

Dear Parent/Guardian/Friend of an Honors Theatre student,

Hello,

My name is Tammy Herburger, and I am the Theatre Teacher here at PBMHS. I also direct the plays and musicals, and am Sponsor of Thespian Troupe 2606. The double block Honors Theatre program is the main Performance and Competition class. By now, you may have a few questions about this double-block theatre program that is probably going to dominate your child’s life for the foreseeable future. Yes, you have signed the ‘contract’ for the program, and have a working idea of the dates required for this academic school year. Yes, your child may have spoken to you many times about the obligations of time, rigor and expectations. Or maybe not.

Either way, for many parents, the modern expectations of the current high school theatre student is much different than when you or I went to high school. Believe me when I tell you that many high school theatre programs spend a minimum of $3000.-$5000 on a production – a musical runs up to $15,000.00.

When we go to State each year, the productions presented by the Florida high schools costs upwards of $50,000.00*. Yes, these are high schools*.

With that said, I want you to know that the payoff for a developing Theatre student immersed in a high school theatre program can have long lasting positive benefits, in any chosen profession or vocation. Additionally, the opportunity for technical and performing scholarships are huge, with the appropriate application, qualification, talents and procedures.

However, the students can only go so far; they will need your help and support. Parent Thespians are our unsung heroes, who help their child respect and meet their obligations, cushion their disappointments, and celebrate their child’s achievements’ on stage, back stage, or off stage; as they recognize that every student provides a vital contribution towards the overall artistic product.

Also, having a parent contribute their time, energy, skills and support towards their child’s endeavors, tends to validate that student’s efforts.

PBMHS Theatre program is designed to prepare, train and reinforce the discipline, rigor, and standards expected for entry into a College Theatre program. Organization, time management, initiative and personal responsibility are all skills of focus throughout the year.

And lastly, although this program is work – it is also fun.

The creative process should be filled with effort, frustration, imagination and discovery. However, if a student is lying, complaining, or ‘disappearing’ during rehearsals or work calls – they’re not having fun, and neither am I.

Which means: this class isn’t for everyone, and it doesn’t always fit in with divergent timeframes. If this program doesn’t ‘fit’ with you or your child, please call or email me. I can usually accommodate work, family, personal or religion conflicts to some extent, when notified early. If not, we can work out a painless exit strategy. I say this, because your child now has a responsibility to every other child in this class. There can be artistic, financial or competitive repercussions with last minute changes. Not to mention long-lasting hurt feelings and misunderstandings.

Listed below are some web sites that you may want to browse through with your child.

[www.flthespian.com](http://www.flthespian.com) – this is the main competition site.

[www.schooltheatre.org](http://www.schooltheatre.org) – this is the educational component to the thespian site.

[www.aate.com](http://www.aate.com) – Alliance for Theatre Educators

[www.flatheatre.org](http://www.flatheatre.org) – Florida Theatre Conference

[www.artsbrevard.org](http://www.artsbrevard.org) – Brevard Cultural Alliance

Also, you can google and research ‘College Theatre programs’, ‘High School Theatre programs’, and YouTube thespian performances and competitions – including the Tech events - to get a feel and a visual of what other teenagers are doing in Theatre today.

Please help me help your child be their best. You can always reach me by email (best), or leave a message at my school#: 321-952-5900 x5052. For emergencies, my cell is: 321-591-9683

Please fill out the form attached, and have your child return it to me. I would like to add your information to my files, and hopefully include you in future updates and requests.

I thank you so much for reading all of my material! ☺

**Honors Theatre Block Parent Information** Academic Year\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please print clearly.

Student \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ age\_\_\_\_\_ grade level\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Primary parent contact \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Contact(s): cell: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Work: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Home : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer Options;

Yes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please check all that apply

\_\_\_\_ Weekend work calls at school \_\_\_\_evenings- show nights at school

\_\_\_\_\_home construction projects \_\_\_\_\_\_ home costume/prop projects

\_\_\_\_\_ Capability to transport Show Set to competitions?

\_\_\_\_\_ BPS approved Chaperone status?

\_\_\_\_\_ District Competition

\_\_\_\_\_ State Competition (a male chaperone required for male students)

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Publicity – radio/newspapers/Community outreach with posters, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_Other: please list any other skills or contributions, including any corporate

Donations, grants, or financial applications.

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NOTE: The State Thespian Conference/Competition each spring is an *Opportunity*, **not** a requirement. Any student who qualifies for State, and is selected to represent our school at State, accepts the financial obligations and commitment to their Troupe and their School.

See handouts for more info.