

# Strawberry Crest High School Thespian Troupe #7490 Constitution

Adopted: May 2015

Revised: May 2021

Troupe Director: Mrs. Brianne Walburn

## **Article I: Name, Purpose, and Governance**

**Section 1.** Name: This organization shall be called Troupe #7490. The troupe has been chartered by Strawberry Crest High School. The charter affiliates it with the International Thespian Society (ITS).

**Section 2.** Purpose: The troupe is the honors component of the school's theatre program. Its purpose shall be the advancement of standards of excellence in theatre. More specifically, the troupe will encourage students to attain a better mastery of the theatre arts and will reward those who achieve it with induction into the troupe. Thespians achieving honor ranks and scholar distinctions shall receive recognition of their exemplary accomplishments.

**Section 3.** Governance: This troupe constitution and its bylaws are two components of a hierarchy of documents that govern members of the International Thespian Society and its parent organization, the Educational Theatre Association (EdTA). The documents affecting troupes, in order of authority, are: the EdTA Code of Regulations, the membership policy, the troupe handbooks, the troupe constitution, and troupe bylaws. This constitution may not be altered in any way that conflicts with a superseding document or school policies and procedures.

## **Article II: Organization and Officers**

**Section 1.** Membership: Membership is achieved by complying with all induction criteria as defined in the troupe handbook. The Thespian point system is the official guideline for awarding induction points. Any changes to induction criteria, including the Thespian point system, must be adopted as a troupe bylaw.

**Section 2.** Officers: The Thespian troupe shall have up to six (6) officers. Duties shall be defined in the troupe's bylaws.

**Section 3.** Officer Selection: Thespians shall submit an application to be an officer for the next school year in March of the current school term. Positions shall be decided by a faculty council with final decision resting with the troupe director.

## **Article III: Meetings and Participation**

**Section 1.** Meetings: Thespian troupe meetings shall be held monthly throughout the school year. Special meetings may be called by the troupe director, any officer, or by a quorum of Thespians.

**Section 2.** Quorum: A quorum shall be a majority of the troupe's active membership.

**Section 3.** Denial of participation: Any Thespian who causes deliberate dissension or disruption of any production or business meeting may be denied participation in troupe activities by a vote of two-thirds of the troupe's officers and the consent of the troupe director. Any member requesting reinstatement of participation rights may have them restored with the consent of the

troupe director and two-thirds of the troupe's officers. In extreme cases a Thespian's status as a member in good standing of the local troupe may be suspended or withdrawn by the troupe director for just cause. Such decisions are subject to oversight by the school administration. This may affect any or all participation rights and benefits that require the troupe director's authorization, but will not affect membership and benefits that come directly from the ITS national office.

#### **Article IV: Dues and Fees**

**Section 1.** Dues: There shall be no mandatory dues for Thespian induction except as provided by the EdTA Board of Directors.

**Section 2.** Troupes may approve additional dues for local Thespian troupe participation. This requires consent of the troupe director and a two-thirds vote of the active troupe members at a regular troupe meeting. The school and its troupe director may also assess user fees in accordance with school policy.

**Section 3.** Dues for Drama Club/Thespian Troupe will be \$5.00 and will be due prior to the 1st scheduled club day of the school year. Dues are annual and mandatory for all in order to receive a club card.

**Section 4.** Dues will be used toward maintaining theatre supplies (i.e. makeup, paint) and other theatre maintenance (i.e. light bulbs, cleaning supplies)

**Section 5.** Non-payment of dues may adversely affect inducted troupe members inasmuch as their attendance at meetings will not be permitted.

#### **Article V: Bylaws**

**Section 1.** Purpose: Bylaws provide additional guidance for the governance and operations of the troupe. No bylaw may be in conflict with the EdTA Code of Regulations, membership policy, troupe handbook, troupe constitution, or school policy or procedures.

**Section 2.** Adoptions and amendments: The troupe director may adopt or amend bylaws as deemed appropriate. Bylaws may also be added or amended by approval of a simple majority of the troupe's active membership and the consent of the troupe director.

#### **Article VI: Amendments**

**Section 1.** Exclusions: Article I may not be amended.

**Section 2.** Procedure: Articles other than Article I may be amended by approval of two-thirds of the troupe's active membership with the consent of the troupe director. This constitution and its amendments shall be subject to change according to any or all requirements of the International Thespian Society.

# Strawberry Crest High School Thespian Troupe #7490 Bylaws

Adopted: May 2015

Revised: May 2021

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## **Article 1: Attendance**

**Section 1.** Inducted thespians are expected to attend meetings on club days.

**Section 2.** A student arriving late or leaving early from troupe meetings or rehearsals without a reason considered valid by the troupe director will receive a demerit. Three such offenses will be counted as an absence from a meeting or rehearsal without excuse.

**Section 3.** Regular troupe meetings on club days will begin at 8:45 AM.

**Section 4.** Irregular attendance to meetings or rehearsals indicates a lack of interest; therefore, any member absent three (3) meetings or six (6) rehearsals per school year without a written excuse submitted to an officer, production stage manager, or the troupe director shall be automatically suspended from troupe activities. The troupe director has sole authority to reverse the suspension.

**Section 5.** Attendance shall be considered in the Thespian point system for production points.

**Section 6.** Absences shall accumulate for only one school year at a time.

## **Article 2: Thespian Points**

**Section 1.** Induction points must be earned over the course of more than one production. In years when there is only one production, this requirement is waived.

**Section 2.** Induction points may be awarded for theatre-related work done outside the school's theatre program. To qualify for points, a copy of the program or other verification must be provided.

**Section 3.** Troupe #7490 will use a modified version of the ITS Point System which better adheres to the productions and duties of this troupe. This document is available upon request and online via the troupe website.

**Section 4.** Thespian points must be updated at least once per school year. Thespians failing to update points within a year of a production, festival, or other qualifying theatre event will forfeit those points.

## **Article 3: Induction and Awards**

**Section 1.** Induction invitations will be given out in March and the ceremony held in May.

**Section 2.** Individual inductees are responsible for their own induction fees unless payment has been pre-arranged by a booster group, fundraising, or other source. The troupe will pay for additional honor items that are included in its officially adopted recognition system.

**Section 3.** Troupe members earning 60 points or more and who have been active in the troupe by the end of their senior year shall be eligible for honor cords at graduation. Students must pay for their honor cord.

**Section 4.** Students may ask the troupe director to purchase honor items on their behalf that are not included in the troupe's official system. Such items will be available at the troupe director's discretion and at each student's expense.

#### **Article 4: Officers**

**Section 1.** Duties: Troupe officer duties are defined below. The troupe director may assign other duties.

- a. Keep regular and effective communication with Mrs. Walburn and other officers
- b. Update and post information to social media platforms
- c. Promote the troupe and club during Club Fair Day
- d. Promote and distribute information to club and troupe members via Band group
- e. Plan and run at least two club meetings during the year
- f. Attend officer meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month
- g. Be involved in Individual Events, One Acts, and the spring production
- h. Keep theatre spaces organized (prop room, costumes, makeup, etc.)
- i. Plan and run a community involvement and/or fundraising project
- j. Keep up to date point sheets for members
- k. Determine student eligibility for induction or senior cords
- l. Work on and contribute to an end of the year video and award ceremony
- m. Help with and participate in the induction and award ceremony
- n. Avoid disciplinary issues
- o. Maintain a 2.0 GPA

**Section 2.** Requirements for all sophomore, junior, and senior officers are as follows: each student must be an active member of the troupe for at least one school year, and be inducted or have applied to be inducted.

**Section 3.** Officer applications for sophomore, junior, or senior officer positions will be available by the March troupe meeting and officers for the next school year will be selected by the April troupe meeting.

**Section 4.** Selection of all officers will be done by faculty council and final decisions will rest with the troupe director.

**Section 5.** Three troupe members, including one officer, may request a removal of all or any officers. This request must be submitted to the troupe director in writing and state the need for such a removal. A special meeting of the faculty council will be scheduled within five school days upon receipt of the request for the purpose of voting on whether or not a removal election is necessary. If a removal is necessary, the current officer will be notified of their potential removal in writing, given a chance to appeal the request with the troupe director, and given a written notice of the faculty council's decision. If an officer is removed, selection of new officer(s) will follow the procedure set forth in Sections 2 and 4 above (if deemed necessary).

**Section 6.** Officers shall be installed at the last social or program meeting of the school term typically the induction ceremony.

#### **Article 5: Troupe Activities and Accounts**

**Section 1.** The troupe is not a secret organization. All interested faculty, students, parents, Honorary Thespians, troupe alumni, and administrators are welcome at troupe meetings.

**Section 2.** At least one meeting or special event of Troupe #7490 shall be for the sole purpose of playing theatre games and creating improvisations.

**Section 3.** The troupe shall cooperate with all other departments and clubs in the school in helping them with their programs in any way it can.

**Section 4.** The troupe will produce shows throughout the year in which all students (members or non-members) may audition and be a part of.

**Section 5.** The troupe will attend district and state festivals in which students (members or non-members) may attend if they have paid the appropriate festival fees.

**Section 6.** The troupe shall hold at least one fundraiser per year for the sole purpose of raising funds for the troupe to produce shows. Students who participate in the fundraiser shall earn a portion of the proceeds that will be put into their account.

**Section 7.** Any show that does not cost money to produce shall be used as a fundraiser for students in the troupe. Students that participate in these shows shall earn all of or a portion of the proceeds that will be stored in an account for them by the troupe director.

**Section 8.** Students may elect to use their account money towards festival payments, honor cords or other honor regalia, or induction fee payments. Unused account money will go back to the troupe account.

#### **Article 6: Conflict Resolution**

**Section 1.** In the event issues or conflicts arise between Thespian members that they are unable to resolve through communication, the issue will be immediately brought to the attention of the Troupe Director and resolved.

**Section 2.** In the event issues or conflicts arise between a Thespian and the troupe director that cannot be solved through communication between the two parties, the issue should be resolved by the school administration.

#### **Article 7: Discipline and Zero Tolerance**

**Section 1.** Any thespian caught on campus, on camera, or on social media in possession of or partaking in the consumption of illegal substances will be subject to disciplinary action at school and immediately removed from the troupe.

**Section 2.** Any thespian caught on campus, on camera, or on social media bullying, harassing, or behaving inappropriately with others will be subject to disciplinary action at school and immediately removed from the troupe.

**Section 3.** Notice of removal will be provided in writing outlining the reason for removal.

**Section 4.** Thespians will be placed on suspension for issues involving school incidents which result in a referral; for lack of attendance at meetings or rehearsals; for lack of participation in classes, festivals, or productions throughout the year; non-payment of fees; or for non-compliance with the ITS Pledge. Notice of suspension will be provided in writing outlining the reasons, terms, and length of suspension. The lifting of suspension or reinstatement in the troupe shall be the sole decision of the troupe director.

**Section 5.** Any thespian on suspension is not considered to be in "good standing" and shall not participate in troupe activities, festivals, or honors until the suspension is lifted.