



Mercer County
High School
Theater

Rules and Policies

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This document does not supersede any policies given by Mercer County School District or Mercer County High School. This includes, but is not limited to the MCHS Student Handbook, the MCHS Extracurricular Code of Conduct, and instructions given by school and/or district administrators.

Electronic Devices

Use of electronic devices (including, but not limited to cell phones, iPods, iPads, and eReaders) is strongly discouraged inside the theater. If use of such devices is seen as a distraction to other members of the audience, the person(s) involved will be asked to power the device off, or leave the theater until they have finished using the device. Flash photography is prohibited in the theater at all times.

Copyright Infringement

During events containing copyrighted material, (including, but not limited to the spring musical, fall play, video or movie showings, and other musical performances) use of audio, video, or photo recording devices is strictly prohibited. Person(s) found recording such events without authorization will be removed from the theater, and asked to delete any and all recordings. Failure to comply with this request is a violation of *Title 17 of the United States Code (U.S.C.)* and in addition to legal penalties, will result in ejection from the event.

Legal penalties for copyright infringement:

1. Infringer pays the actual dollar amount of damages and profits.
2. Copyright law provides a range from \$200.00 to \$150,000.00 for each work infringed.
3. Infringer pays for all attorneys fees and court costs.
4. The Court can issue an injunction to stop the infringing acts.
5. The Court can impound the illegal works.
6. Up to 20 years in prison.

More details on copyright infringement can be found [here](https://www.copyright.gov/title17/92chap5.html).

(<https://www.copyright.gov/title17/92chap5.html>)

Horseplay and Disruptions

Disruptions of events will not be tolerated in the theater and will result in punishment such as ejection.

Disruptions include, but are not limited to;

- Disrespect to Mercer County School District #404 staff working within their district or school staff capacity.
- Disrespect to students.
- Disrespect to other audience members.
- Production of loud noises or bright lights when not appropriate.
- Throwing objects on stage or within the house.
- Climbing over seats.

Food

Food is strictly prohibited in the auditorium at all times regardless of origin. Any food found in the auditorium will be confiscated and thrown away.

Drinks

Drinks are prohibited in the auditorium at all times. In special circumstances, an exception is made for water. This water must be regular water in a clear bottle or container. Containers specifically not allowed include, but are not limited to reused soda bottles, Polar Pop™ cups, disposable coffee cups and cans. Any drinks found in the auditorium not meeting these standards will be confiscated and thrown away. Theater staff reserves the right to investigate the contents of a container through sight and smell if needed.

Destruction of Property

Destruction of school property will not be tolerated and will result in legal or disciplinary action. We also ask that audience members refrain from placing their feet on seat backs, arm rests, or any other part of the seats as it dirties the seats and requires additional cleaning.

This includes, but is not limited to;

- Ripping or cutting of seat cushions.
- Scratching or otherwise defacing objects such as seat backs, arm rests, walls, doors, etc.
- Sticking chewing gum to objects like seats.

Trespassing

Except for special circumstances, audience members or persons not involved in the production of an event are not permitted backstage or in the lighting production box. Commonly, more areas of the school will be included in this and doors will be locked or passage will otherwise be blocked to these areas. Persons found in prohibited areas will be asked to leave the area and depending on severity, may be ejected from the event. If the circumstance is severe enough, legal action may be taken and the offending person(s) may be trespassed from the property.

Tampering With Equipment

Tampering with equipment including, but not limited to lights, light consoles, sound equipment, curtains, fire extinguishers, fire alarms, cables, and barriers is strictly prohibited and may result

in ejection from the event. If such tampering results in damages, the offending person(s) may be held legally and financially liable.

Unauthorized Network Access

Access of the theater's wireless local area network (WLAN) or other school networks without authorization is a violation of *Title 18, Section 1030(a)(2) of the United States Code (U.S.C.)* and in addition to legal penalties, will result in ejection from the event.

Legal penalties for unauthorized computer access:

1. Fines ranging from \$250.00 to \$15,000.00
2. Up to 20 years in prison.

More information about Unauthorized Computer Access can be found [here](https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=(title:18%20section:1030%20edition:prelim)).
([https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=\(title:18%20section:1030%20edition:prelim\)](https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=(title:18%20section:1030%20edition:prelim)))

Refunds

For paid events, refunds will be made on a case-by-case basis.

In general;

- Refunds will not be made after the requesting person(s) have been granted admission.
- Refunds will not be made due to an ejection or other disciplinary action.

Failure to Comply

MCHS administration and theater staff reserves the right to remove any person from an event in the theater for failure to comply with theater, school, or district policies. Students failing to comply with these policies during school hours will be sent to the office for disciplinary action.

Any parent, student, or spectator can lose their right to attend any Mercer County School District extra-curricular event pursuant to Section 24-24 of the School Code for violation of the above rules of conduct.

Ejection Policy

1. If any person is ejected, for any reason, during a Mercer County High School theater event, that person is suspended for the remainder of that event.
2. A second ejection, during a four-year period, results in a month-long suspension.
3. A third ejection results in a calendar year-long ban from any Mercer County High School theater events.
4. A fourth ejection results in a lifetime ban of Mercer County High School theater events

****Mercer County School District #404, Mercer County High School, and theater staff reserve the right to make any ejection punishment more severe if warranted.***