**Thespian Troupe # 88486 Constitution**

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

**Section 1.** Name: This organization shall be called Troupe #88486. The troupe has been chartered by Denver School of the Arts. The charter affiliates it with the International Thespian Society (ITS), a division of the Educational Theatre Association (EdTA).

**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 shall receive recognition of their exemplary accomplishment.

**Section 3.** Governance: This troupe constitution and its bylaws are two components of a hierarchy of documents that govern the Educational Theatre Association and its membership. The documents affecting troupes, in order of authority, are: the Educational Theatre Association Code of Regulations and 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 ITS 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 the following officers: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and clerk/scribe. Duties shall be defined in the troupe’s bylaws.

**Section 3.** Elections: The troupe shall elect officers for the next school year in the last full month of the current school term.

**Article III: Meetings and Participation Section**

**Section 1.** Meetings: Thespian troupe meetings shall be held periodically 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 the troupe director. Two unexcused absences from required troupe meetings is grounds for dismissal from the troupe for the rest of the school year. Any member requesting reinstatement of participation rights may have them restored with the consent of the troupe director and officers.

**Article IV: Dues and Fees**

**Section 1.** Dues: There shall be no mandatory dues for Thespian induction except as provided by the Educational Theatre Association Board of Directors which is currently $25.

**Section 2.** Fees: All previously inducted troupe members will pay a $10 fee each school year to provide a budget for the troupe to work with for its activities for the year.

**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, EdTA policies, troupe handbook/constitution, or school policy/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.

**Thespian Troupe # 88486 Bylaws**

**Article VII: Attendance**

**Section 1.** A student arriving late more than 15 minutes late without a written explanation for their tardiness or leaving early from meetings without a reason considered valid by the troupe director will be considered an Unexcused Absence.

**Section 2.**  Meetings will be posted in various locations and announced to the troupe membership at least one week in advance of the meeting.

**Section 3.** Irregular attendance indicates a lack of interest; therefore, any member absent two (2) meetings per school year without a written excuse submitted to the troupe director shall be automatically suspended from troupe activities for the rest of the year. The troupe director has sole authority to reverse the suspension.

**Section 4.** Absences shall accumulate for only one school year at a time.

**Article VIII: Thespian Points**

**Section 1.** Induction points must be earned no earlier than the summer before a student begins attending DSA. The Junior Thespian Point Record Sheet designates how students may earn point for induction.

**Section 2.** Induction points will be awarded for theatre-related work done outside the school’s theatre program.

**Article IX: Induction**

**Section 1.** An induction ceremony shall be held at least once each year.

**Section 2.** Induction fees are the responsibility of the inductee. The troupe will pay for induction pins and other honors items.

**Section 3.** The troupe director determines the time, place, schedule, and format of induction ceremonies.

**Section 4.** The troupe director and president conduct inductions. The vice president is responsible for training induction ceremony speakers, scheduling and rehearsing said speakers, and preparing the stage and induction properties as directed by the troupe director.

**Article X: Officers**

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

A. The president presides at all meetings, appoints all standing and special committees, and help plan, direct, and supervises troupe activities. They are the voice of the troupe and should be available for member’s questions, concerns, and ideas at any time.

B. The vice-president presides in the absence of the president and is responsible for planning the induction ceremony of new members.

C. The secretary keeps the records of meetings, keeps attendance, and keeps track of the point cards that are turned in each year.

D. The treasurer is responsible for keeping track of people’s dues and ordering any potential items for Troupe activities.

E. The historian keeps copies of programs/tickets/etc. from all Troupe related events , takes pictures, and puts together slide shows and other media for Troupe events.

**Section 2.** Requirements for all elected officers are as follows: each student must be an active member of the troupe for at least one school year, and at the time of election must be enrolled in grade 7.

**Section 3.** Nominations for officers are done by the following process: Interested students must fill out and turn in a packet signed by both them and their parents that expresses their interest and understanding of the commitment the position requires by the date specified. A 2 minute speech will be given at the March/April troupe meeting so that members can vote on who they want to represent them.

**Section 4.** Elections will be conducted at the last meeting for the next school year.

**Section 5**. Voting will be done by secret written ballot at an official troupe meeting.

**Section 6.**  Officers may be dismissed from their position if they violate school policy, are suspended, or have 3 unexcused absences from officer/troupe meetings. Reinstatement is at the discretion of the troupe director.

**Section 7.** Officers shall be installed at the last meeting or banquet of the school term.

**Article X: Troupe Activities**

**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.** The troupe shall sponsor at least one “good neighbor” program a year for the purpose of establishing good relationships with nearby Thespian and Junior Thespian troupes and other dramatic groups.

**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.

**Article XI: Conflict Resolution**

**Section 1.** In the event issues/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 as indicated in the troupe handbook.