

Dear DISTRICT Drama Festival Participants:

Congratulations on being part of the MIFA Theatre Festival series! It is our pleasure to serve as your host school for the 2017 Districts. We will do all in our power to assist you and make your day here at Holland High an enjoyable one. Your Regional festival will be held **Saturday, January 28, 2017** at Holland High School in Holland, Michigan. We are located off 196 just 25 miles west of Grand Rapids.

This year is unique. We are hosting both a MAIN STAGE festival and a STUDIO festival. These two events will overlap. The main stage event will be happening in our auditorium and the studio will be using our band room. Below is information for both.

Enclosed, you'll find information on stage specifics and a schedule for the day. We ask that you park your buses and other vehicles in our school's upper parking lot (located off Van Raalte Avenue) across the street from the Performing Arts Center. As soon as you reach campus, your director (or designate) should come directly to the registration area located in the Performing Arts Center. At that time, you will be given full instructions for unloading equipment and a student host will be available to show you to your homeroom area.

MAINSTAGE:

THIS event begins earlier in the morning. You will be storing your set in our scene shop in a 10x15 space. A vocal warm-up area will be available for your use the hour before your performance time. Restrooms for men and women are available in both the areas surrounding your homerooms and the Performing Arts Center for your use. At the close of the festival we ask that all classrooms are put back into order, desktops clean, and all adjacent restrooms cleaned up of makeup and theatre supplies.

We look forward to having you here at Holland High as our special guest! Our space is very comfortable and intimate, with only 414 seats, but plenty of legroom and excellent acoustics! Our lighting is controlled by an ETC Express. A piano will also be available in the theater for schools needing one (BUT ONLY IF REQUESTED IN ADVANCE). We will have a tech director and assistants to assist you.

Our sound system will not be made available to you. We do this to protect you (in case something happened during your show). Headsets will be available in the booth, both wings, and in other various areas around the auditorium

STUDIO:

The studio event will be happening in our band room. The performance space is 25 x20. There are 2' upstage of the tape line. The judges will be seated in the front row, with one judge on each of three of the sides. . Lighting is basic overhead lighting, **with lights up and down other than turning them on and off**. We will have seating for 100.

There will not be a warm up room for Studio, however there is an amphitheater near your homeroom that will be available to you if you need more room. We can also access other classrooms if you need more room. If the warm room is available (not being used for mainstage) that will be available to the next show as well.

We will have 6 16" cubes, a folding table and 2 chairs. If you need them, let us know. We will have them in the band room at the start of the festival.

Your registration and meetings will all occur while the main stage is performing or in critique...please be respectful when entering the Performing Arts Center.

BOTH FESTIVALS:

I am asking each school this year to provide a program for their show to be handed out to the audience. This program may be as simple or elaborate as you wish. Please bring four copies of this program or four copies of the Judge Information Sheet that you received from the MIFA state office to the registration table upon arrival.

Also, could each coach/director contact my office with show title, author and publishing company as soon as possible? A rough estimate of people that will be joining us for lunch will also help us to prepare.

Holland High will provide a lunch service during the festival. Reasonably priced food items and beverages will be available during the later morning and lunch break. We will also have snacks and coffee available in the morning. All participating schools are encouraged to use the service, as fast food restaurants are far from the Holland High campus.

Our campus will be open at 7:15 a.m. Saturday morning, ready for those schools scheduled to load in. The festival Introductory Meeting will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. in the theater, and we ask that at least one representative from each school be present for roll. I will send schedule as well...and if any changes occur, I will email all of you ASAP.

We look forward to hosting you on the 28th for a full day of outstanding high school theater.

Sincerely,

Kevin J. Schneider
District Contest Coordinator
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