

## OLATHE SOUTH AUDITION AGREEMENT

Academics are our first priority. Extracurricular theatrical opportunities are only possible because we are a school.

We are looking for kind and compassionate students. We want students who are prompt, prepared, respectful and follow the school rules. We're seeking students who want to be a part of a winning team.

Please read each section carefully. Both students and parents must agree to the policies and sign after each section in order to be considered for participation in the production.

**This form must be returned by 3:15 on the day of auditions to be allowed to audition for the cast or crew.**

These policies protect the entire cast/crew from having students absent from rehearsals and performances.

The sections of this policy are as follows:

- The Casting Process
- Policies
  - School Attendance
  - Illness
  - Rehearsal Conflicts
- Expectations
- Costs for Students
- *Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, we will be using the previous high school semester grades as an additional selection consideration.*
  - A minimum previous semester GPA of 2.5
  - No failing grades for the previous semester

## THE CASTING PROCESS

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 our former students who is a professional actor, did not get the lead in the musical their senior year. This student was clearly our best performer, but they were 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 or your student. Putting together the team for each show is a complex puzzle. The Director's job is to fit the pieces together in a way that allows 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 rejection, continuing to work on your craft, and coming back to audition is 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, as well as life. 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. We share these passages with students, but we 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."*

***"I understand and accept the CASTING PROCESS for OLATHE SOUTH THEATRE."***

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Print Student Name

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Student Signature

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Print Parent Name

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Parent Signature

# SCHOOL ATTENDANCE, ILLNESS, and REHEARSAL CONFLICT POLICIES for OLATHE SOUTH THEATRE

Under state law, students between the ages of 7 and 18 are required to attend school. Kansas statutes provide that a student is truant if they are absent without excuse for a significant portion of the school day, or three consecutive days, or five days in a semester, or seven days in a school year.

1. If a student missed five days from any class that are not listed as conflicts listed below, the student will be removed from the show.
2. If a student misses 50% of the school day, they will not participate in rehearsals or performances. If a student misses more than 50% of the last school day of the week, they will not participate at any weekend performances.
3. If a student is absent from any part of a school day that includes a school matinee, they will not participate at the next performance.
4. Students who are absent from school due to illness need to email Mr. Hastings at [dhastingsos@olatheschools.org](mailto:dhastingsos@olatheschools.org) by 8am or they may lose their role in the show.
5. Students who leave school due to illness need to email Mr. Hastings before 3pm or they may lose their role in the show.
6. If a student is unable to email Mr. Hastings, their parent/guardian is responsible for emailing Mr. Hastings or the student may lose their role in the show.
7. Casting decisions are based on availability of students to rehearse. Priority is given to students without conflicts.
8. PARENTS and STUDENTS must list ALL conflicts on this form. (The rehearsal calendar is on the Olathe South Theatre website: [www.OlatheSouthTheatre.org](http://www.OlatheSouthTheatre.org))
  1. Any classes, rehearsals for other events, private lessons, and jobs must be rescheduled outside of our rehearsal and performance times.
  2. Doctor's appointments must be listed at this time.
  3. Olathe South High School performances for choir, band, orchestra, drill team, or cheerleading will be excused if they are listed below with specific dates and times. Performances scheduled by your teacher/coach after you turn in this form will not be excused.
  4. There can be no conflicts during show week.
  5. Conflicts requested after completing this form may result in a reassignment of cast/crew responsibility for the student in the show.

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***"I understand and accept the SCHOOL ATTENDANCE, ILLNESS, and REHEARSAL CONFLICT POLICIES for OLATHE SOUTH THEATRE."***

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Print Student Name

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Student Signature

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Print Parent Name

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Parent Signature

## EXPECTATIONS for OLATHE SOUTH THEATRE STUDENTS

*Failing to meet any of the below expectations may lead to removal from the cast/crew.*

1. **Be Prompt** - *"Early is on time, on time is late, and late is unacceptable."* - Eric Jerome Dickey
  - Students are expected to be in the room where it happens at all call times for rehearsals and performances. This includes being on time to rehearsal and to all your classes at Olathe South.
2. **Be Prepared** - *"Confidence comes from being prepared."* - John Wooden
  - Students are expected to bring their script and a pencil to every rehearsal, and to have their lines, blocking, vocal parts, and choreography memorized by the designated due dates.
3. **Be Respectful** - *"Love the art in yourself, not yourself in the art."* - Konstantin Stanislavski
  - Students are expected to treat others with respect, kindness, and compassion. Olathe South Theatre is about being a part of a winning team. Student's role is to help make the show better by helping others succeed.
4. **Follow School Rules** - *"It's always more difficult to recover than it is to do the right thing in the beginning."* - Tony Baxter in *The Imagineering Story*
  - Students are expected to follow all school rules as found on the Olathe South High School website.

***"I understand and accept the EXPECTATIONS for OLATHE SOUTH THEATRE STUDENTS."***

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Print Student Name

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Student Signature

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Print Parent Name

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Parent Signature

## COSTS for STUDENTS in OLATHE SOUTH THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

1. Students are required to provide their own **THEATRICAL MAKEUP KIT**. These typically cost about \$25 and can be purchased online or at local theatrical supply stores.
2. Students are required to provide their own **APPROPRIATE SHOES AS SPECIFIED BY THE CHOREOGRAPHER or COSTUMER**. Not all shows require special dance shoes. Cost varies for dance shoes. This is typically for character, jazz, ballet, or tap shoes.
3. Students will have the **OPTION** of purchasing a **SHOW SHIRT**.
4. Students will have the **OPTION** of participating in the **"BREAK-A-LEG" BUDDY GIFT EXCHANGE** the week of the show. Students are encouraged to spend less than \$10, but homemade gifts are the most meaningful.

**Note:** Costs should not prevent participation in Olathe South Theatre. Contact a school counselor if there is financial need.

***"I understand and accept the COST for STUDENTS in OLATHE SOUTH THEATRE PRODUCTIONS."***

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Print Student Name

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Student Signature

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Print Parent Name

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Parent Signature