



INTERNATIONAL
THESPIAN SOCIETY

HONORING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN THEATRE

Thoreau Middle School Thespian Constitution

Thespian Troupe #89294 Constitution

Adopted: 09/01/2017

Article I: Name, Purpose, and Governance

Section 1. Name: This organization shall be called Troupe #89294. The troupe has been chartered by Thoreau Middle School. The charter affiliates it with the International Thespian Society (ITS).

Section 2. Purpose: The troupe is the honors component of the school's theatre program. Its purpose shall be the advancement of standards of excellence in theatre. More specifically, the troupe will encourage students to attain a better mastery of the theatre arts and will reward those who achieve it with induction into the troupe. Thespians achieving honor ranks and scholar distinctions shall receive recognition of their exemplary accomplishments.

Section 3. Governance: This troupe constitution and its bylaws are two components of a hierarchy of documents that govern members of the International Thespian Society and its parent organization, the Educational Theatre Association (EdTA). The documents affecting troupes, in order of authority, are: the EdTA Code of Regulations, the membership policy, the troupe handbooks, the troupe constitution, and troupe bylaws. This constitution may not be altered in any way that conflicts with a superseding document or school policies and procedures.

Article II: Membership

Section 1. Membership: All nominees for active membership shall be regularly enrolled as students of Thoreau Middle School.

Section 2. To become eligible for induction all prospective members must have participated in the equivalent of at least one (1) full-length production, and have earned a minimum of ten (10) points originating from at least two (2) differing theatrical disciplines, i.e., 50 hours of superior work at Thoreau Middle School. One Act plays are considered to be ½ of a full length play. To become a Thespian, a student must earn ten (10) or more points, five (5) or more of which must be acquired at Thoreau Middle School.

Section 3. Students may earn up to five (5) Troupe #89294 points during summer breaks through participation in community, children's, or professional theatre or in other theatre-related disciplines. Summer theatre classes do not count toward Troupe #89294 points. Documentation showing a maximum of 25 hours of quality work must be submitted to the Troupe Sponsor at the beginning of the new season for summer points to be applied.

Section 4. Final authority concerning membership requirements shall be vested in the troupe sponsor.

Section 2. Officers: The Thespian troupe shall have the following officers: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and clerk/scribe. Duties shall be defined in the troupe's bylaws.

Section 3. Elections: The troupe shall elect officers for the next school year in the last full month of the current school term.

Article III. Officers

Section 1. Officers shall be elected once a year at prior to the induction ceremony.

Section 2. Requirements for all elected officers are as follows: Each officer must be an active member of the troupe at the time of election. Each officer must be a regularly enrolled student at Thoreau Middle School.

Section 3. If an elected officer is unable or unwilling to fulfill his/her duties, a new officer may be appointed by the troupe sponsor to fill the position.

Section 4. The elected officers are to have the following duties:

The President presides at all meetings, appoints all standing and special committees, and directs and supervises troupe activities.

The Vice President presides in the absence of the president, teaches a new ensemble exercise every meeting and assists the troupe sponsor in the preparation and delivery of the induction ceremony for new members.

The Treasurer keeps the records of meetings and keeps the troupe's budget and oversees fundraisers.

The Historian oversees and manages members' birthdays, troupe parties and celebrations, etc.) and provides a rough draft of the monthly newsletter

The Publicity Officer manages all publicity duties related to the troupe, specifically updates the Theatre Department's social media, and organizes troupe advocacy events

Section 5. The Troupe Sponsor's duties will be to oversee all troupe activities, to be the final authority in selection of new members and to be the guide and inspiration of the group.

Section 6. The Board of Directors shall be composed of the Troupe Sponsor, all elected officers, and any honorary members appointed by the Troupe Sponsor.

Article IV. Meetings and Participation

Section 1. Meetings: Thespian troupe meetings shall be held bi-monthly throughout the school year as the schedule allows. Special meetings may be called by the troupe sponsor, any officer, or by a quorum of Thespians.

Section 2. Quorum: A quorum shall be fifty percent of the active membership and must include two or more officers.

Section 3. Denial of participation: Any member who is absent four meetings per school year, four rehearsals or four technical meetings during a current production, unless they have an excuse considered valid by the director, or who does not participate in a current main stage production, which would earn one or more points, shall be dropped from active membership. The Troupe Sponsor may drop any member who causes deliberate dissension, which would disrupt the workings of any production, the Troupe, the Theatre Arts Department or Thespian business meeting. The Troupe Sponsor may drop any member who violates the Thespian Honor Pledge. Any member requesting reinstatement of participation rights may have them restored with the consent of the troupe director and two-thirds of the troupe's membership. In extreme cases a Thespian's status as a member in good standing of the local troupe may be suspended or withdrawn by the troupe director for just cause. Such decisions are subject to oversight by the school administration. This may affect any or all participation rights and benefits that require the troupe director's authorization, but will not affect membership and benefits that come directly from the ITS national office.

Article V: Dues and Fees

Section 1. Dues: There shall be no mandatory dues for Thespian induction except as provided by the EdTA Board of Directors, unless determined by a two-thirds vote of the membership at the regular yearly officer election or first monthly meeting. However, if dues are not collected, the troupe is expected to hold fund-raising activities in accordance with its goals and materials.

Section 2. Fees: Troupes may approve additional fees for local Thespian troupe participation. This requires consent of the troupe director and a two-thirds vote of the active troupe members at a regular troupe meeting.

Article VI: Amendments

Section 1. Amendments to this constitution may be included by the Troupe Director at any time and for any purpose s/he believes will increase the viability of the Troupe.

Section 2. Any amendments considered and/or enacted by the membership body to this constitution must have the vote of two thirds of the troupe membership and the signed consent of the troupe sponsor

Section 3. This constitution and its amendments shall be subject to change according to any changing requirements of the International Thespian Society.

Section 4. Purpose: Bylaws provide additional guidance for the governance and operations of the troupe. No bylaw may be in conflict with the EdTA Code of Regulations, membership policy, troupe handbook, troupe constitution, or school policy or procedures.

Section 5. Adoptions and amendments: The troupe director may adopt or amend bylaws as deemed appropriate. Bylaws may also be added or amended by approval of a simple majority of the troupe's active membership and the consent of the troupe director.

Adopted 09/01/2017

Troupe Director Virginia Cunningham

Troupe President _____

Signature _____

Signature _____

Thespian Troupe #89294 Bylaws

Adopted: 09/01/2017

Article I: Attendance

Section 1. A student arriving late to or leaving early from meetings or rehearsals without a reason considered valid by the troupe director will receive a demerit. Three such offenses will be counted as an absence from a meeting without excuse.

Section 2. Regular after-school meetings will begin at 2:25 p.m. and evening meetings at 6:00 p.m. Changes will be posted by 12 p.m. the day of the meeting.

Section 3. Irregular attendance indicates a lack of interest; therefore, any member absent four (4) meetings per school year without a written excuse submitted to the secretary, stage manager, or troupe director shall be automatically suspended from troupe activities. The troupe director has sole authority to reverse the suspension.

Section 4. Attendance shall be considered in the Thespian point award system.

Section 5. Absences shall accumulate for only one school year at a time.

Article II: Thespian Points

Section 1. Induction points must be earned over the course of more than one production. In years when there is only one production, this requirement is waived.

Section 2. Points will be awarded by a modified version of the point system of the International Thespian Society.

Section 3. The Troupe sponsor will determine the exact number of and requirements for points to be awarded in all theatrical and non-theatrical participation.

Section 4. Points may be reduced or withheld entirely by the Troupe Sponsor for any member or prospective member for any production or activity based on behavior or quality of work.

Section 5. Three (3) hours' worth of an induction point may be earned for attending non-school productions. To qualify, a ticket stub or a program must be provided as proof of attendance. A critique of the show (two-page minimum) must be submitted within one week of the production.

Article III: Induction

Section 1. An induction ceremony shall be held at least once each year. Additional ceremonies may be held as often as deemed necessary by the troupe director.

Section 2. Each inductee must provide his or her current mailing address and email address. Individual inductees are responsible for their own induction fees. The troupe will pay for additional honor items that are included in its officially adopted recognition system. Students may ask the troupe director to purchase honor items on their behalf that are not included in the troupe's official system. Such items will be available at the troupe director's discretion and at each student's expense.

Section 3. The troupe director determines the time, place, schedule, and format of induction ceremonies.

Section 4. The troupe director and president conduct inductions. The principal, superintendent, and/or like officials will be offered a role in the ceremony whenever possible. The vice president is responsible for training induction ceremony speakers, scheduling and rehearsing said speakers, and preparing the stage and induction properties as directed by the troupe director.

Article IV: Officers

Section 1. Duties: Troupe officer duties are defined below. The troupe director may assign other duties.

A. The president presides at all meetings, appoints all standing and special committees, and directs and supervises troupe activities.

B. The vice president presides in the absence of the president and is responsible for the induction of new members.

C. The secretary keeps the records of meetings and attends to troupe correspondence.

D. The treasurer keeps the troupe's books, and may act as business manager of Thespian productions.

E. The clerk/scribe keeps the point records of all activities: plays, production dates, casts, crews, and work accomplished as provided in the official point system. For troupes without a historian, the clerk may also keep a scrapbook of news clippings, posters, programs, etc.

F. Other offices such as historian, publicity chair, Student Advocacy Works chair, and TOTS-EAT chair may be added at the troupe's discretion. All officer positions must be listed in the troupe's constitution.

Section 2. Requirements for all elected officers are as follows: each student must be an active member of the troupe for at least one school year, and at the time of election must be enrolled in grades 7 or 8.

Section 3. Nominations for officers may be made by nomination. Officers will be elected by a majority vote.

Section 4. Voting will be done by secret written or google form ballot at an official troupe meeting.

Section 5. Three members, including one officer, may request, in writing, to the Troupe Sponsor a recall election of all or any officer(s). This written request must state the need for such an election. A special meeting will be scheduled within five school days upon receipt of the request, for the purpose of voting on whether or not a recall election is necessary. Two thirds of the membership is required to mandate a recall election. If a recall election is mandated, election of officers will follow the procedure set in Article V. Sections 2 and 3.

Article V: Troupe Activities

Section 1. The troupe is not a secret organization. All interested faculty, students, parents, Honorary Thespians, troupe alumni, and administrators are welcome at troupe meetings.

Section 2. At least one meeting or special event of Troupe #89294 shall include an open invitation to all students for the purpose of playing theatre games and creating improvisations.

Section 3. The troupe shall sponsor at least one *good neighbor* program a year for the purpose of establishing good relationships with nearby Thespian and Junior Thespian troupes and other dramatic groups.

Section 4. The troupe shall cooperate with all other departments and clubs in the school in helping them with their programs in any way it can.

Article VI: Conflict Resolution

Section 1. In the event issues or conflicts arise between a Thespian and the troupe director that cannot be solved through communication between the two parties, the issue should be resolved by the school administration as indicated in the troupe handbook.

Adopted 09/01/2017

Troupe Director Virginia Cunningham

Troupe President _____

Signature _____

Signature _____