

Thespian Festival Information

Nov. 19-22, 2025

2025 **revised (11/17/25)**

Please make checks payable to DHS- Theatre Arts

WHAT IS THE STATE THESPIAN FESTIVAL? Each year, Texas Thespians host two state-wide festivals with over 10,000 delegates in attendance. As one of the largest annual Thespian events in the nation, the festival offers students and troupe directors an entire weekend immersed in theatre—competitions, workshops, performances, and celebrations of the art form.

WHO CAN ATTEND? Attendance is open to current Thespians as well as select non-Thespian students who are in good standing with Ms. Phillips.

What does “good standing” mean? We seek student leaders who demonstrate:

- A genuine passion for theatre and a desire to grow their skills.
- Commitment to competing or participating at a **high level**, as all delegates will be involved in a competition or event.
- Academic responsibility, with all assignments up to date. (We strongly prefer students with A's and B's, since the festival requires missing two days of school before Thanksgiving break.)
- Respectful behavior, the ability to follow directions, and a focused attitude.

Because this is a serious commitment, and this event is so large, students who are primarily interested in socializing or “goofing off” will not be considered. Delegates must show they are self-motivated, dependable, and serious about representing Decatur High Theatre.

How are students selected? Non-Thespian students may be invited by Ms. Phillips, with input from current Thespians, based on the above criteria. Space is limited, so students who exemplify dedication, responsibility, and enthusiasm for theatre will be given priority.

COMPETITIONS? I HAVE TO COMPETE? Yes. Click the link for [performance thespys](#) or for [technical thespys](#)

DATE WE LEAVE: (At this time- still in question. Depends on if we have students need to report Wednesday evening or not) **Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2025 around 12:00 PM.**

Please pack Tuesday night and have everything ready to go for Wednesday morning. You can bring your luggage to my room and we will store luggage in my office.

DATE WE RETURN: **Saturday, Nov. 22, 2025.** Dismissals begin around 4:00 PM and the Festival staff will release the furthest attending schools first and the closest attending schools last. We will shuttle back to our hotel and our bus should be waiting for us there. Hopefully we will get home sooner this year than we have in the past.

Hopeful we will return to DHS around 5:30-6:00 PM. We will call before we head back to DHS to give everyone time to meet us.

WHERE ARE WE STAYING:

Courtyard Dallas DFW Airport North/Grapevine by Marriott

Address: 2200 Bass Pro Ct, Grapevine, TX 76051

Phone: (817) 251-9095

COST: **Total cost is approx. \$450 and could be higher, based on the number of students attending.** Prices have gone up from years past. Below is the payment plan, which was indicated on the student's calendar, however I will work with you on dates and amounts! We need to have the balance paid up by the end of the month, if possible. Thank you to those who have been diligent and consistent in paying!

DUE DATES- **If you cannot make the due date, please let Ms. Phillips know, prior to the due date. Money is non-refundable if your child does not attend.**

Payment # 1	Sept. 11, 2025	Amount: \$50* <i>Phillips is here after lunch</i>
Payment # 2	Sept. 25, 2025	Amount: \$100
Payment # 3	*Oct.. 9, 2025	Amount: \$100 *(phillips has to pay the tab by this date)
Payment # 4	Oct. 30, 2025	Amount: \$100
Payment # 5	Nov. 6, 2025	Amount: \$100 PAID IN FULL, please

Student Information (what they are registered to compete in) must be finalized prior to October. 9th. NO NEW information can be entered into the system.

We are responsible for fees associated with drops.

<https://sites.google.com/view/decaturhstheatre/thespian-troupe-6099>

Festival Information: <https://www.texasthespians.org/ttsf.html>

Festival Rules: https://www.texasthespians.org/festival_rules.html

Festival Directions: https://www.texasthespians.org/festival_directions.html

Transportation: Via van or mini bus to our hotel which is near where ThesFest will take place. We will be shuttling back and forth between our hotel and the event across the street.

What to Pack:

- Posted on Instagram what to pack and the theme of each day. We usually wear our Decatur theatre shirt the day we travel to the Festival (Wednesday). Last year's BLACK shirt
- CHECK the weather and bring layers. When waiting for the shuttle, if we stay at Great Wolf, we will have to stand outside a bit.
- Students are competing on Thursday and/or Friday and must wear Audition Dress Blacks/Darks. Please make sure they are ironed and try not to get them too wrinkled in packing.
- Bring layers to adjust to the weather and temperature in the rooms. A lightweight hoodie/jacket will work.
- Bring a lightweight backpack to store items purchased or picked up from colleges.
- YOUR CHARGER! An extra charger! and find out who has the same phone as you so you can borrow each other's charger. (Chargers are over \$40 at the hotel)
- Your meds and necessities.
- Shower items.
- Hair/Makeup items.
- Each room should get together and talk about what snacks they are bringing. Waters, crackers, sweets, breakfast, etc. If you have medications, please talk to me. Who is bringing an emergency sewing kit, Band-Aids, etc?
- Travel sized items. The more you pack, the more you will be responsible for
- Please only bring what you can manage to carry. Does anyone have a compact or folding wagon

Spending Money: **UPDATE: The Gaylord is a cashless venue. If your child does not have a debit/credit card, there is a terminal in which you can insert cash for a card that is loadable. The Thespian Store does take cash. Parents, talk with kiddos about how much to spend each day.**

Music: We will bring the theatre's speaker, but please feel free to bring your own Bluetooth speaker if you don't want to carry ours, as it is heavy and bulky. If you are competing in a solo musical, you are responsible for the speaker.

GRADES/ASSIGNMENTS: Students need to be passing all classes and have the Permission slips signed. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL MISSING ASSIGNMENTS. PLEASE COLLECT YOUR HOMEWORK PRIOR TO MISSING

CLASSES. After Thanksgiving break, it is YOUR responsibility to AGAIN see if you are missing work and to turn in assignments missed while we were out.

You have already paid for two meal vouchers. (to be used for lunches on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday). **I suggest packing breakfast snacks and ramen.** Bring breakfast snacks or \$ for Thursday-Saturday. Our hotel has breakfast options for \$15, or bring a protein bar/cereal bar. Roommates are encouraged to speak with each other regarding snacks to help keep the cost down at ThesFest.

Souvenirs: There is lots of fun-stuff at ThesFest, ranging from theatre T-shirts, shorts, buttons, bracelets, hats, hoodies, backpacks, makeup, etc. **You are not obligated to purchase anything.** If your budget allows, know that shirts range from \$15-\$25, bracelets are usually \$1.00. An ITS backpack is \$65.

PLEASE DISCUSS A BUDGET PRIOR TO LEAVING. \$ _____ for meals/snacks \$ _____ for extras. Again, thespian stores will take cash AND card. The Gaylord Texan ONLY TAKES CARD.

WHY WE ARE GOING?: To learn and to compete, to better our skills, and hone our craft. We will get a chance to visit college representatives. Hopefully, we will also ignite a greater passion for theatre. There are some professionals who teach the workshops, but mostly from other teachers. Take Improv classes, lighting workshops, audition workshops- anything that will help you become a more knowledgeable artist. We will represent Decatur, Decatur High School, and the DHS Theatre Department. This is not a social event or a vacation. In fact, if we do this right, you will be exhausted from preparing and learning. We will behave with the utmost decorum.

THESPIAN FESTIVAL SCHEDULE (2024– FOR REFERENCE ONLY)

National Qualifier: Receiving a Superior rating from each of the three judges. Students, please refer to your handout. Three superiors may qualify you to be considered for the Main Stage. These are the top performers from the entire festival. Musical events Superiors: 21-24 per judge (3;) and Acting event Superiors: 18-20 per judge (3).

What if I become a National Qualifier: You have earned the right to go to Bloomington, Indiana (Indiana University) to compete at the National level, against students from all over the US, and other countries!! But you are responsible for the cost. More information can be found here: <https://itf.schooltheatre.org/index.cfm>

Nationals: Take place June 21-26, 2026 in Bloomington Indiana at Indiana University. It is costly but so worth it! This festival is almost a full week & all meals are included and

a t-shirt. The cost varies, but can be anywhere from \$1400 (registration and travel) More information can be found here: <https://itf.schooltheatre.org/index.cfm> Professionals lead the workshops at this Festival. It feels like a professional camp, surrounded by professional students. Registration begins in January.

Do I have to go if I qualify? No, you don't. We will cross that bridge when we get there!

Can I go if I don't qualify? Yes, you can! We will cross that bridge when we get there!

ThesFest Remind 2025: In the past, Remind hasn't worked for us at Grapevine so we will utilize GroupMe. More info coming soon!

NOTES:

- We will check luggage before we load the bus. You will not pack illegal items. No alcohol, drugs, vapes, etc. Please pack discrete items separately. We do not intentionally want to cause embarrassment. The safety of our kiddos is most important.
- No family members can attend this festival.
- There is **ICE** this year, but we may not get tickets when we register. We will have to register for the event there, if we want to go. IF WE DO GO- Then pack gloves and a hat! The cost is \$19.99 with coupon code: Thespians
- We will have a curfew each night. No one leaves his/her room after 10:00 PM
- We must attend a certain amount of workshops. If I am not in a workshop or show with you, you must take a picture of where you are and send it to the Remind group.
- We will not travel anywhere alone. You will have a ThesFest Buddy.
- You cannot go back to your hotel room whenever you want. I will keep your hotel keys with me. IF there is an emergency, obviously I will let you go back to your room. UPDATE: We are staying at the _____
- The hotel has hired extra security for this event. Each hallway will have a monitor.
- Your badge will be pulled if you are found to be unruly, loud, laying around, etc.
- Parents: Your kiddo will be busy and may not return a call or text right away. We are always instructed to keep phones out of workshops. Students, please text or call your parents when you have a moment. They worry about you!
- My email address is rebecca.phillips@decaturisd.us. I will respond as soon as I can. I will have duties in which I may not be able to respond as quickly as I would like.
- We will 'check out' of our rooms Saturday morning and will lose access to our rooms. Please plan and pack accordingly on Saturday.
- DOWNLOAD GUIDEBOOK. Soon, you will see State Thespian Festival 2025
- We will all wear a Decatur Theatre SPIRIT Shirt. We will wear ONE of them on Wednesday.

PARENT MEETING! To Be Scheduled at a later date

2025 AGENDA *draft*

Monday- Phillips is available after school until 5:30 for one-on-one rehearsal and to answer any questions.

Tuesday- The only thing that is 'new' for this year is that we are staying at another hotel. This means we travel with what we need and travel lights. Here is the hotel info:
[Courtyard Dallas DFW Airport](#)

UPDATE- Gold group has a later closing ceremony! We will be late returning on Saturday.

Wednesday- Bring luggage to Prop Room

Leave at 12:00 noon (after 4th period- before 5th period)- Meet in Phillips' room.

2:00-6:00	CHECK IN at the Gaylord
3:00	Barrett must be in the PECOS room for his meeting
7:00-8:00	OPENING CEREMONY- EXHIBIT HALL D/E
8:15-	Phillips' has a director's meeting in Texoma 1
8:30	WORKSHOP 1—YOU MUST ATTEND.
9:15-	Phillips' has a Judge's training until 10:00 PM



Download Guidebook. It's light blue with a 'g' →

See screenshots next page

Search for guides- type in *Texas Thespians State Festival 2025*

Click on Grapevine. Then look at all the workshops.

Thursday-

8:00 AM Workshops 1-4

Solo Musical-	Alexandria Parker	FT. WORTH 3—10:15-12:15
Contrasting Monologues-	Mia Casillas-	DALLAS 4—10:15-12:15
	Maggie Ballou	DALLAS 4—10:15-12:15
Phillips- House Crew	7-9	

Friday-

Phillips' Solo Musical 12:30-2:30 Convention Center 3rd Floor Reception

Saturday- We will have packed our luggage before we leave for the Gaylord unless they tell us otherwise. Closing ceremonies start at 4:30 and ends at 6:30.

NOTES & Reminders-during Eagle Time

- Auditions- wear all black or dark clothes
- Get with your roommate regarding snacks. There is a fridge & microwave.
- Download Guidebook!!! Get with your roomie and plan NOW!
- Fill out the Thespian Festival Google Doc with the workshops you want to attend.
- No one travels alone. Have a buddy.

- We have Decatur Theatre shirts for \$10.
- Dress Up Days:
 - Weds- wear blue (or Decatur shirt)
 - Thurs- Shine Your Light- Wear shiny clothes and accessories
 - Fri- Quacksby's Party- Dress red carpet ready
 - Sat- Represent your troupe- Wear your troupe Theatre shirt! (black)
- If you are competing early, you will wear your blacks to the competition and you are welcome to change into comfy clothes afterwards, but we are not going back to the hotel to change.
- Bring a backpack with a notebook and your snacks. Nothing too heavy
- The Gaylord is cashless- bring a credit card, debit card or cash to load onto a card.
- Wear comfortable clothes.
- Bring your speaker
- FILL IN YOUR CELL PHONE ON THE [ROOMING LIST](#)

7days, à

If you have GroupMe, we can keep track of everyone better.
Scan this and join!

