



## **De Soto High School Drama Department**

### **What is the Thespian society?**

The International Thespian Society (ITS), an honorary group for middle and high school theatre students, is a division of the Educational Theatre Association (EdTA). The mission of ITS is to honor student excellence in the theatre arts. Thespian troupes are just a component of a school's theatre program. ITS membership offers many valuable benefits, services, and opportunities to troupe directors and Thespians alike.

### **Who is eligible?**

**Thespian inductions.** Troupe directors recognize student achievement by assessing student work and inducting eligible students into the International Thespian Society. New inductees become members of the school's Thespian troupe for life. The recommended Thespian point system is the standard for awarding and tracking student eligibility points.

- To become a Thespian, a student must earn 10 points.
- 1 point represents approximately 10 hours of excellent work.
- Induction points should be earned through participation in at least two full-length productions, or one full-length and two one-acts, or four one-acts.
- Induction points should be earned in at least two of the listed categories, for example, acting and production (set crew, stage crew, lights, etc.).

### **Minimum number of active Thespians**

Each troupe must maintain an active member base of at least six officially inducted Thespians at all times. This provides a core group of students to conduct the activities of the troupe and fill officer positions. Active members are those inductees still attending the school for their primary education in core subjects such as math, language arts, social studies, and science.

## What does it cost and what do I get?

Dues are \$30 for the school year and will be due Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018. These dues include the following benefits:

- Membership in the only international honor society for high school theatre arts students—a recognized demonstration of achievement and a valuable addition to college and employment applications.
- A membership certificate.
- A personalized membership card.
- A one-year (nine issues) subscription to *Dramatics* magazine (a \$27 value). The first issue will arrive within 6 to 8 weeks for students inducted August through March.
- Eligibility to attend the Kansas State Thespian Conference in Wichita in January (additional cost of approximately \$300 covers conference fees and transportation/lodging.)
- Eligibility to attend field trips to other high schools to watch performances (additional cost based on ticket prices of shows and transportation costs.)
- Leadership opportunities at the troupe, chapter, and international levels.
- Eligibility for scholarships through EdTA chapters and the home office.
- Eligibility to apply for student grants, including the Doug Finney Festival Grants (juniors and seniors), which are need-based grants to help Thespians attend the ITS Festival.
- Eligibility to audition at the Thespian Festival for admission to college theatre programs.
- Eligibility to submit original plays to the Thespian Playworks program.
- Eligibility to audition for chapter Individual Events programs and qualify for the National Individual Events Showcase (NIES) at the Thespian Festival.
- Eligibility to receive Thespian graduation and honor items (honor cords, point stars, pins, etc.).
- Eligibility to advance to Thespian ranks of Honor, National Honor, or International Honor Thespian.
- Eligibility to receive Thespian scholar distinction for academic achievement.