



Theatre Department Handbook

For Students and Parents



2024/2025

Introduction

The Theatre program is an integral part of the total school experience and participation is considered a privilege, not an expectation. The policies, procedures and regulations in this handbook are in compliance with school board policies and administrative procedures. They are designed to provide for successful experiences for students and the efficient operation of the Theatre programs. This handbook supersedes all prior publications governing AISD Theatre programs and shall be used by all principals, directors, and members in grades 9-12. Its purpose is to help answer student/parent questions and be a guide for defining the procedures of the organization. You, the member, are accountable and responsible for all guidelines contained within this handbook and for any additions that your respective director might add.

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Purpose

The purpose of the Angleton High School Theatre Handbook is to provide parents and students with a resource to which they may refer regarding theatre procedures and policies. The handbook provides students with standards, expectations, and information to help them have a positive experience in the AHS theatre program.

Mission/Vision

Our mission is to create and maintain the highest quality theatre program that provides opportunities both acting and technical theatre. The theatre department's main goals are:

- To meet and exceed the standards of AISD and theatre TEKS
- To provide a solid training foundation for acting and technical arts
- To develop an appreciation for the performing arts as a discipline that can apply itself to working opportunities in every career
- To create a disciplined artist with critical thinking skills, a strong work ethic, and excellent communication skills.
- To develop the ability to offer and accept critical evaluations and critique in a constructive, positive manner that encourages growth

Our vision is to graduate confident young adults, who are prepared to take their training they have garnered here, and apply it to every application in their lives, whether artistic or not.

Contact Information

WEBSITE : www.angletontheatre.com

Director of Theatre: Christine Williams

CsWilliams@angeltonisd.net

Director of Technical Theatre: Lisa Chapa

Lcchapa@angletonis.net

Fees

There are fees associated with productions that are used to buy consumable supplies specific for each show. Checks can be made out to AHS Theatre Booster or AHS Theatre Activity- depending on which entity is producing.

- Extracurricular Fees
- All theatre students are encouraged to purchase a Theatre T-shirt. This shirt will be worn to performances, field trips, etc.
- Students are responsible for travel unless specifically stated by district.

Please include a driver's license and a phone number on all checks.

The Theatre Department will provide several field trip opportunities that will require a fee to cover costs. These trips are OPTIONAL. Check the website for more information on these trips as they are scheduled.

****SPECIAL NOTE: Scholarship funds are available for students whose families are in financial hardship, so that they may still participate in theatre activities. NO STUDENT will be turned away because they are unable to pay a fee. Speak with Mrs. Williams for more information.***

Fundraising

Fundraising Guidelines

- All fundraising done by both Boosters and AHS Theatre Activity will adhere all Angleton ISD policies and procedures.
- All Activity fund money raised belongs to the AHS Activity Fund and cannot be refunded for any reason.
- Students are responsible for any product being sold once it has left the theatre room.
- Problems with a fundraiser: If any arise, please report to the theatre director within 24 hours of conception, in order to troubleshoot the issue.
- Students are responsible for delivering products to the ordering customer.
- All fundraising money must be collected when the order is taken or product is given. Fundraising money must be turned in by the predetermined due date.

- If a student receives and distributes a product to sell and something happens to the product (lost, stolen, damaged, etc.) the student IS financially responsible for the value of the product.
- Receipts will be issued for all monies turned in. Students should keep this as their record of payment.
- Students are responsible for money that they carry and should turn in cash as soon as possible. Please DO NOT carry cash around campus.
- Students, because you are responsible for items, please make certain you have your parent's permission to buy items.
- Fundraisers in which students check out a product to sell, must be paid for within one week of the conclusion of the fundraiser. Failure to do so will result in an office referral for theft.

Insufficient Funds - District policy states that AHS organizations are not allowed to accept checks from any individual who has had at least one check to district that was returned for insufficient funds. Cash or money orders can be accepted in this instance.

Statement of Financial Policy

It is the philosophy of the Angleton High School Theatre Department that no student should be denied the privilege of participation due to financial hardship. For options in meeting financial obligations, parents please contact the director.

Behavior Guidelines

Students are expected to be on time and prepared to work. This means they come into their classroom or area, leave their cell phones on silent in a designated place, and find a seat with their charged laptop.

Cell Phones are not to be present, in class. phones must be set to silent, and put away by the student. There will be an area for students to set units down. No earbuds/headphones are to be worn, unless guided by an IEP/504.

No student will be allowed to utilize the dressing rooms for restroom breaks, or socializing. Students are expected to utilize general population and nurse area restrooms. Students will only be allowed to access dressing rooms during production tech and performance.

Any technician or Acting student caught with, holding, and/or storing vaping materials will be subject to the Angleton ISD board guidelines. This will be considered a violation to the department and honor code of Thespians. Any student caught with tobacco/nicotine/the vaping products will be removed from extra curricular roles and duties.

No food or gum. Water, tea, or any non-sugary drink is acceptable.

Dress appropriately for all class. This means bodies are covered, so there are no accidents, and movement clothes are encouraged. Students will not be excused from activities based on dress. Dress code is expected to be followed.

Any student displaying behavior that contributes to a dangerous, unsafe situation will be removed from the dept.

Safety is paramount. Students may not utilize the shop, or tools without supervision.

Students must check out tools to be used, and turn in tools to Ms. Chapa, when done.

The student signing out a tool will be held responsible for said tool.

Technical students are responsible for weekly shop cleaning that are appointed by shop manager.

- Actors are responsible cleaning after each rehearsal period. Two actors are appointed group leaders each week.
- Students, during performances, stay in your seat throughout the entire performance. Give your full attention to the performers. Show respect for your classmates and encourage them to succeed.
- Language and material must be school and dept appropriate. Profanity and obscene gestures are prohibited.
- No talking during performances and instruction.
- Any student wanting to travel on a field trip must be approved by the director, and in good standing academically, and in the department.
- Students must maintain proper social media presence, as you are a representative of the department and district.
- Both parents and students are expected to display appropriate behavior at all shows and functions that represent AHS.
- Abide by our agreed upon social contract, per class and show.
- Respect the physical space of your troupe members. No “rough housing,” inappropriate public displays of affection, expressing uninvited, inappropriate intent, sharing inappropriate social content, and gossiping. These behaviors may have you removed. According to TEKS guidelines, being a part of theatre is a privilege, not an expectation. Any student who violates behavioral, ethical, and work expectations will be dealt with within the guidelines of Angleton ISD policy, and dept policy. They will also be asked to resign their position from current department, and show.
- Any student found to be in contradiction to the honor code, for inappropriate behavior, and whose actions are behaviorally questionable, risk being removed from any role in which they have been cast/placed in. Any monies paid will not be refunded.
- Any truly egregious behavior may result in removal from the department. Theatre is a privilege, not a right. Students may be placed on a probationary period, at Ms. Williams’ discretion, in compliance with AISD policy.
- Any student found in violation of District and department policy during a trip will be expelled from said activity, and must be picked up by parents, at the family expense. Students who spend time in ISS, OSS, DAEP, CATS will be assessed as to their position and participation within the department, and any current show or trip.
- Students must be passing classes in order to participate in extra-curricular activities. Students may not have absences in other classes, and just attend theatre. This will affect your placement.

Digital Citizenship

Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring that theatre student member websites, and chat groups are appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication appearing on the internet is public domain, even if it is marked private. Members are responsible for their personal websites, chats, and postings, as well as posting from or on other students' websites. The areas of appropriateness will include but are not limited to profane, foul, or disrespectful language (abbreviated or alluding to), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, references to alcohol, drugs, and/or tobacco, and postings (either verbal or photos) that could be interpreted as being negative or threatening towards or a representation of student, AISD teachers, staff, theatre students, or that demonstrate poor sportsmanship or a disrespectful attitude towards other theatre people in our department, and other groups.

Any such incident will result in review by the principal (or designee) and may lead to probation, or dismissal from the theatre department and thespian society

- If a violation occurs that is deemed to be of a more serious nature, including but not limited to assault, threats, bullying, inappropriate behavior, negative gossip, and/or foul language, or a series/pattern of violations, the student may be subject to a higher level of discipline as determined by the director and school administration. This also applies to inappropriate discussion, threats, harassment, or violent language that pertains to, or concerns any Angleton ISD employee.

Due Process

All Angleton ISD students are entitled to due process in accordance with AISD guidelines. Our goal as a staff is to ensure that all students are treated fairly and equitably. Please contact each perspective director for any issues within their teaching arena. Please bring departmental issues to my (Ms. Williams) attention. I will work with you to resolve problems. If I cannot solve the issue, we will involve the AP. If they cannot resolve issue, then the principal will become involved. There are always things that go straight to the top, but those things do not involve things that can be easily fixed.

Daily Supplies /Assignments

All Theatre Students need to bring to class everyday:

- **Charged Laptop**
- Black or Blue ink - No pencil for writing
- Pencil for blocking
- Composition notebook or sketch book for journal purposes
- Assignments must be typed. **Handwritten work will only be accepted for journal purposes**
- **Production classes** please bring a yoga mat

Extra-Curricular Guidelines

Theatre, Technical Theatre, Musical Theatre, Production Classes

Participation in extra-curricular activities is optional for Intro to Theatre I-IV students, and mandatory for production classes. Even though they are optional, they are strongly encouraged for any student in these classes wishing to audition/apply for advanced theatre courses in the future.

However, If a class performance has been assigned, it is mandatory that the student participate for a grade. All students are to attend AHS productions, and will given opportunities to attend free performances. Schedule conflicts are expected to be avoided, as the calendar is available on the website, at the beginning of the year.

Students receive grades for participation. Students are required to perform production hours for each show. Actors are expected to perform 6 hours of production in addition to their acting responsibilities. Technical students are expected to complete 8 additional hours every nine weeks.

Theatre Production, Technical Theatre Classes

Participation in extra-curricular activities are required in the Production Classes. Students audition to earn a spot in these classes. Therefore, it is assumed that they desire to take part in extra-curricular theatre. Each director has specific requirements for extra-curricular participation. However, it is stressed that participation in extra-curricular theatre is a privilege, not a right. You, the theatre student, and your parents, are accountable and responsible for all policies contained within this handbook and for any additional ones that your respective directors might add. The Director of theatre reserves the right to remove a student from extracurricular activity, if a student violates the honor code brought forth in this handbook.

Thespian Troupe / Drama Club

Any student at AHS is eligible to join the Thespian Club. Only consistently participating Theatre student may earn points towards being inducted into the Thespian Troupe by participation in the Troupe/Club activities and shows. Only active Theatre department students are also eligible for formal induction into the Thespian Troupe. This is decided by Ms. Williams. This also includes Letterman Jackets. A letter in theatre may be earned by winning District UIL OAP. It may also be earned with two years of consistent service within the Thespian organization, as well as the department. Students may not receive a letter for being in theatre class. They must be ACTIVE members of the Thespian club, attend meetings, functions, and be active in production for shows. Ms. Williams will make the final decision regarding participation level.

Thespians is an Honor Society. All students must be in good standing academically and departmentally. This is decided by the Director. Only students who are competing, and working within the department will be invited to attend Texas Thespians, in Grapevine/Corpus, and International Thespians. Preference is giving to Seniors, Juniors, and Sophomores, in that order. Freshman are invitation only for thespian convention.

Thespian officers are held to a high standard of excellence. They are expected to assume a leadership role, with honorable intentions. They will assist the director in organizing membership, induction, activities, and banquet.

The Thespian troupe will use the National bylaws as their guide, and also agree to be led by the director of theatre to help create secondary bylaws that fit within the department dynamic

Grading Guidelines

40% Formative which includes: class participation, group work, and daily work

60% Summative which includes: performances, projects, tests, major group work

Make-up work Policy

If you are absent when a performance is due, your group will perform. If we are still on that particular project when you return to class, you will be able to perform that day. Performances are considered formal assessments. If it is an individual performance or project, you will be able to schedule a time to perform or present before or after school within the AISD guidelines for makeup work for absences.

Late Work Policy

Only one late production paper will be accepted per nine weeks.

Late work and make-up performance work is accepted within 5 school days of the original due date. Major projects and performances must be made up with an appropriate written assignment or other agreed upon task.

Students who receive a failing grade on any evaluation or assignment have the opportunity to re-do the assignment, within five school days of receiving the assessment of the assignment.

Re-teach/Training opportunities will be provided at tutorials before school. Please note, the room is not intended as a gathering place. Students may not “hang out,” in any theatre room, or shop, before school, or after. The spaces are intended for scheduled thespian time, rehearsal, education, and tutorials.

Missing Work Policy

We are required to place a zero in the gradebook until the student’s work is completed

Eligibility

All AISD Theatre programs adhere to the eligibility rules and regulations as stated by TEA, UIL, and AISD. Some theatre activities are designated as extracurricular. Students participating in these activities are governed by eligibility requirements. A student shall be suspended from participation in all extracurricular activities sponsored or sanctioned by the school district during the nine-week period following a grade reporting period in which the student received a grade lower than seventy in any class. Loss of eligibility does not take effect until seven days after the end of the reporting period. Ineligible students are not suspended from practice or rehearsal of extracurricular activities. The student is not suspended from participation during the period in which school is recessed for the summer or any other vacation time.

Students may regain eligibility under certain circumstances. If a student has been suspended as a result of failing, he/she may regain eligibility by passing ALL courses in the third week of the affected grading period. Reinstatement of eligibility would occur seven days after the three-week progress report period (see TEA/UIL Side by Side).

Activities that are considered curricular components of any course are not affected by the eligibility law. Examples of these activities are all rehearsals and performances that take place as a regular extension of classroom instruction. Any performance that is competitive in nature or for which admission is charged is deemed extra-curricular.

If a student fails during a production, they will defer their role to the understudy, or actor chosen by the director of that show. Once they are passing, they will not be allowed to resume their role. The role would be assumed by the understudy.

Auditions

Auditions for involvement in extra-curricular activities are announced at least two to three weeks before the beginning of the production schedule.

Audition opportunities include (During average Theatre Season times)

- Main stage musical – school wide eligibility
- Fall Show- Enrollment in a theatre class to be eligible
- UIL one act play – Enrollment in a production class to be eligible
- Other Extracurricular Shows- school wide eligibility

Casting Criteria

- Grade eligibility for performance (see eligibility page)
- Attendance and participation at auditions and callbacks
- Appropriateness of student to the role and emotional ability to perform the role
- Student's ability to attend rehearsals and performances
- Student's class behavior
- Parental Behavior
- Actors are required to fulfill six hours of production work for each production they are cast in
- Technical students will have after school tech hours to fulfill
- Casting decisions can sometimes be difficult to experience. The director will always discuss a student's production situation in regards to that student's growth, and future opportunities that are available. Educational casting will always be done fairly, in an ethical and equitable manner. Casting will follow the high standards and procedure set forth by Angleton ISD.

Casting/Class Level Placement

While some casting and Class level decisions are hard to accept, they must be. Casting in educational theatre is a fair and equitable undertaking, and in no way involves a personal agenda or endeavor. While I am always happy to discuss with a student what they can do when auditioning next time, I do not discuss the reasons why one student received a role instead of them. It is important that we support emotional and academic learning and growing by letting them experience the high and lows that come with these decisions, and allow students to self-advocate in a safe environment.

Rehearsal Expectations

Rehearsal Guidelines

- Attend all rehearsals for the entire time called, unless stated on the conflict sheet at the time of auditions
- Sign up for remind 101
- Technicians and Cast are required to adhere to a show contract
- Be on time and ready to work at every rehearsal
- Stay in the designated area for rehearsals and watch or work quietly
- Rehearsals are closed to friends or other students, not in the production. Parents are always allowed to drop in.
- An actor should always bring a pencil and highlighter.
- Using a cell phone without permission during rehearsal, are grounds for dismissal.
- Technicians are required to clean shop, prepare stage for the next day rehearsal and class. The stage is to be swept everyday, before and after, rehearsal.
- The stage is to be mopped once a week, or when build is cleaned.
- Technicians will keep the outdoor patio area organized to department standards.
- A magnet is to be used every day, during set build.
- Tools are to be checked in and out. Students are responsible for any lost or misplaced tools that they have checked out.
- Actors are responsible to clean auditorium, stage, and props, every rehearsal.
- Personal props are the actor responsibility.
- Actors will receive a union break 5 for every 55 minutes.
- Call Sheets are posted near the acting room.
- Lines memorized by/ or before due dates.
- Dress in appropriate rehearsal attire (i.e. DANCE CLOTHES WHEN NECESSARY, REHEARSAL SKIRTS AND/OR SHOES, etc.).
- Food is never allowed on stage.
- Students are allowed two unexcused absences – an unexcused absence is **any** absence in which the Stage Manager and Director has not been given at least 24 hours notice. After two unexcused absences, the actor will be replaced by an understudy.
- Actors must never assume the stage manager or director “just know” they must be at another location i.e. job, game, etc...

- Students **MUST NOT** leave the rehearsal space at any time without permission. Please wait to be excused.
- Rehearsals are scheduled Monday thru Thursday from 3PM to 6PM, unless stated otherwise. Any exceptions to this will be given proper notice. Saturday rehearsals will only occur, if needed.
- Any student who breaks AHS's or Thespian honor code will be removed from a show, possibly from Department.

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Conflicts

When a student is involved in more than one school activity that occurs outside of school time, conflicts may occur. Students must check event calendars for all of their scheduled AHS activities for conflicts as soon as dates are available. The student must notify all parties (Theatre director, parents, coaches, employers, sponsors) when there is a conflict so that there is time to determine how to handle schedules. As long as students communicate within a workable timeframe, there is always a solution within a compromise that works for everyone involved.

Performance Expectations

- Cast and Crew are required to report on time for dress rehearsals and performances when they have call
- Cell Phones are not permitted to be used back stage
- Cell Phones are not permitted to be used in any fashion in the front of the house/audience
- Actors are not to leave the backstage areas of the theater, dressing rooms, green room or the campus in makeup and/or costume.
- Actors will not invite persons outside the cast and crew to any backstage areas, in dressing rooms or the green room
- Actors are not permitted to greet family/friends in costume until given guidelines by director
- Stage etiquette should always be followed including courtesy and consideration for cast, crew, and directors

Field Trips

Guidelines for AHS Theatre Trips

In addition to those policies set forth by AISD and AHS, theatre members will adhere to the following policies:

- Everyone travels with the group, remains with the group, and returns with the group. Special permission to travel in some other manner may be granted if a parent gives the director a request for another arrangement at least 24 hours prior to the trip in written form with a signature and a date.
- Students will not be released to anyone unless a permission note, signed by the parent, has been turned in and the student has checked out with the director or designated chaperone.
- Students may not ride with other students or other students' parents unless they bring written permission in advance from their parent/guardian.
- Only portable electronics *with headphones/earbuds* are allowed on the bus. The AHS Theatre Department assumes no responsibility for personal items lost or damaged on theatre trips.

- Students must adhere to the instructions of the theatre director, staff, bus drivers, and parent chaperones at all times. They are your legal guardians in the absence of your parents.
- For the safety and security of all of our students, the director and chaperones reserve the right to check all luggage prior to departing on any theatre trip.
- Drug, alcohol and tobacco (vaping) policy: The use of these items will not be tolerated during any theatre activity at AHS or away from school. AISD and authorities will deal with any student found with these items. Penalties occurring during extra-curricular activities are treated in the same manner as a school day. Any student violating this policy will be sent home immediately at the parent's expense. Students in violation of the policy will face the penalties set forth by the school, up to and including removal from the Angleton High School Theatre Program and all auxiliary theatre activities.
- Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on Angleton High School and AISD. Students must follow all Theatre and AISD policy as well as legal, ethical, and moral requests from the director or chaperones while on the trip. If a student is asked to leave a destination, parents must come and retrieve their student at their own expense. Any monies paid toward the trip will not be refunded.
- Students must dress appropriately for the location of the trip as designated in advance by the Theatre Directors. Any student dressed inappropriately will not be allowed to attend the trip and funds will not be reimbursed. In addition, students must follow the AISD dress code at all times.

Attendance Policy for Trips

All theatre trips are optional unless otherwise specified. Only AHS Theatre members and their parent chaperones are allowed to participate in AHS Theatre trips, as needed. The following additional criteria applies to theatre students attending any theatre trip:

- No unexcused theatre performance absences during the school year
- Students must be passing all classes
- No unexcused theatre rehearsal absence during the school year
- No in school suspensions assignment at any time during the semester in which the trip occurs

- Student must be in good standing in the department

Trip Pick Up

Parents must be prompt when picking up their children from theatre trips. Students are encouraged to bring cell phones on theatre trips to call/text parents regarding our arrival time on our way home.

- District policy does not allow the director to leave students unattended on the AHS campus after school hours, so please be prompt in picking up your student from trips.

Letter Jackets

Students in AHS Theatre can earn a letter in one of the following ways:

- If a student is a member of the UIL One-Act Play cast or crew and that show wins District.
- If a student is a member of the AHS Thespian Society and earns a total of 25 points. They must be an active member of the Department, and the Thespians society

Thespian Society

Angleton High School is home to the International Thespian Troupe 266. Students will be inducted into this theatre honorary organization based on points earned through participation in theatre activities at AHS. Officers are required to update the point system and show monthly updates. The point system can be found on the AHS Theatre webpage www.angletontheatre.com and posted on the Theatre Bulletin Board, outside of Blackbox.

Parent Volunteers

Anyone interested in volunteering with AHS Theatre in a capacity where they will be around students will be required to complete the online application and criminal record check (per AISD policy). This must be updated annually.

Forms

All Theatre students and parents must sign the Handbook acknowledgement form verifying that these policies are understood, and agreed upon. This form is located on the last page of this Handbook. **It is to be printed**, signed and then returned to the directors **BY THE END OF THE SECOND WEEK OF CLASSES. ALSO**, All Theatre Students and parents will be asked to sign a photo release form allowing us to place photos and possible video of students, in classes, and in shows, online. **THIS IS ALSO DUE BY THE END OF THE SECOND WEEK.**

All Theatre students and parents must sign a travel permission form, and medical form, when we are set for travel for the current school year. This form is also located on the website, under forms, and can be printed, signed and returned via email.

All Theatre Students and parents will be asked to sign a photo release form allowing us to place photos of students in classes, and in shows, online. These will be sent out at the beginning of the year.

Signature Page

(please find the signature page on the Forms and Classes pages, on the website, to save you from printing an entire handbook)

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____