****

Georgia Thespian Society Troupe 8218 Bylaws

**Introduction: This is the standard Thespian troupe constitution for the operation of all Thespian and Junior Thespian troupes.**

Thespian Troupe 8218 Constitution

 Adopted: 9/16/2015

**Article I: Name, Purpose, and Governance**

Section 1. Name: This organization shall be called Echols County High School International Thespian Troupe 8218. The troupe has been chartered by Echols County Schools. 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 superceding 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. Induction Requirements

Thespian Induction: In order to receive invitation to the Echols County High School International Thespian Society Honor Troupe, an ECS Performing Arts (One Act Play and/or Literary) member must fulfill both of the following requirements.

1. 10 Thespian Points
2. 3.0 GPA for all academic coursework

Section 3. Thespian Points

* The minimum eligibility requirement for Thespian induction is one hundred hours of quality work in theatre arts and related disciplines. One Thespian point represents approximately ten hours of quality work.
* Inductees must earn ten points, five of which must be for work done at the school where they will be inducted.
* Induction points should be earned through participation in full-length or one act productions.
* Induction points should be earned in at least two of the listed categories, for example, acting and production.
* Students may earn up to five points toward induction through participation in community, children’s, or professional theatre; or in other performing arts activities outside ECS Performing Arts. They may earn additional points after induction at the troupe director’s discretion and upon knowledge or verification of participation.
* Thespian membership will be made available on an equitable basis to all students who qualify. No student will be elected into the Society; and peers may not have a role in awarding points or deciding induction eligibility.

Troupe Point Calculation:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Category | Position | Points |
| Acting | Major Role | 8 |
| Minor Role | 5 |
| Chorus/Ensemble | 4 |
| Walk-on/Understudy | 3 |
| Production | Management Position | 8 |
| Set Crew/Costume Crew | 4 |
| Tech Crew/Lighting Crew/Sound Crew | 4 |
| Sound Technician | 8 |
| Makeup/Hair | 3 |
| Business | Publicity Manager | 3 |
| Fundraising Leads | 5 |
| Fundraising Participant | 2 |
| Ticket/Concession Crew | 3 |
| Directing | Stage Director Assistant | 3 |
| Vocal Coach Assistant | 3 |
| Choreography Assistant | 3 |
| Miscellaneous | Literary Competition Performer | 5 |
| Literary Competition Alternate | 2 |
| Other Organization Performance Lead | 5 |
| Other Organization Performance Participant | 2 |
| Volunteer time | 2 |
| Audience | Outside production attendance and completed written critique or report | 1 |

Section 4. GPA Requirement: Students have earned a minimum, cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or its local equivalent for all academic coursework as determined upon completion of tenth grade or any official grading period thereafter. Students with a 3.5 GPA become Vice President's List Scholars, and students with a 4.0 GPA are awarded the President's List Scholar distinction.

Section 5. Induction Cycle: Points will be calculated by the Troupe Director at the beginning of each school year only. Induction invitations will be distributed at the beginning of the school year.

Section 6. Induction Amendments: 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. To increase eligibility numbers and since ECS Performing Arts does not offer a Junior Thespian Society, rising ninth grade students may carry over a maximum of 10 points from middle school activities, given they serve as cast or crew in One Act Play their initial high school year.

Section 7. Officers: The Thespian troupe shall have the following officers: president, vice president, and secretary.

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.

Section 8. 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 monthly 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 a vote of two-thirds of the troupe’s membership and 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.

Section 4. 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 5. 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 or troupe director shall be automatically suspended from troupe activities. The troupe director has sole authority to reverse the suspension.

Section 6. Absences shall accumulate for only one school year at a time.

**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\_\_\_\_\_\_9/16/15\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Founding Troupe Director\_\_\_Analiese Hamm\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Founding Troupe President\_\_Chelsea Crouch\_\_\_\_

Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*Amendment to induction requirements, 4/9/2019-Analiese Hamm