



OLATHE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL
HOME OF THE FALCONS

THEATRE
THESPIAN TROUPE
#5006

Student Handbook

1640 E. 151st Street
Olathe, KS 66062

913.780.7160

(Last updated May 26, 2020)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DEPARTMENT INFORMATION	3
Mission Statement	
Core Values	
Production Staff	
Communication (Website, GroupMe, Social Media)	
ACADEMIC INFORMATION	5
Recommended Classes	
Graduation Requirements	
Course Descriptions	
Classroom Guidelines	
Grading	
Participation Points	
Out of Class Assignments	
Extra Credit	
Field Trips	
PRODUCTION INFORMATION	8
Auditions	
Casting	
Production Fees	
Rehearsals	
Show Week	
Performance Dates	
Social Events	
Closing Night & Strike	
Tickets	
Optional Items	
Parent Night	
Illness	
Cast/Crew Expectation	
Substance Abuse Policy	
THESPIAN INFORMATION	12
Thespian Leadership	
Kansas Thespian Festival	
International Thespian Festiva	

DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

Mission Statement

Learning to love theatrical work.

Olathe South Theatre Core Values

People Matter

- Every individual has the opportunity to make a difference.
- Take care of yourself and your colleagues.
- Cultivate each person's skills, strengths & talents.
- Be respectful, considerate, and honest with each other.

Strive for Excellence

- Define Success.
- Be open to and embrace positive change.
- Look outside the walls of Olathe South Theatre. Learn and document new ways to do things better.
- Take risks - turn both successes and failures into lessons learned.

Work Together

- The best ideas, performance, and results come through collaboration.
- Focus on the objective and challenge ideas, not people.
- Be kind, assertive and supportive, even when there is disagreement.
- Support the final decision.

Be the Person You Want to Work With

- Celebrate individuality and honor diversity.
- Engage fully.
- Bring joy and optimism to your work.

Production Staff

Mr. David Tate Hastings
Theatre Educator
Troupe Director
Fall/Spring Play & Musical Director
dhastingsos@olatheschools.org

Mrs. Amy D. Hastings
Assistant Theatre
Business Manager
Math Department Chair
ahastingsos@olatheschools.org

Ms. Tam Osgood
Costumer
tamosgood@yahoo.com

Ms. Renee Hodhanadel
Director of Fall One-Acts
rlwasinger@olatheschools.org

Mr. John Hollan
Hair and Makeup Consultant
john@stagefaceandhair.com

Ms. Elise Peterson
Vocal Director
epetersonos@olatheschools.org

Mr. A.J. Hopes Pflumm
Choreographer
ahopespflumm@olatheschools.org

Conductor
To Be Announced Soon

Lighting Consultant
To Be Announced Soon

Musical Technical Director
To Be Announced Soon

Sound Consultant
To Be Announced Soon

Communication

Website – www.OlatheSouthTheatre.org. Our website is our second main source information about our shows, classes, and Thespian troupe.

GroupMe – 'Olathe South Thespians 20/21'. A mobile group messaging app owned by Microsoft. for students. Students can request to join the group through Mr. Hastings. A new group is set up each year.

Instagram - @OlatheSouthTheatre

Twitter – @OSTheatre5006

Facebook – @OlatheSouthTheatre

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Recommended Classes

- Freshman should enroll in **Theatre Production 1 & Theatre Production 2.** (*open to all levels*)
- Sophomores should enroll in **Acting 1 & 2** or **Technical Theatre 1 & 2.** (*open to grades 10-12 only*)
- Juniors can take **Repertory Theatre.** (*open to grades 11-12 only*)
- Seniors can take **Advanced Repertory Theatre.** (*open to grade 12 only*)

Graduation Requirements

- All Theatre classes count as a **Fine Arts** credit.
- Theatre Production II, Acting I, Acting II, Repertory Theatre, and Advanced Repertory Theatre count as an **Applied Communications** or **World Languages** credit.
- Technical Theatre I and Technical Theatre II **count as a Practical & Consumer Studies** credit.
- Theatre Production I counts as the .5 **Technology** credit.

Couse Descriptions

Theatre Production I: This course gives students the opportunity to develop exciting theatrical projects. Students will gain knowledge of what goes into theatrical performance and will explore the production process from page to stage. The use of computer technology in theatre production will also be explored. **Guided Enrollment Note: Some out of class time may be required including attendance at out of school performances or productions.**

Theatre Production II: This class continues where Theatre Production I left off. Students will find out more about the areas of theatre, while still getting the chance to develop exciting theatrical projects. Learn what is happening behind the scenes, and figure out your theatre preferences. **Guided Enrollment Note: Some out of class time may be required including attendance at out of school performances or productions.**

Acting I: Here is a chance to discover the basics of what it takes to perform on stage. Acting in its various forms is showcased throughout the semester. This class gives students the chance to work on acting techniques and performance skills. Students will be required to memorize dialogue for presentation during this class. **Guided Enrollment Note: Attendance at performances is a graded part of the class.**

Acting II: This class increases acting training and expands students' knowledge of the theatrical world. This course takes students through audition processes, production skills, writing, analysis, and Shakespeare. Students will be required to memorize dialogue for presentation during this class. **Guided Enrollment Note: Attendance at performances is a graded part of the class.**

Technical Theatre I: This course is a basic study of technical theatre production with an emphasis on construction techniques used in theatre production. Other technical aspects such as costuming, make-up, lighting, sound, publicity and properties are introduced. Projects completed in class will be in conjunction with plays produced. Some out of class time may be required. **Guided Enrollment Note: Attendance at performances is a graded part of the class.**

Technical Theatre II: This course is the advanced study of technical theatre production with a continued emphasis on construction techniques used in theatre. There will also be further exploration of costuming, make-up, lighting, sound, publicity and properties. This class also includes an introduction to theatrical leadership. Projects completed in class will be in conjunction with plays produced. Some out of class time may be required. **Guided Enrollment Note: Attendance at performances is a graded part of the class.**

Repertory Theatre: This is a course for the serious theatre student. Aspects of theatrical production, advanced acting techniques, and theatrical leadership will be addressed. Career exploration and preparation for theatre post high school will be covered, including auditioning skills and portfolio creation. **Guided Enrollment Note: Audition or instructor recommendation required. Outside of school rehearsals, performances and attendance at performances is a graded part of the class.**

Advanced Repertory Theatre: This is a course for the serious theatre student who would like to expand on the knowledge gained in repertory theatre. There will be further theatrical production and acting experiences throughout the year. Increased auditioning skills, portfolio creation, theatrical leadership, and exploration into post high school theatrical opportunities will be offered. **Guided Enrollment Note: Audition or instructor recommendation required. Outside of school rehearsals, performances and attendance at performances is a graded part of the class.**

Classroom Guidelines

Be Prompt – All students need to be in their assigned seat when the bell rings.

Be Prepared – Students need to bring all assignments and materials to class every day. Assigned projects are due at the beginning of the hour.

Be Respectful - Students who choose to participate in Olathe South Theatre are expected to follow our department's core values.

Follow School Rules – All school rules can be found in the Olathe South student planner.

Supplies - Students need to bring their laptop and charger, a pen and a pencil, notebook paper, and a folder to keep assignments.

Grading

Grades will be comprised of preparation for performances, quizzes, written reviews, research papers, and class participation. The grading scale will be based on the percentage of points earned.

- A=100-90%. B=89-80% C=79-70% D=69-60% F=below 60%

Participation Points

Students will earn 5 points every day (10 points on seminar days) for participation in theatrical activities. It's not possible to make up these classroom activities, but students can make up the points for absences in two ways:

Students can earn extra credit for seeing live theatrical performances in the community. This is worth 25 points per play or musical. There is no limit to this form of extra credit. See the requirements under "extra credit."

Students can read a play from one of the classroom textbooks and complete a review sheet to earn 50 points extra credit. The script review worksheet is located on the theatre website.

Out of Class Assignment

Students are required to attend the two main stage theatre productions at Olathe South per semester. The shows and dates are listed on the Olathe South Theatre website. Olathe South students and their families can attend the final dress rehearsal of each show for free. Each play/musical is worth 50 points. To earn these points, students sign in before the show at the ticket table and sign out after the show in front of the theatre.

Extra Credit

Students will earn 25 points for each additional play or musical they attend during the semester. To earn these points, students must bring their program and ticket from the show, and be willing to discuss the performance with the class. This form of extra credit is unlimited.

Field Trips

Parents/Guardians will be required to sign a fieldtrip permission slip for every trip the student takes. Students are expected to follow our classroom guidelines on any field trip.

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

Auditions

All auditions for main stage shows will be posted on the Olathe South Theatre website and be advertised on our social media sites. Flyers for the auditions are placed on the doors to the theatre and often in the halls of the school.

Any student who attends Olathe South during the semester of the show may audition. To be academically eligible, all students must have passed at least 5 classes in the previous semester.

Casting

Auditions at Olathe South are competitive. We cast students that do the best on the day of the audition. Not every show has roles that fit every student. One of my former students who is a professional actor, did not get the lead in the musical his senior year. He was clearly our best actor, but he was not right for the lead role in the musical. Several times, our best performer has gone from being considered for the lead to not making the show at all. This is hard to explain and even harder to deal with when it happens to you. Putting together the team for each show is a complex puzzle. You have to fit the pieces together in a way that allows for all students to shine. Sometimes you get the lead, sometimes you are on production staff, sometimes you are in the ensemble, and sometimes you don't make the show. Learning how to endure the rejection, continuing to work on your craft, and coming back to audition are the way to succeed in theatre.

Casting students is exciting, but cutting students is painful for everyone. It is the worst part of a theatre teacher's job. Dealing with rejection is a part of theatre. It can be difficult to understand for students and parents. If you want to be involved with Olathe South Theatre, you should be prepared to accept any role in the cast or production staff. If you are open to the possibilities, there are lots of ways to be successful in theatre.

Our Repertory Theatre classes read *Audition* by Michael Shurtleff. He was a legendary Broadway and Hollywood casting director. He wrote this book to help people learn about the audition process. The following are two short passages that deal with not being cast. I share these passages with students, but I think they are also important for parents to hear.

- **Why Didn't You Get the Role?**

“Actors must not worry about why they don't get a role; they should only concern themselves with doing the best ... audition they know how to do. ... Many times, I have heard directors say about an actor: ‘That is the best audition we'll ever see of that role. Too bad we can't cast him.’ Their regret is genuine. But there has to be a balance in casting—the parts must fit like a jigsaw puzzle—and there are times when the best auditioners don't ‘fit.’ An actor cannot concern himself with that; there lies madness. Just go ahead and audition well, cry a little when you don't get the role you want, but never ask why. The why is usually a series of imponderables over which the actor has no control.”

- **How Do I Find Out Why I Wasn't Accepted?**

“There is no value in finding out why you weren't accepted; you'll rarely learn the truth, anyhow. Since all the considerations in casting are relative, what good will it do for you to find out you're too short for the leading lady or too tall for the leading man? The solution would be to go home and cut your leg off or put on a pair of stilts; neither will help you. Casting is a very subjective process for the auditors, naturally, no matter what objective criteria they use. Given readings of equal excellence, they are more likely to decide because “I like her.” There's nothing you can do about that, so it's better not to concern yourself with it. The reasons for not choosing you are likely to be myriad and complex, from the fact that you look too much like another actor already cast to their subjective reaction of not liking your looks or the timbre of your voice to the fact that you remind them of their first wife—reasons you can do nothing to control or alter.”

Keep auditioning and don't let anyone stop you from achieving your dreams. If you like theatre, you need to continue auditioning. We announce auditions in the community through our Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook pages. If you are still looking for performance opportunities, check out The Barn Players, Olathe Civic Theatre, Leawood Stage Company, The White Theatre, or Theatre in the Park. There are lots of ways to get on stage. Just keep auditioning and don't let anyone stop you from achieving your dreams.

Production Fees

All students in plays and musicals are assessed a \$50 production fee. This fee subsidizes any meals provide during rehearsals, consumable theatrical supplies, costume rental and cleaning, crew attire, and a link to the official photographs taken at the final dress rehearsal by a professional photographer. It also helps pay for additional theatre professionals to teach our students about hair & makeup application, costumes, lighting, sound, painting, and scenic construction. All fees are paid through the district payment system.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals are from 3:15-6:00. Monday-Friday. There are full day rehearsals on the two Saturdays before the weekend of each show.

Show Week

Rehearsals the week of the show are from 3:15-9pm. Call time for the cast and crew on performance nights is 5:30pm. The cast and crew are free to leave as soon as they have finished their post-show responsibilities (i.e. cleaned the dressing room, put away the microphones, reset the stage for the next night) except on closing night.

Performance Dates

The dates, times and locations of the performances are listed on the Olathe South theatre website. They will not change.

Social Events

Olathe South Theatre does not sponsor cast parties or other activities beyond the scheduled rehearsal and performance times.

Closing Night & Strike

All cast and crew are expected to stay to help with strike. Strike is the term for tearing down the set and cleaning up after a show. Students will never be asked to stay past midnight, but Strike can sometimes last that long. If a student does not stay for strike, they will not be eligible to audition for the next show.

Tickets

Tickets for plays and musicals can be purchased at the door, but they can also be purchased online through the Olathe South website. These tickets help offset the cost of the production. We appreciate your support of Olathe South Theatre.

Optional Items

Students need to provide their own theatrical makeup and shoes. Stage make-up kits typically cost about \$25. You can buy them through the Olathe South, A to Z Theatrical, KC Costume, or online theatrical suppliers. Students have the option of purchasing a cast t-shirt for \$15. Students may also choose to participate in the "break-a-leg" buddy gift exchange the week of the show. The gift limit is \$5, but homemade gifts are the most meaningful.

Parent Night

Our final dress rehearsal is open to parents. This is a great opportunity to see your family in your costume, as well as get pictures of the show that you might want to post on social media to promote the show. Due to copyright restrictions, the video recording of plays and musicals is prohibited. Please help us protect our relationship with the publishing and royalty companies for our shows by not videotaping our show.

Illness

If a student is absent from school due to illness, they need to email Mr. Hastings at dhastingsos@olatheschools.org by 2:50pm. If a student misses more than half of the day, they will not be able to attend rehearsal or performance that evening. If a student misses school on Friday, they will not be able to perform at Saturday performances.

Cast/Crew Expectations

Be Prompt – All students need to be in the theatre prior to the start of rehearsal and the posted call times for performances.

Be Prepared – Students need to bring their script and a pencil to every rehearsal. All cast members must have their lines, blocking, vocal parts, and choreography memorized by the designated due dates.

Be Respectful – Students who choose to participate in Olathe South Theatre are expected to follow our department's core values.

Follow School Rules – All school rules as found in your planner will be followed. If in doubt, check the Olathe South student planner.

Conflicts

PRIVATE LESSONS, DANCE CLASSES, REHEARSALS FOR OTHER EVENTS, DRIVER' ED, NIGHT SCHOOL, and JOBS are NOT acceptable conflicts. This includes doctor's appointments, except in the event of unexpected illness. Some casting decisions are made based on availability of the students to rehearse. Priority is given to students without conflicts. If students have additional conflicts at a later time, they may be replaced in the cast/crew. There can be no conflicts the Saturday prior to the show (*for the stage manager, assistant director, and light & sound operators*) or during show week (*for anyone in the show*). If a student misses a rehearsal, without informing the director by 2:50pm, they may lose their role in the show. Only conflicts listed at this time will be excused.

Substance Abuse Policy

Students participating in activities will not use or possess tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, or substances that are dangerous to a student's health. Because the use of alcohol, illegal drugs, and tobacco is detrimental to the health and welfare of any student and because the use of alcohol and illegal drugs and the purchase of tobacco is illegal for adolescents in the state of Kansas, Olathe school district administrators and activity sponsors believe that the use or possession of the above substances is unacceptable.

The use, distribution or possession of tobacco (*including electronic cigarettes*), illegal drugs and alcohol, on or off school property, will be considered a violation of published policy during the time the student is a member of an Olathe district activity.

Violation of this regulation may be reported by a school district administrator, a staff member from the student's school, the police, or upon verification by the parents of the accused student and/or admission of the student. ***This substance abuse policy can be found on the Olathe Public School's website.***

THESPIAN INFORMATION

Olathe South troupe #5006 is a member of the International Thespian Society, which has been honoring excellence in the work of theatre students since 1929.

To become a Thespian, Olathe South students must earn 10 Thespian points. Any Junior Thespian can bring 5 points from middle school. Points are maintained by the OSTO (Olathe South Thespian Officers) based on the official high school Thespian point system. Students can check their Thespian points during seminar in the scene shop (room 704).

Thespian Leadership

Olathe South Thespian Representatives (OSTR)

Olathe South Thespian Representatives (OSTR) meet once a quarter with our Olathe South Thespian Officers to talk about ways to include ALL students at Olathe South in theatre, and to promote all sports and activities at Olathe South. OSTR help our officers run the quarterly Thespian Troupe meetings. OSTR are given an Olathe South Thespian shirt. Any Freshman that is a Junior Thespian, or any Sophomore, Junior, or Senior that is a Thespian can apply to be an OSTR

Olathe South Thespian Officers (OSTO)

Olathe South Thespian Officers (OSTO) are selected by Mr. Hastings to represent the student voice and face of Thespian Troupe #5006, promoting Thespian campaigns, modeling strong leadership, advocating for Thespians, and making connections with Thespians from other troupes.

- OSTO review troupe policy, provide leadership training to the OSTR, and plan for our troupe meetings.
- OSTO are expected to actively participate in four meetings per quarter: TWO OSTO planning meetings, ONE OSTR leadership meetings, and our full troupe quarterly meeting
- Two OSTO or OSTR are encouraged to serve on the Kansas Thespian Student State Board, and run for STO (State Thespian Officer) and ITO (International Thespian Officer). Kansas Thespian Student State Board Members will be Sophomores or Juniors, so that they can run for STO or ITO. Any student that has been elected as an STO or an ITO will automatically be an OSTO in our troupe.

Kansas Thespian Festival

Any student at Olathe South is invited to attend the Kansas Thespian Festival in January at Century II Convention Center in Wichita, Kansas. Nearly 1800 students from Kansas attend this festival every year. Students see main stage shows performed by high schools and attend workshops led by college professors and theatre professionals.

Inducted Thespians can compete in the Thespy Awards. Any student that receives a superior on their event will qualify for International Thespian Festival. The following are the Therapy events:

Performance Individual Events

Monologue
Duet Acting
Group Acting
Solo Musical Theatre
Duet Musical Theatre
Group Musical Theatre

Technical Individual Events

Costume Construction
Costume Design
Lighting Design
Makeup Design
Scenic Design
Short Film
Sound Design
Stage Management
Theatre Marketing

International Thespian Festival

The International Thespian Festival, produced by the Educational Theatre Association, is a weeklong immersion in the theatre arts specially for high-achieving middle and high school drama students and their teachers. Setting the standard for participatory educational theatre experiences, ITF broadens horizons, enriches learning, and celebrates the creativity of theatre students and teachers alike.

The preferred summer theatre experience for more than 50 years, ITF showcases outstanding school theatre productions on four professional stages and offers a wealth of learning and presentation opportunities encompassing all theatrical disciplines. It's your place to shine!

- Students can select from hundreds of rigorous and engaging workshops taught by experts in their field. Topics include acting and performing, lighting, sets, sound, makeup, costume design and construction, directing, stage management, dance, and playwriting. More specialized subjects may include puppetry, stage combat, commedia dell'arte, and more.
- Students can meet with recruiters from dozens of top college and university theatre programs from across the country to interview and audition for admission and for thousands of dollars in scholarships.
- Inducted Thespians who qualify at the Kansas Thespian Festival can compete in Thespy, a special program of the International Thespian Society that assesses and recognizes significant student achievement in theatre.

Olathe South only takes students to ITF who have qualified at the Kansas Thespian Festival with their Thespy event, were part of a show that was selected for nationals, or who are Kansas Thespian Officers or International Thespian Officers.

Thespian Celebration

The Thespian celebration is a season ending recognition of our Thespians, shows, and successes of the year with student recognition for Thespian points earned as a member of Troupe #5006. This celebration is primarily for our Thespians, but any Olathe South student is welcome to attend. The Thespian Celebration is typically held the first or second Friday of May in our Black Box Theater