



INTERNATIONAL
THESPIAN SOCIETY

HONORING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN THEATRE

Troupe Constitution

Thespian Troupe #4996 Constitution

Adopted: _____

Article I: Name, Purpose, and Governance

Section 1. Name: This organization shall be called Troupe #4996. The troupe has been chartered by Harrison 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 earning a minimum of 10 Thespian points equivalent to approximately 100 hours of excellent work or service. 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 the following officers: president, vice president, secretary, historian, liaison, and media/marketing director. 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 2 months of the current school term.

Article III: Meetings and Participation

Section 1. Meetings: Thespian troupe meetings shall be held twice monthly throughout the school year. Special meetings may be called by the troupe director, any officer.

Section 3. Participation shall be subject to the Troupe’s Integrity policy as stated in the bylaws. 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 in consultation with Troupe Leadership. 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_____

Troupe President_____

Signature_____

Signature_____

Thespian Troupe #4996 Bylaws

Adopted: _____

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 be the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. respectively. Changes will be posted by 2 p.m. the day of the meeting.

Section 3. To maintain membership in Troupe #4996, students must follow all attendance policies. Members are allowed 2 unexcused absences per semester. Excessive absences may result in loss of rank and/or removal from the Troupe. If any student is unable to attend a meeting, they must contact the secretary or Troupe Director as soon as possible.

Excused absences:

- Athletic Competition- This does not include practice. Students must ask their coach for permission to be late to practice on ITS meeting days.
- Absence from school due to illness
- Work conflict
- Death in the family
- Other serious conflict

Section 4. Irregular attendance indicates a lack of interest; therefore, any member absent two (2) meetings per semester without a written excuse submitted to the secretary, or troupe director shall be automatically placed under probationary status. The troupe director has sole authority to reverse the probation.

Section 5. Absences shall accumulate for only one semester 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. A maximum of five (5) Thespian points will 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 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 high quality review with a minimum of thirteen (13) sentences must be submitted within one week of the production.

Section 4. The troupe director will track points for productions, reviews, leadership, small ensembles (e.g., Spotlight Troupe), and other special circumstances (e.g., Drama Camp staff)

Article III: Induction

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

Section 2. Each inductee must provide their 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.

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, and/or like officials will be offered a role in the ceremony whenever possible.

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 tracking Thespian points for house managing, ushering, ticket sales, workdays, and community service involvement.

C. The secretary attends to troupe correspondence (e.g., Remind texts), takes attendance at meetings, and organizes community service events.

D. The historian is responsible for keeping a record of Troupe activities, including a slide show at the end of the year. They will work with the Troupe Director to create and submit the Honor Troupe Application.

E. The liaison serves as a connection between The Harrison Theatre Guild and Troupe #4996. They will also establish contacts, coordinate events and activities with other Troupes.

F. The media/marketing director oversees all media and marketing for the Troupe as well as the Harrison Theatre Department as a whole. This is not an elected position but will be appointed at the discretion of the Troup Director.

G. 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 eligible for induction, and at the time of election must be enrolled in grades 9, 10, or 11.

Section 3. Students will self-nominate and declare both their intention to run and rank their preferences for board positions. Nominees will be given a set of possible questions to prepare and respond to at the troupe election meeting.

Section 4. Elections will be conducted at the April troupe meeting for the next school year.

Section 5. Voting will be done by secret ballot at an official troupe meeting. The student with the highest number of votes will be given their first choice of position and so on until all the positions are filled.

Section 6. Three members, including one officer, may request a recall election of all or any elected officers. This request must be submitted to the troupe director in writing and 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 necessary, election of officers will follow the procedure above.

Section 7. Officers shall be installed at The Harrison Theatre "Harri" Awards in May.

Article V: Integrity Policy

Section 1. As a nationally recognized honor society we hold ourselves to the highest of ethical and behavioral standards and as a department we live by the Theatre Arts Core Values of Trust, Honesty, Ensemble, Attitude, Talent, Respect, and Excellence. Therefore, no student with any discipline record at Harrison High School (or a previous High School) will be eligible for induction into ITS. This includes Saturday School, In School Suspension, and Out of School Suspension.

Section 2. As a stop-gap measure, beginning with the Fall 2022 Semester, any currently inducted students with previous disciplinary records will be placed on probationary status. **Probationary status will not affect students' ability to attend ThesCon or be on Leadership Team during this grace period.** A second infraction will result in the loss of a rank title (e.g., 2-Star Thespian would go down to a Thespian; Honor Thespian would go down to 5-Star Thespian; National Honor Thespian would go down to Honor Thespian, etc.). A third infraction will result in removal from Troupe #4996.

Section 3. Beginning with the Fall 2023 Semester, a first infraction for any inducted student will result in probationary status AND a loss of rank title. Students on probationary status are disqualified from running for Leadership Team in perpetuity. Students on probationary status are ineligible for ThesCon during the year of the infraction. They will be allowed to do extra work, above and beyond what is expected of an active member, to earn back the privilege of attending ThesCon in future years. The specific requirements to earn back that privilege are to be determined. A second infraction will result in removal from Troupe #4996.

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 _____

Signature _____

Troupe President _____

Signature _____