

Riverdale Ridge High School

Riverdale Ridge Theatre Company

Troupe #8780



**INTERNATIONAL
THESPIAN SOCIETY**

Constitution & Bylaws

Adopted Fall 2018
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Riverdale Ridge Theatre Company Constitution & Bylaws

"New ideas help only those organizations with the discipline and infrastructure needed to implement them."

-John Seely Brown and Paul Duguid, Creativity Versus Structure: A Useful Tension

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Constitution

Article I: Name, Purpose, and Governance

Section 1. Name: This organization shall be called Troupe 8780, Riverdale Ridge Theatre Company. The troupe has been chartered by Riverdale Ridge 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: Membership Achievement and Good Standing Criteria

Section 1. Membership is achieved by complying with the induction criteria outlined below:

1. Be a student in grades nine through twelve
2. Be a student of Riverdale Ridge High School *[students from neighboring schools who are without a troupe are eligible to be inducted]*
3. A minimum of ten (10) awarded thespian points; five (5) of these points must be earned while participating in a Riverdale Ridge Theatre Company production. *[Junior Thespians entering into Riverdale Ridge High School will automatically start with half (5) of the required thespian points for induction.]*
4. A minimum GPA of 2.75
5. Have participated in at least two of the Riverdale Ridge Theatre Company productions throughout the school year.
6. Completed a Riverdale Ridge Theatre Company Thespian Troupe Induction Form

Section 2. Good Standing Definition: A Student Leader Team Member in Good Standing is defined as a member who...

1. Attends troupe activities

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2. Maintains the 2.75 GPA (assessed at the end of each quarter)
3. Ends each semester with a C or better in the the coursework
4. Demonstrates appropriate classroom and team behavior by following the Code of Conduct process
5. Has not been suspended for any reason

Section 2. Honorary Membership may be granted to any member of the Riverdale Ridge High School Learning Community who has provided extraordinary and worthwhile assistance to the program.

Section 3. Seniors may be inducted into the thespian society their final year of high school if they have earned the required points.

Section 4. Members of the Riverdale Ridge Theatre Company Thespian Troupe 8780 will be denoted in programs of any RRTC productions they participate in.

Article III: Officers

Section 1. Officers: The Thespian troupe shall have the following officers: Artistic Director, Managing Director, Production Manager, Marketing Manager, and Rehearsal Manager. There will also be two (2) class representatives for each grade 10, 11, and 12. Duties shall be defined in the troupe's bylaws.

Section 2. Appointed Offices: The offices of Artistic Director, Managing Director, Production Manager, Marketing Manager, and Rehearsal Manager will be selected by the troupe director.

Section 3. Class Representatives: Each grade 10, 11, and 12 will nominate and vote for two representatives of their class to serve on the officer board.

Article IV: 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 Riverdale Ridge Theatre Company event (including rehearsals, performances, or meetings) 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

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consent of the troupe director. Any Thespian who does not regularly participate in RRTC Thespian Troupe activities is subject to similar consequences as outlined above and at the discretion of the troupe director.

Section 4. 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.

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Constitution Adoption

Section 1. Two thirds of those attending the adoption meeting are required to adopt the Constitution of the Riverdale Ridge Theatre Company Thespian Troupe 8780. The Riverdale Ridge Theatre Company Thespian Troupe Sponsor upon adaptation of the Constitution shall appoint the initial Officers of the Thespian Troupe. The Sponsor shall have the authority to appoint each person if no students are elected or an office becomes vacant.

Section 2. When interested students forming the Riverdale Ridge Theatre Company Thespian Troupe agree to the Constitution and have been duly recorded as the framers of this Constitution, it shall go into effect. We, the undersigned, present on this day_____ the Constitution of Thespian Troupe 8780 and declare that this Constitution has been adopted by a majority of all the organizing members present.

Date Adopted_____

Troupe Director_____

Troupe President_____

Signature_____

Signature_____

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Article ____: Attendance

Section 1. A student thespian arriving late to or leaving early from meetings or rehearsals without a reason considered valid prior to the meeting by the troupe director will be noted in the official minutes. After two occurrences of this, the student thespian will be marked as having an unexcused absence.

Section 2. Annual meeting dates and times will be communicated regularly. Changes will be posted by lunchtime the day before the meeting.

Section 3. Irregular attendance indicates a lack of interest; therefore, any member absent to two (2) Riverdale Ridge Theatre Company events per school year shall be automatically suspended from troupe activities. The troupe director has sole authority to reverse the suspension. Emergency scenarios will be communicated with the troupe director.

Section 4. Should a student thespian returning from a suspension miss two (2) additional events they shall be automatically withdrawn from the thespian troupe.

Section 4. Complete Meeting Attendance shall be considered in the Thespian point award system. 1 point per semester maximum. Additional event attendance will be awarded points at the discretion of the troupe director.

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

Article ____: Thespian Points

Section 1. The troupe director will award Thespian Points using the ITS system as a guide and each troupe member's effort, positivity, and contribution to the production.

Article ____: Induction

Section 1. An induction ceremony shall be held at the end of each academic 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

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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 officer team conduct inductions. The principal, superintendent, and/or like officials will be offered a role in the ceremony whenever possible. The Production Manager 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.

Article __: Graduation Honors

Section 1. Graduation cords will be awarded in accordance with the RRHS graduation ceremony policies.

Article __: Officers

Section 1. Duties: Troupe officer duties are defined below. The troupe director may assign other duties.

Thespians are eligible to fill the following offices...

A. ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, The artistic director is the primary person responsible for the direction and promotion of the company. The artistic director's responsibilities can include (but are not limited to) choosing student projects, advocating for projects and the program to administration, recruiting new members, etc. Artistic directors work closely with the troupe director, and contribute to the artistic evaluation of projects and productions to be included in promotional, funding, and press materials. Artistic directors are frequently regarded as the artistic representatives of theatre companies and are often required to speak about their theatre to the press. This role will work closely with the Managing Director. A student interested in this position must be an upperclassman and have served in an officer position previously.

B. MANAGING DIRECTOR, This role is responsible for assisting in the coordination of company events including Company Caravans, Back-to-School Night, 8th Grade Check It Out Night, etc. This role will work closely with the Artistic Director. A student interested in this position must be an upperclassman and have served in an officer position previously.

C. PRODUCTION MANAGER, This role will handle all meeting minutes and communication of company business to troupe members.

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D. MARKETING MANAGER, This role will assist in the creation and distribution of marketing materials for all Riverdale Ridge Theatre Company events. This role will also be responsible for documenting events and activities for social media and the end-of-the-year slideshow.

E. REHEARSAL MANAGER, This role is responsible for beginning of rehearsal warm-ups and company spirit/camaraderie.

F. CLASS REPRESENTATIVES, These positions represent their classmates voices in officer meetings and communicate out any important news. These positions are also responsible for recruitment activities.

Section 3. Officer appointments are to be made by the troupe director. Student members who are interested in an officer role must complete an Officer Nomination Interest Form.

Section 4. Officers shall be installed at the induction ceremony at the end of the academic school year.

Article ____: 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. Any non-member attendees at troupe meetings must accompany a current member in good standing. The member will introduce their guest. Non-member attendees are not allowed to participate in any official decision making capacities.

Section 2. At least one meeting or special event of Troupe 8780 shall include a clear, open invitation to all students.

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.

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Article __: 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.

Section 2. Bullying will not be acceptable by any thespian member. If an individual experiences bullying or witnesses bullying, it is mandatory to report the instance to the sponsor. If 3 complaints are reported on any single member, that member will be placed on probation from all troupe activity.

Section 3. Troupe 8780 members will focus on promoting positive outlooks on social media in general.

Section 4. Any conduct at any Riverdale Ridge High School event not adhering to The Way of the Raven may result in a member being placed on probation.

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Bylaws Adoption

Section 1. Two thirds of those attending the adoption meeting are required to adopt the Constitution and Bylaws of the Riverdale Ridge Theatre Company Thespian Troupe 8780. Riverdale Ridge High School Thespian Troupe Sponsor upon adaptation of the Constitution and Bylaws, the sponsor shall appoint the initial Officers of the Thespian Troupe. The Sponsor shall have the authority to appoint each person if no students are elected or an officer resigns.

Section 2. Adoption: When interested students forming the Riverdale Ridge High Thespian Troupe agree to the attached eight pages consisting of the Constitution and Bylaws and have been duly recorded as the framers of this Constitution and Bylaws, it shall go into effect. We, the undersigned, present on this day the Constitution and Bylaws of Thespian Troupe 8780 and declare that this Constitution and Bylaws has been adopted by a majority of all the organizing members present.

Date Adopted_____

Troupe Director_____

Troupe President_____

Signature_____

Signature_____