

Readington Middle School  
48 Readington Road  
Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889

# **Lip Sync Competition**

## **What it is....**

The Lip Sync is an event we hold at Readington Middle School that students and faculty look forward to all year. The event is a great fundraiser, and everyone in attendance really enjoys it. The process begins when students who are interested in performing pick up an application. Then, the groups pick a song, make a routine, and practice their dance moves and lip singing of the lyrics to their chosen song. Leading up to the performance, there is a lot of work that goes into this event. The Student Council sells tickets for between 5 and 10 dollars each year, makes custom annual t-shirts, and promotes the Lip Sync through various means of advertising in the school and the community. Finally, the night of the big performance comes! In the past, the show has been sold out! The performers are always well prepared and the routines are practically flawless. On behalf of the RMS Student Council, we hope you consider having a Lip Sync at your school.

## **Lip Sync Promotional Video....**

Making a Lip-sync video is a great way to promote the event throughout the school, to potential performers, and your community. Although they may take a lot of work, they are a ton of fun and a great means of advertising. Our lip sync committee stayed after school many days to choreograph and record the dance for this year's video. We used a green screen to set a city background and we did a lip sync to the song, "Airplanes" by Hailey Williams, featuring B.o.B. We had our advisor's husband film us and help put together the final product that you will see today. However, not every student council has an advisor that can produce professional quality movies, or the connection to a technology guru husband that is more than willing to help! It is easy to edit and make a video using computer programs like Adobe or Window's Movie maker.

It takes a lot of courage, an outgoing personality, and teamwork to put the video together and present it to the entire school community. You cannot be afraid to go up in front of people to speak, and you have to have a strong personality so that the video is exciting and entertaining. Final touches, a lot of practicing, and careful work were necessary during our performance. The video took time to choreograph and perform, but it was flawless and served its purpose very well.

### **Raising Money/ Prices.....**

In order to make the lip sync possible, we have to raise money. As a student council and a lip sync committee, we have to organize many events and fundraisers to make the event worthwhile and fun for everyone. Some of the things we do to raise money is to sell t-shirts, sell tickets, and sell refreshments during the event. For every person that enters into the competition, there registration fee of \$10. The last thing we do is we leave a donation box out for anyone who wants to donate additional money. Most of the money we raise each year, including the \$10 entry fee, goes to the NJASC state charity. Last year the state charity was the Family Reach Foundation, and this year it is the Spread the Magic Foundation.

### **Try Outs...**

In order for a group to perform in the lip sync they must put together and practice their routine and go through a formal try out process. Tryouts are held about a month before the performance. At the tryouts, groups are required to dress in their school appropriate costume, have their song edited song, and be prepared with a finalized routine. Advisors, lip sync committee members, and student council officers watch the group and decide if they can perform. In years past RMS has provided the opportunity for a second try out, if necessary.

The groups that are then invited to perform are posted on the student council bulletin board, along with the individual names of the students in that group. Once invited to perform, it is the high expectation that all groups keep practicing! If you are cut, that means that your group really needed to get their act together. Usually, you would only get cut after your second tryout. If you need a second tryout that means that your performance was capable of improving in a short amount of time, with hard work and diligence, of course!

### **Judges and Prizes....**

Judges are a very important aspect of the Lip Sync. They determine the winners of each of the four categories. The categories include best costume, best choreography, funniest performance, and the best overall performance. In no way shape or form can the judges be related to any of the performers. Also, to ensure maximum fairness, a judge should not be a teacher to avoid bias situations. Instructional aides, receptionists, former students, and custodians are examples of people who are eligible to serve as judges. All winning groups receive prizes, but the overall best performance returns to the school the following year to perform once more! Some prizes come from donations and others are purchased by the student council; examples of past prizes include Six Flags Great Adventure tickets and iTunes gift cards.

## **Night of Lip Sync .....**

The night of the lip sync is full of excitement and some nerves from all of the performers. People from all over the school, including teachers, administrators, friends and family members come to watch the performers. Everyone is back stage and ready to go. The music is set up the lights are on and its show time. One by one, groups of 2-7 people perform their songs and dance to the beat. After all the groups perform, the judges talk about who the winners are for each category, best costumes, best choreography, funniest, and best overall. During that time another special group performs. This group could be any group really, but at our school, a group of teachers, including our student council advisors! During the entire performance, everyone is laughing and having a great time. After the teachers go on we have the group that won best overall the year before perform their winning number. When their performance is over, the judges come back and have the hosts announce the winners from each category. After every one hears the final announcement and the prizes are handed out, sadly it is time to go home. The night is always a great success and a wonderful night for every one including performers, the audience, and all the members of the student council.

### **Other Facts**

- Last year at our competition, we raised around \$3,500, most of it going towards the Family Reach Foundation.
- Last year, each song was 3 minutes long or less, but this year, we changed it to 2 minutes and 30 seconds to allow time for more performances.
- Songs must be school appropriate, and each song should be checked by the advisors to assure that the music is okay to be used.
- Song editing sessions, where you edit your music to make it appropriate and the right time limit, are available for two days after school.

**\*For more information about the RMS Lip Sync Competition please feel free to contact the Readington Middle School Student Council Advisors.**

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