



**Miss Nelson Has a Field Day
April 30, 2020 / 6:00 pm
Doors open at 5:30 pm for seating**

SENSORY FRIENDLY PERFORMANCES AT THE CENTER

The Midland Center for the Arts is committed to providing a supportive and welcoming environment that makes live theatre and our museums accessible to those with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), developmental disabilities, sensory processing disorder, PTSD, and other sensory-sensitive people and their families.

What are Sensory-friendly Performances?

Sensory-friendly performances feature the same content and performers as other performances of a show, with accommodations, including:

- Lower light and sound levels, with special effects like strobe lights and smoke removed
- House lights kept at a low level to allow movement around the auditorium
- House doors are kept open; audience members are welcome to stand, move around, and leave as needed
- Audience members are welcome to bring their own manipulatives, seat cushions, comfort objects, headphones, electronics, special snacks, and other support items to the show.
- A designated Take-A-Break Space available with quiet activities near the theater
- Trained volunteers on hand
- A [Social Story](#) that portrays the theatre-going experience with pictures and text
- A scene-by-scene summary of the plot of the show or a playlist of the concert repertoire
- The performance is a *shush-free zone* - audience members can talk quietly or express themselves freely during the performance

What can I do to prepare for the show?

- Review our [Social Story](#) with your family and friends to learn about what your experience at the Center will be like.
- Visit the A.B. Dow Museum on April 30 from 4-8 pm for sensory-friendly activities and to experience the museum and learn more about the Center for the Arts.

What is the seating area like?

Miss Nelson Has a Field Day will be performed in the Auditorium. You can see the stage clearly from any seat location. The seats rise like in a stadium, and aisles are labeled with letters and the seats with numbers. The seats stretch all the way across the theater with aisles on the ends of the rows. You may have to climb some stairs to access most of the seats. There are multiple doors to allow patrons to easily enter/exit the theatre. There will be low ambient lighting throughout the performance so patrons are able to see should they need to move around or exit the theater.

Will seats be reserved?

The seats for *Miss Nelson Has a Field Day* will be reserved when you purchase them. If you need recommendations in regards to seating, please contact the Ticket Office. If you are uncomfortable in your seat, please ask an usher if you can be moved to a different location.

At least one of my party uses a wheelchair. Can you accommodate us?

Yes; a limited number of accessible seats are available. Please inform the Ticket Office of any mobility issues or other seating requirements when purchasing your tickets. Please note there is not an elevator in the Auditorium.

When will the theatre open/how early can I arrive?

The lobbies will be open one hour before the performance. The seating area will open 30 minutes before the performance.

How long is the performance?

The performance will be about 60 minutes long *without* an intermission. Patrons are welcome to stand up, move around, and leave the auditorium and come back in as necessary during the show.

Is photography or videography allowed in the theatre?

No photography or videography is permitted inside the theatre. You are welcome to take pictures in the lobbies or the Take-a-Break space.

Are ushers and ticket staff trained to assist individuals with sensory sensitivities?

Yes; our staff and volunteers have been trained to welcome and assist persons with ASD and other sensory sensitivities.

Who can I talk to if I have questions?

Feel free to contact our Katie Miller, our Community Engagement Manager, with questions via [email](#) or call 989-631-5930 x 1208.