

Our performer has specifically asked that all students and staff turn off their phones, tablets, and laptops. Audio and video recording is strictly forbidden.

Born in Michigan and raised in Massachusetts, John Morello has been on stage as an actor, comedian, and performance artist for over 20 years. At one time a high-school dropout, he now holds college degrees in Theatre Arts and Communications.

John survived a high-risk adolescence while witnessing those around him struggle with addiction, depression, and the despair that can accompany poverty in a small town. To help himself and others better understand these struggles, he created the one-man show, *Dirt*; a show which began as an experiment in a tiny theater that has now been seen by millions across the world.

His performances have been critically acclaimed by the New York Times but the reviews he cherishes most are the letters from students and teachers. As an author, he has published a graphic novel and a collection of poetry and stories titled, *Buckshot Words*.

He is a dad, loves music, and now lives in Worcester, Massachusetts; the city where the rocket and the smiley-face were created.

Please welcome John Morello.