



**INTERNATIONAL
THESPIAN SOCIETY**

HONORING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN THEATRE

Thespian Troupe 900

Thespian Troupe 900 Constitution

Adopted August 12, 2024

Article I: Name, Purpose, and Governance

Section 1. Name: This organization shall be called Troupe 900. The troupe has been chartered by Countryside High 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: Organization and Officers

Section 1. Membership: Membership is achieved by complying with all induction criteria as defined in the troupe handbook. The Thespian point system is the official guideline for awarding induction points. Any changes to induction criteria, including the Thespian point system, must be adopted as a troupe bylaw.

Section 2. Officers: The Thespian troupe shall have a board of officers (led by a president) that plans and oversees all troupe-related activities for the school year. 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: Meetings and Participation

Section 1. Meetings: Thespian troupe meetings shall be held regularly throughout the school year. Special meetings may be called by the troupe director, any officer, or by a quorum of Thespians.

Section 2. Quorum: A quorum shall be a majority of the troupe’s active membership.

Section 3. Denial of participation: Any Thespian who causes deliberate dissension or disruption of any production or business meeting may be denied participation in troupe activities by the consent of the troupe director. 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 IV: Dues and Fees

Section 1. Dues: There shall be no mandatory dues for Thespian induction except as provided by the EdTA Board of Directors.

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. The school and its troupe director may also assess user fees in accordance with school policy.

Article V: Bylaws

Section 1. 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 2. 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.

Article VI: Amendments

Section 1. Exclusions: Article I may not be amended.

Section 2. Procedure: Articles other than Article I may be amended by approval of two-thirds of the troupe’s active membership with the consent of the troupe director. This constitution and its amendments shall be subject to change according to any or all requirements of the International Thespian Society.

Adopted_____

Troupe Director_____

Signature_____

Troupe President_____

Signature_____

Thespian Troupe 900 Bylaws

Adopted: _____

Article I: Attendance and Participation

Section 1. Regular after-school meetings occur after school on the first Wednesday of each month. Changes will be announced by 12 p.m. the day of the meeting.

Section 2. A troupe member may be dropped from active membership on the authority of the troupe director in the following circumstances:

- The member does not attend meetings. 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 member fails to participate in at least one CHS Theatre production, earning a minimum of 5 points per year.
- The member causes deliberate dissension, disrupting the workings of any production, event, or business meeting.

Section 3. The troupe director has sole authority to reverse any suspension.

Section 4. 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. Thespian points may be awarded for theatre-related work done outside the school's theatre program. To qualify for points, a copy of the program or other verification must be provided.

Section 3. One-half (0.5) of a thespian 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 (one-page minimum) must be submitted within one week of the production and follow the attached guidelines (see Appendix B).

Section 4. Thespian points may be earned on an hourly basis for attending auditions for CHS mainstage productions. For example, a 3-hour audition qualifies for three-tenths (0.3) of a point.

Section 5. One point per semester can be earned for enrollment in and completion of a theatre class, provided the student maintains a grade of B or higher.

Section 6. Double-dipping policy:

- Students performing multiple roles (performance AND/OR technical) for a production may defer to the role that has the higher point value, provided it accurately reflects the number of hours invested in the production.
- Students are not permitted to stack roles for points.
- Students are not eligible to receive points for graded school assignments or requirements, with the exception as stated in Article II, section 6.

Section 7. Point Maintenance: Students must total their Thespian points with the troupe director at least once a year. Any points not logged before the end of each school year will not carry over. The only exception is points earned over the summer (between school years).

Section 8. Graduation Cords: To receive a graduation cord, a student must have a minimum of 20 points, be a student in good standing, and have earned at least 10 points during their senior year.

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 unless payment has been prearranged by a booster group, fundraising, or other source. 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 troupe officers conduct inductions. The principal, superintendent, and/or like officials will be offered a role in the ceremony whenever possible. The inductions committee 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.

Section 5. Inductees must not have any previous major behavioral violations (Referrals, Expulsions, Suspensions, etc.). The severity of these can be assessed by the Troupe Director if under question.

Article IV: Officers

Section 1. Duties: Troupe officer duties are defined below. The troupe director may re-assign or assign other duties as needed.

A. The co-presidents preside at all meetings, appoint all standing and special committees, and direct and supervise troupe activities.

B. The District IV representative attends all district-related meetings and events and relays the information back to the troupe.

C. The secretary keeps the records of meetings and the point records of all activities: plays, production dates, casts, crews, and work accomplished as provided in the official point system.

D. Board members will serve on rotating committees throughout the school year. The committees will be responsible for the following duties:

- The social media committee is responsible keeping the troupe social media and website accurate and up to date.
- The publicity committee is responsible for advertising events and productions, coordinating fundraising events and seeking sponsorship from local businesses.
- The recruitment committee is responsible for promoting enthusiasm for and within the troupe, as well as recruiting for programs, auditions, and events.
- The theatre management committee is responsible for overseeing the theatre space, ensuring all rules and regulations are followed. This committee organizes sound and light technicians and ushers for events.
- The historical committee is responsible for keeping a scrapbook of news clippings, posters, programs, documenting all events, productions, and activities, as well as creating the end-of-year slideshow.
- The induction committee is responsible for selecting mentors and overseeing the inductions process and related events.

E. Other offices or committees may be added at the troupe's discretion. All officer positions must be listed in the troupe's constitution.

Section 2. Requirements for all appointed 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 10 or 11. Each student is encouraged to enroll (or plan to enroll) in a CHS theatre course for the upcoming school year.

Section 3. Eligible candidates are required to fill out an officer application form, complete with parent/guardian approval and teacher recommendations. These application forms will be available in the fourth quarter of the academic year.

Section 4. Officer appointments are to be made by a committee that includes the troupe director and current officers. If necessary, an additional school staff member may be present.

Section 5. An officer may be suspended or removed from the board on the authority of the troupe director for any of the reasons previously laid out in Article I, Section 2 of the Troupe Bylaws. In addition, officers may also be suspended or removed for not meeting the following expectations:

- Officers must maintain a GPA of 2.5 or higher.
- Officers must not receive any major behavioral violations during their time of service (referrals, expulsions, suspensions, etc.). The severity of these will be assessed by the Troupe Director if under question.
- Officers must maintain satisfactory attendance (>90%) in all CHS classes.

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 900 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 _____

Troupe Director _____

Troupe President _____

Signature _____

Signature _____

APPENDIX A

Recommended Thespian Point Awards

CATEGORY	POSITION/WORK DONE	ONE ACT (>1 hour)	FULL LENGTH (<1 hour)
Acting	Major Role	4	8
	Minor Role	3	5
	Walk-on	1	2
	Chorus/Ensemble	1	3
	Dancer	1	2
	Understudy	1	2
Production Crew	Stage Manager	4	8
	Set Construction crew	3	5
	Stage Crew	2	4
	Costume/dresser	2	5
	Properties crew	2	3
	Sound crew	2	3
	Light crew	2	3
	Make up crew	1	3
		3	
Production Design	Lighting technician	3	6
	Costumer	3	6
	Sound technician	3	5
	Properties manager	3	5
	Set designer	4	5
	Set construction crew	3	5
	Make up manager	3	5
Directing	Student director	4	8
	Assistant director	3	6
	Choreographer	4	7
	Vocal director	3	6
Business	Publicity manager	3	5
	Publicity crew	2	3
	Ushers	.25/performance	.5/performance
Writing	Original play (produced)	5	8
	Original play (unproduced)	1	2

CATEGORY	ACTIVITY	POINTS EARNED
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Attending theatre festival	Florida Theatre Conference	1/day
	District IV Thespian Festival (observer ONLY) OR Florida State Thespian Festival	1/day
Participation in theatre festival or contest	District OR State Thespys	1/event
	Walker's Rising Star (finalist)	3
Officers	President	6
	Vice President	5
	Secretary	5
	Historian	4
	Publicity	4
	Other	3
	Ambassador	2
Miscellaneous	After-school performance (Coffee House, fundraiser performance, Student-directed, etc.)	1
	Enrollment in and completion of CHS theatre course (must maintain a grade of B or higher)	1/semester
	Audition	.1/hour
	Light/sound tech for auditorium rentals	.5
	Advocacy event (orientation, Third Friday, fundraising, etc.)	.1/hour
Audience	Attending productions and writing a substantial critique reflecting on the educational value of the experience.	.5/each
	Attending full-length productions (minimum 2 hours in length; no critique).	.25/each
	Attending productions less than 2 hours in length (no critique; ex: improv shows, one acts, special events, etc).	.1/each (<i>one-tenth point</i>)

*****See Thespian Troupe Handbook for additional categories and details.*****

APPENDIX B

HOW TO WRITE A CRITIQUE FOR A THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE

A critique is an evaluation of a performance of a show. It should be typed, double-spaced, and contain five paragraphs.

1. Paragraph 1—The Basics

Include the answers to the five W's:

- Who (the playwright, directors, actors)
- What (the title of the play)
- Where (the name of the school or theater)
- When (when did you see it?)
- Why (In a few sentences, state the basic theme of the show)

2. Paragraph 2—The Plot

Briefly summarize the plot of the show:

- How well did the story work?
- Was it interesting, entertaining?

3. Paragraph 3—The Acting

Reactions to the performers playing the characters in the play.

- Use their real names and character names
- Were they believable?
- How was their volume and articulation?
- Did their gestures and body movement stay true to the character?

4. Paragraph 4—The Design

- **Set:** Did it establish a definite mood and correct time period for the play?
- **Lights:** Did they convey appropriate mood, emphasis, and brightness?
- **Costumes and Makeup:** Were they true to the period of the show and to the characters?
- **Sound:** How did the sound effects and music contribute to the show's mood?
- If this performance was a musical, what is your opinion of the orchestra's performance?

5. Paragraph 5—The Reaction

- What is the play's effect on the audience?
- What was your opinion of the show as a whole?
- A judgment or recommendation – would you recommend others see this play?

6. Remember to:

- Back up all your opinions with valid reasons.
- Be objective, fair, and sincere.
- Evaluate the entire production.
- Be constructive.
- Indicate good points along with those you felt needed improvement.
- Enjoy the show—don't go to be overly critical.