

INTERNATIONAL THESPIAN SOCIETY – (ITS)

WHAT IS ITS?

The International Thespian Society has been honoring excellence in the work of theatre students since 1929. Thespian troupes serve students in grades nine through twelve. There are at present active ITS troupes in more than 3,900 high schools and middle schools, mostly in the United States and Canada. The Society recently inducted its two millionth Thespian. Each troupe is led by a troupe director who is a professional member of the Educational Theatre Association. The troupe director is typically—but not always—the theatre teacher in the school. Students earn an invitation to Thespian Society membership on the basis of their achievements in the school's theatre program.

QUICK FACTS GLOBALLY:

1. Many famous actors are lifelong ITS members (Tom Hanks, Julia Louis-Dreyfus etc.)
2. ITS has 80,000 active members and over 34,000 new inductees every year
3. ITS presents over \$100,000 in scholarships to Thespian members each year

QUICK FACTS LOCALLY:

1. ITS was the first Honors Society chartered at LHS, in 1981.
2. Every Scholarship recipient for the past two years has been an active ITS member.
3. In the past two years, ITS members have received over \$20,000 in scholarship money at LHS.
4. 2011's Best Thespian was awarded the Carroll Players Scholarship as well as an honoree of the Carroll Arts Council Award.

INDUCTION REQUIREMENTS:

1. Take Drama I.
2. Keep track of and earn 12 points.
3. Participate in two different areas of theatre.
4. 9 points must come from LHS productions.

MAINTAINING ACTIVE MEMBERS REQUIREMENTS:

1. Take a Drama Class every year.
2. Keep track of and earn points quarterly.
3. Maintain a GPA of 3.0 or greater.
4. Earn B's or better in all Drama Classes.

BENEFITS:

1. Participation in the Winter Show.
2. Participation in the Maryland State Thespian Festival.
3. Highest Scholarship Winners in the Liberty High School Drama Program.
4. Wearing chords and medallions at graduation.
5. You can earn a Drama Letter
6. Appears prestigious on college application

WHAT IS THE MARYLAND STATE THESPIAN FESTIVAL?

1. One Act productions compete for the opportunity to go to Nationals in Lincoln, Nebraska.
2. One Act productions receive awards for competing in the festival.
3. We receive adjudication similar to a Choir or Band festival.
4. Individual actors and technicians are recognized and awarded for their performances in Individual Events.
5. Students are able to compete in individual events and receive adjudication similar to choir and band festivals.
6. Students are able to compete in scholarship competitions and receive adjudication.
7. Scholarship winners are announced at the end of the two day festival and given \$1,000 the same day.
8. Scholarship opportunities are for Acting, Musical Theatre and Design Work.
9. Over 45 workshops are offered over the two day period in different aspects of theatre, sponsored by professionals from all over the world.
10. Colleges observe and request students for on the spot interviews based on their participation in Individual Events and One Act Competitions.