), costumes will be put together and the set will be built. Every cast member will become a seasoned pro and will be ready to wow their audiences. Individual costume sizing and ordering will occur after casting is completed.

For more information on intensive, show dates, times, and to purchase tickets online, please visit The Shawnee Playhouse at www.shawneeplayhouse.org. If you need further assistance, please call the Shawnee Playhouse Box Office at 570-421-5093. Please email Midge McClosky at Request@TheShawneePlayhouse.com with any questions or concerns. Enjoy the show!



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