

My Name is Isaac Porter and I am the Theatre 33 Sponsor here at West Noble High School.

My Experience with Theatre33 began back in 2015 when some of my friends dragged me to my first audition for theatre. I remember not wanting to take part in theatre, or if I did, that I would just want to do tech for one show then bounce. But then something unexpected happened. I began to not only enjoy doing theatre but I began to love it. My First show that I was in was "Cases of Mistaken Identity" a show directed by Amy Dreibelbis, my former theatre director. Under her tutelage, I began to take theatre more seriously, I began to improve not only my acting abilities outside of school and practice but I also began to improve on how and why I did things.

I began to put in more effort in school, I began to strive to do the best I can on and off stage. For the first time in my life at the age of 14 I had a goal, my goal was to one day be like Dreibelbis and be able to lead, direct and lead actors, and eventually one day become a theatre director. I would do theatre all four years of high school, I had the opportunity to have lead roles like in "Oklahoma" and in "And Then There Were None", I had the opportunity to stage manage and work directly with Dreibelbus on multiple productions and shows and even as a senior. I helped organize rehearsals and make sure people felt welcome and invited to our theatre.

When I went to college I decided to take a break from theatre, during COVID I had doubts on if I wanted to be in education or even theatre, so I decided to fully go into history and anthropology, and I graduated from Ball State with a double major in both in 2024. But during this time I felt something was missing. I lacked the drive I did back in high school. I lacked the one thing that made me excited and to keep trying to be my best self. I worked in government for a bit, but absolutely despised it. So, in 2025, I took the risk and moved back to Ligonier to try and carve my own path. I looked around and couldn't find much but then I was informed that my former director was leaving West Noble. Something called out to me at that moment, a calling that I had suppressed back in college that now started to peak once again.

I emailed West Noble High School principal Amanda Nine about any opportunities at West Noble, and she gave me the opportunity to teach at West Noble. During my orientation I met up with the then new head director, Nic Weimer, to discuss helping out with shows and productions for the new season. He allowed me to help with the season and also to eventually become the musical director of our production of "Matilda".

During this season I had one of the most fulfilling and amazing job experiences. Having the opportunity and privilege to work with such talented and fun students and directors made every day of my first school year a blast. Also getting to share in such fun experiences both on and off the stage, be it having fun during work sessions on the weekends or leading a group of students in a Dungeons And Dragons campaign. Near the end of my first school year, Weimer informed me that he was wanting to step down as head director and that he wanted me to be the next director. I was both terrified and excited, but I knew that this was something that 14 year old me would have flipped out on so I took the opportunity.

I am so excited for the future of our theatre department and I cannot wait to see how we expand and grow over the next few years. With our new renovations, new assistant directors, and new goals, I am thrilled to lead our student actors, crew, and techies in a new Theatre33.