



Welcome to the

Jr. International Thespian
Society Program

at Trailside Middle School



INTERNATIONAL
THESPIAN SOCIETYSM

HONORING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN THEATRE

Introduction



What is the International Thespian Society?

The International Thespian Society (ITS), founded in 1929, is an honorary organization for high school and middle school theatre students located at more than 4,900 affiliated secondary schools across America and abroad. The mission of ITS is to honor student achievement in the theatre arts. High school inductees are known as *Thespians* and junior high/middle school inductees are known as *Junior Thespians*. ITS is a division of the Educational Theatre Association (EdTA).

Each year, the Educational Theatre Association's **awards, grants, and scholarship opportunities** honor the achievements of individuals and theatre programs, providing award-winners with the financial support to attend Association events or further educational endeavors.

Awards are presented in recognition of notable accomplishments by individuals or theatre programs.

Grants are one-time financial awards presented to individuals or troupes to attend Association events such as the EdTA National Conference or the International Thespian Festival.

National scholarships are presented to students, typically based on a combination of merit and career goals.

Chapter Matching Scholarships are offered by Thespian chapters in partnership with the EdTA National Office, and awarded at chapter events.



**VIRGINIA
THESPIANSSM**

AN EDUCATIONAL THEATRE ASSOCIATION AFFILIATE



Co-Chapter Director

[Victoria Kesling](#)

New Kent High School
Richmond, Virginia



Co- Chapter Director

[Anthony Cimino-Johnson III](#)

Rock Ridge Performing Arts
Ashburn, VA

What is the Virginia Thespian Society?

Virginia Thespians or Virginia Educational Theatre Association (VA EdTA) is an organization devoted entirely to supporting theatre education for both students and teachers throughout the great state of Virginia. Working collaboratively, VA Thespians creates theatre events to enhance theatre education for both teachers and students. VA EdTA is an official chapter of The Educational Theatre Association. The EdTA is a professional association for theatre educators, with more than 90,000 members in the United States, Canada, and abroad.

Virginia Thespians is supported by VA EdTA. Virginia Thespians is a division of The International Thespian Society (ITS). Each school that is part of the ITS is identified by a Troupe number. Troupe numbers give some indication of how long a school has been a part of the society. The International Thespian Society, has troupes in more than 3,900 North American schools and has inducted more than two million members since its founding in 1929.

Any school that has formed a troupe is able to participate in all Virginia Thespian Events as well as any events sponsored by the International Thespian Society.

Benefits of Junior Thespian Induction

- Membership in the only international honor society for junior high/middle school theatre arts students—a recognized demonstration of achievement and a valuable addition to college and employment applications.
- An official Junior Thespian induction pin.
- A personalized membership certificate.
- A personalized membership card.
- A bumper sticker that reads: *Proud parent of a theatre arts honor student*.
- Ability to begin their high school careers with half of the Thespian points required for high school induction.
- Leadership opportunities at the troupe and chapter levels (per chapter policy).
- Eligibility to participate in individual events at chapter conferences and the [National Individual Events Showcase \(NIES\)](#) at the International Thespian Festival (per chapter policy).
- Eligibility to receive Junior Thespian honor items (medallions, point stars, etc.).
- Eligibility to receive Junior Thespian scholar distinction for academic achievement.

Junior Thespians graduating to high school programs. When Junior Thespians graduate from grade eight and move to a high school with a Thespian troupe, they remain Junior Thespian members and alums of their Junior Thespian troupes. They also begin earning points toward a new Thespian membership and induction into the high school troupe. Thespian and Junior Thespian point awards are not the same. One Thespian point equals 10 hours of excellent work; one Junior Thespian point equals five hours of excellent work. Point conversions between troupes can be complicated. To simplify matters, ITS allows Junior Thespians to begin their high school careers with at least half of the Thespian points required for high school induction, normally five Thespian points. The decision as to how many additional points can be carried is made by the troupe director of the high school Thespian troupe, in accordance with the troupe's constitution and bylaws.





Can I Be Inducted? YES!!

Induction criteria.

Grade at time of induction. Only students in grades six through eight (or the international equivalent) may be inducted into the Junior Thespian troupe. Students in grades nine through 12 must be inducted into a high school Thespian troupe.

School enrollment. If a student receives primary academic coursework from a school with an active troupe, he or she may only be inducted into and receive benefits through that troupe.

Junior Thespian points. The *Junior Thespian point system* provides the recommended number of points awarded for a specific assignment. Troupe directors may use their discretion in awarding points according to the student's quality of work and cooperation. Quality may include the caliber of the work done and the educational value of the experience. The troupe director makes the final decision regarding the awarding of Junior Thespian points.





What does all this mean for you?
More acting, learning, and doing!!
Here are some of the things we will
cover this year....

Committment

Membership Fee: \$12.

- ❖ Must attend bi-monthly Monday meetings afterschool 3:30pm – 5:00pm
- ❖ Participate in at least six hours (6) of club projects/events during the year to remain in good standing.



Upcoming Workshops
and Events!

Pick Your Best Song

“Selection is Key!”

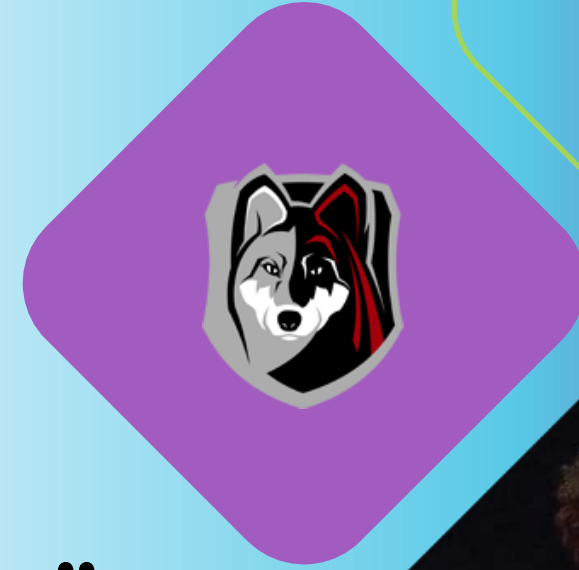
- ❖ Is this right for me?
- ❖ Having more than 1
- ❖ Research your audition



EDUCATIONAL
THEATRE
ASSOCIATION

SHAPING LIVES THROUGH THEATRE EDUCATION





Monologues 101

“Who To Be? Or Not To Be”

- ❖ How to identify the monologue
- ❖ Tips/Tricks for memorization
- ❖ Creating emotional range





Stage Make Up

“An Introduction”

- ❖ Overview how to apply basic stage makeup
- ❖ Specialty Makeup Sneak Peak
- ❖ Create individual stage makeup rendering



“We’re a Team!”

Stage Management Tools

- ❖ Create and Run a Cue to Cue
- ❖ Build Stage Manager Kit
- ❖ Best Practices for Performances



VIRGINIA
JUNIOR THESPIANS™
AN EDUCATIONAL THEATRE
ASSOCIATION AFFILIATE



Honors Selection Committee

“The Future’s In Your Hands!”

- ❖ Vote for Future Wolfpack Productions and Events
- ❖ Introduce New Traditions for Troupe
- ❖ Select Fundraiser Events





2019 Virginia Thespian Festival

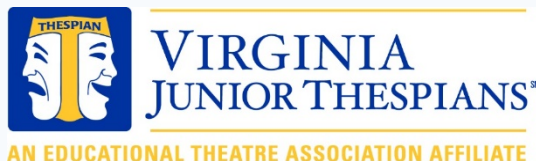
**February 1st: Registration Opens at 9 am -
FULL DAY!**

**February 2nd: Full Day of Incredible
Theatre**

**February 3rd: Festival Ends at 2 pm after
the Awards Ceremony**

NEW THIS YEAR:

**Auditions for the 1st All-State Theatre
Production Information Coming Soon!**



February 1st - 3rd

The 2019 Conference Location

RADFORD UNIVERSITY

801 E Main St,

Radford, VA 24141

We wanted the opportunity for your students to perform on a campus, after taking a year off. This beautiful facility, houses two theatres, and several performance locations. We could not be happier to have a partnership with Radford University!

The Virginia Thespian Festival

- Virginia's Empowering Annual High School Theatre Festival for students, educators, colleges and teaching artists, is the first Annual High School Theatre Festival created. Be a part of something big: 100 + Workshops for Educators and Students
- 18 Individual Event Competitions
- Scholarship Auditions Totaling \$3,000
- College Auditions
- Main Stage Performances
- One-Act Performances
- Annual Awards for Teachers and Students
- Technical Olympics
- Keynote Speakers
- All Meals Included

"ACT WELL YOUR PART, THEREIN ALL THE HONOR LIES"

**Festivals
School Events
and much more!**

**See if you're eligible
and sign up today!**



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