

TUPELO HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE DEPARTMENT HANDBOOK 2026 - 2027

Welcome

Welcome to the Theatre Department! Whether you are stepping on stage for the first time or returning for another season, you are part of a collaborative, creative, and disciplined community. This handbook outlines the expectations and responsibilities that help us maintain a professional, respectful, and successful program.

Audition Expectations

- * Come prepared with required materials (monologue, song, etc.) as specified.
- * Arrive on time and ready to perform.
- * Dress appropriately for movement and performance.
- * Be respectful and supportive of others auditioning.
- * Take direction positively during cold reads or callbacks.
- * Understand that casting decisions are based on the needs of the production, not personal preference.

Academic Expectations

- * Theatre students are expected to maintain passing grades in all classes.
- * Academic eligibility is required for participation in performances and travel.
- * If grades fall, students may be placed on probation and required to attend study sessions.
- * Theatre is a privilege that requires academic responsibility.

Attendance Expectations

- * Attendance at rehearsals and performances is mandatory once cast or assigned to crew.
- * Excessive absences may result in removal from a production.
- * Conflicts must be communicated in advance during the audition process.
- * Illness or emergencies should be reported as soon as possible.

Behavior Expectations

- * Treat all students, staff, and facilities with respect.
- * Follow directions from directors, stage managers, and staff.
- * Maintain professionalism at all times.
- * No disruptive behavior during rehearsals or performances.
- * Respect rehearsal spaces, costumes, props, and equipment.

Stage Time & Show Responsibilities

- * All roles are important—onstage and backstage.
- * Students are expected to fully commit to their assigned role.
- * Memorization deadlines must be met.
- * Be prepared, focused, and engaged during all rehearsals.
- * Crew members must complete assigned tasks thoroughly and on time.
- * Strike (set teardown) is mandatory for all participants.

Parental Expectations

- * Support your student's commitment to rehearsals and performances.
- * Ensure timely transportation to and from rehearsals.
- * Encourage responsibility, time management, and preparedness.
- * Respect the director's decisions regarding casting and production.
- * Volunteer support is welcomed and appreciated.

Rehearsal Expectations

- * Arrive on time and ready to work.
- * Bring scripts, pencils, and necessary materials.
- * Stay focused—limit distractions (phones should be put away unless used for rehearsal purposes).
- * Be respectful of rehearsal time; side conversations should be minimal.
- * Take notes and apply feedback consistently.

Bullying Policy

- * Bullying, harassment, or intimidation of any kind will not be tolerated.
- * This includes verbal, physical, and digital behavior.
- * Report concerns immediately to a director or staff member.
- * Violations may result in disciplinary action, including removal from the program.
- * Theatre is a safe and inclusive space for all students.

Social Media & Group Chat Expectations

- * Represent the theatre department positively online.
- * Do not post inappropriate, offensive, or disrespectful content related to productions or peers.
- * Group chats should remain respectful and focused on communication.
- * No gossip, exclusion, or harassment in digital spaces.
- * Directors/staff may monitor or set guidelines for official communication channels.

Travel Expectations

- * Students must follow all school and district travel policies.
- * Remain with the group at all times unless given permission.
- * Be punctual for departures, rehearsals, and events.
- * Represent the school and theatre department with professionalism.
- * Follow behavior expectations in public spaces, hotels, and performance venues.
- * Failure to meet expectations may result in being sent home at parent expense.

Performance Expectations

- Arrive fully prepared
- Stay focused throughout the event
- Maintain professionalism backstage
- Support fellow performers
- Represent the program with excellence
- Follow all director instructions
- Take care of costumes and equipment
- Safely perform their role with pride
- Speak respectfully to all adults and students
- Every role in the program is essential to the success of the performance

Final Note

Theatre is a team effort that requires trust, discipline, and respect. By participating in this program, you agree to uphold these expectations and contribute to a positive, creative environment for everyone.

We are excited to create meaningful work together—onstage and off.

