

International Thespian Society Constitution

Thespian Troupe #1279 Constitution

Article I. Name and purpose

Section 1. The organization shall be called Troupe #1279 of the International Thespian Society, a branch of the Educational Theatre Association.

Section 2. The purpose of this troupe shall be the advancement of standards of excellence in the theatre. More specifically, the troupe shall encourage students to attain a better mastery of the theatre arts.

Section 3. The organization forbids secrecy; membership is given as recognition for meritorious work in the theatre arts.

Article II. Membership

Section 1. All nominees for active membership shall be regularly enrolled as students of Saint Patrick High School or from an all girl's school with no Troupe.

Section 2. All active members must have participated in at least two (2) full-length plays/productions for the current calendar school year and have earned a minimum of ten (10) points, i.e., 100 hours of superior work in the Theatre Department for the current calendar school year. Also, active members must be enrolled in grades 9 – 12 in a theatre arts class and/or participate in Saint Patrick Theatre Department productions for the current calendar school year, all of which support the Saint Patrick Theatre Department. If any of these requirements is not met, students will be considered inactive members.

Section 2b. Inactive members may retain their status on the roll of Thespian Troupe #1279. However, their participation in, attendance at, and the conferring of any and all awards/honors at any Thespian activities is dependent on Section 2 above.

Section 3. Final authority concerning membership requirements shall be vested in the troupe sponsor/director.

Section 4. Honorary membership may be granted to adults for extraordinary and worthy assistance in the promotion of the theatre in the school and the community.

Article III. Officers

Section 1. Saint Patrick High School Troupe #1279 shall elect officers once a year by the first full month of the school term at a regular business meeting.

Section 2. Requirements for all elected officers are as follows: Each student, with the exception of the Freshman Representative, 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 9 – 12 in a Theatre Arts class.

Section 3. The elected officers are to have the following duties:

- **President**—this student presides at all meetings, appoints all standing and special committees, and directs and supervises troupe activities. This student is the direct liaison between the directors and the students.
- **Vice President**—this student presides in the absence of the president and is responsible for the induction of new members.
- **Secretary**—this student keeps the records of the meetings and attends to troupe correspondence.
- **Treasurer**—this student keeps the troupe’s books and pays bills and may act as business manager of Thespian productions. This student also coordinates fundraising for the Troupe.
- **Historian**—this student works directly with the directors and the parent booster historian to keep a scrapbook of news clippings, posters, programs, etc. to document the success of the department throughout the year.

Section 4. The duties of the sponsor/director 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.

Article IV. Meetings, Department Participation, and Attendance

Section 1. Meetings shall be held for the Thespian Board to plan activities for the year. These meetings will be scheduled by the sponsor/director.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the sponsor/director, any officer, or by a quorum.

Section 3. A quorum shall be fifty percent of the active membership and must include two officers and the sponsor/director.

Section 4. Any Thespian Board officer who is absent two meetings per school year or any Thespian member who is absent more than the allotted number of rehearsals during a current production (please refer to audition information per show), unless they have an excuse considered valid by the sponsor/director, or who does not participate in at least 2 current calendar year productions, which would earn ten or more points, shall be dropped from active membership, or replaced on the current year’s Thespian Board, or be removed from the designated production, depending on the level of the offense as determined by the sponsor/director. Prompt communication regarding attendance is mandatory, either by emailing the director and/or Thespian Board Secretary or leaving a message with sponsor/ director at 773-282-884 EXT 276.

Any member who causes deliberate dissension (quitting productions, dropping out of a Theatre Department Class, discrediting/negating Saint Patrick Theatre Department students, directors, and the Saint Patrick Theatre Department, etc.), as determined by the sponsor/director, that would disrupt the workings of any production, business meetings, and/or the Saint Patrick Theatre Department shall be dropped from active membership by the consent of the sponsor/director. Students who are forced to leave productions due to grade ineligibility are exempt from losing their active status.

Any member requesting re-admittance to active status, based on the criteria noted in the above paragraphs, must have the consent of the sponsor/director. However, if the member is readmitted to active status, he/she will be ineligible for any and all awards/honors for the current calendar year.

Article V. Dues, etc.

Section 1. There shall be no dues for the troupe except as provided by the International Thespian Society Board of Trustees, unless determined by a two thirds vote of the membership at the regularly yearly election.

Article VI. Amendments

Section 1. All amendments to this constitution must have the vote of two thirds of the active troupe membership and consent of the sponsor/director. This constitution and its amendments shall be subject to change according to any or all requirements of the International Thespian Society.

BYLAWS.

Article 1. Attendance

Section 1. Late arrival to or leaving early from meetings or rehearsals without a reason considered valid by the theatre director/sponsor will be notated on attendance records. Three such offenses will be counted as an absence from a meeting/rehearsal without excuse.

Section 2. Regular after-school meetings will begin at the time scheduled by the sponsor/director. If there is a change of time and/or date, the sponsor/director will post a special notice on the theatre callboard/website.

Section 3. Irregular attendance indicates a lack of interest; therefore any Thespian Board member who is absent two (2) Thespian Board meetings per school year will forfeit their position on that year's Board. Also, any member who is absent more than the allotted number of rehearsals during a production (please refer to audition information per show) without a valid, written

excuse/phone message submitted to the sponsor/director the day of, after the scheduled rehearsal shall be automatically dropped from that particular show.

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

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

Article II. Inductions

Section 1. Inductions shall be held once each year, or as often as deemed necessary by the sponsor/director.

Section 2. The time and place of induction as well as the form will be determined by the sponsor.

Section 3. The President will be held responsible for the training of the speakers of the induction ceremony, must schedule and rehearse said speakers, as well as take care of the preparation of the stage and induction properties.

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 IV. Point award system

Section 1. The theatre director/sponsor will determine the exact number of points to be awarded in all theatrical and non-theatrical participation.

Section 2. Points will be awarded as suggested by the point system of the International Thespian Society. Exceptional hours and level of commitment may be rewarded to active Thespian members by the sponsor/director.

Article V. Elections

Section 1. Officers shall be elected at a business meeting in the month of August for the coming fall term. All officers for the coming school year shall be elected within five school days of the beginning of the school year.

Section 2. Nominations for officers are to be made to and approved by the sponsor/director. The officer candidate who has the most votes will be elected to office. In the case of a tie, the sponsor/director may choose to either elect both candidates to a Co-office or break the tie with his/her vote.

Section 3. Voting will be done by secret written ballot.

Section 4. Three members, including one officer, may request in writing to the sponsor, a recall election of all or any elected officers. This written request must

state the need for such an election. The only acceptable need for a recall election would be a community event/natural disaster that hindered a large majority of the membership from being able to attend to vote for the respective officers. Upon approval of the sponsor/director, 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 set in Article V. Section 2.

Article VI. Installations

Section 1. Officers shall be installed at the first social or program meeting of the school term.

Article VII. Adoption

Section 1. The current Thespian Board will vote during the school year to adopt this constitution. The constitution from the previous school year is in effect until this vote is taken.

Article IX. Conflict Resolution

Section 1. In the event issues/conflicts arise between a Thespian and a Sponsor/Director which cannot be solved through communication between the two parties, the issue should be resolved by the school administration.