

# **JR. ITS TROUPE 88441 CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

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

**Section 1.** Name: This organization shall be called Troupe 88441. The troupe has been chartered by Bak Middle School of the Arts. 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 bylaws. 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 the following officers: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and grade level representatives. 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 1.** Meetings: Thespian troupe meetings shall be held monthly throughout the school year. Special meetings may be called by the troupe director.

**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 meeting may be denied participation in troupe activities by the troupe director or school administration. Any

# JR. ITS TROUPE 88441 CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

member requesting reinstatement of participation rights may have them restored with the consent of the troupe director and the school administration. 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. Therefore local and state participation is dependent upon troupe director authorization.

- All students must maintain a minimum 2.5 G.P.A. to be eligible to participate in troupe activities and meetings (no "F" grades\*).
- Students who do not serve their after school detentions within the allotted time, will not be eligible to participate until all detentions are served.
- Students who violate the Standards of Excellence Choice Contract, which includes violations of the SDPBC Student Code of Conduct, are not eligible to participate until all requirements are met.
  - a) A student who fails an academic course (i.e., ELA, math, science, and/or social studies).
  - b) A student who is on art area probation.
  - c) A student who has excessive absences/tardies.
  - d) A student who receives a discipline referral.

## Article IV: Fees

**Section 1.** Fees: Troupes may approve additional fees for local Thespian troupe participation. This requires consent of the troupe director. The school and its troupe director may also assess user fees in accordance with school policy.

Troupe 88441 Fees: \$35 per 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, membership policy, troupe handbook, troupe constitution, or school policy or procedures.

## Article VI: Amendments

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

**Section 2.** This constitution and its amendments shall be subject to change according to any or all requirements of the International Thespian Society and the school administration.

# JR. ITS TROUPE 88441 CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

## Thespian Troupe 88441 Bylaws

### Article 1: Attendance

**Section 1.** Regular after-school meetings will begin at 3:45 p.m. and end at 5:10 p.m. Changes will be posted by 2 p.m. the day prior to the meeting.

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

**Section 4.** Attendance shall be considered in the Thespian point award system.

**Section 5.** 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 will 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.** Induction points may be earned for attending non-school productions. To qualify, a picture of a ticket stub or a program must be provided as proof of attendance. A critique of the show (one-page minimum) must be submitted within one week of the production.

### Article 3: Induction

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

**Section 2.** The troupe will pay for additional honor items that are included in its officially adopted recognition system.

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

**Section 4.** The troupe director and student officers 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.

# JR. ITS TROUPE 88441 CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

## Article 4: Officers

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

A. The president presides at all meetings, appoints all standing and special committees, and directs and supervises troupe activities.

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

C. The secretary keeps the records of meetings and attends to troupe correspondence.

D. Other offices such as historian, publicity chair, etc chair may be added at the troupe's discretion.

**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. Officers will lose eligibility if they commit any violations per **Article 3 Section 2**. Officers can not be reinstated after losing eligibility for committing any violations per **Article 3 Section 2**.

**Section 3.** Nominations for officers are to be made by a committee that includes the troupe director. Officers will be elected by a majority vote.

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

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

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

## Article 5: Class Representatives

**Section 1.** Each grade shall have one or more elected representative(s).

**Section 2.** The duties of each representative will be to distribute newsletters, inform his or her grade of any new information, and aid any officer if requested to do so.

## Article 6: Conflict Resolution

**Section 1.** 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 as indicated in the troupe handbook.

# JR. ITS TROUPE 88441 CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

We, the undersigned, acknowledge that we have read and understood the Jr. ITS Troupe 88441 Constitution and Bylaws for the SY25 school year. We agree to adhere to the guidelines and expectations set forth in the document. We understand that failure to comply with these guidelines may result in removal from the troupe.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_