Frequently Asked Questions

1.) What is a "Tech Week"?
Tech Week refers to the week before the opening of a show. During this week, we combine all of the technical elements of the show (the scenery, lights, costumes, sound, front of house, etc.), along with the performers in the performance space for the very first time. These seven rehearsals are by far the most important, complex and stressful days involved with any production. The tech rehearsals are compressed into the shortest amount of time possible to get the show ready for a public performance. Tech weeks are scheduled for the week before from 3:00 pm until 9:00pm, with performances beginning on Saturday. Call times on the day of a show vary, but are usually two hours before performance time. Night shows start at 7:30PM. Transportation to and from these rehearsals is the responsibility of the student and his/her parents. Students are always excused on time at the end of the scheduled rehearsal. Attendance at tech rehearsals is mandatory for all cast and crew, and can only be excused in the most extreme circumstances and with advance notice. These rehearsals are an integral part of the student’s training and are part of the participation requirement for the production. Tech Weeks are scheduled at the beginning of each year to help students plan accordingly. Dinner is provided for the students by the Booster Club the meals are prepared and served by parents. See the calendar for the Tech Week dates for this school year.

2.) What is a "Shop Call"?
Shop calls refer to the time after school in which we build the sets, sew the costumes and work on other technical areas of the shows in preparation for the 'Tech Week'. Shop calls are mandatory for crew heads, voluntary for others and usually run from 3-5:30 PM. Shop calls offer students hand’s on training, social engagement with the upper level students, one-on-one instruction with the faculty and volunteers, and perhaps most importantly, it gives students ownership in the productions they are actively building. If a student aspires to working on a running crew or a future crew head position, regular attendance at shop calls is a necessity.

3) What does a “Running Crew” do?
The running crew refers to any student involved in the operation of technical aspects of the show while in performance. This includes the lights, sound, props, wardrobe, make-up, stage manager, and set movement. The running crew consists of the individual crew heads for the above-mentioned areas and selected students who attend shop calls.

4.) What are "Thespians"?
The International Thespian Society is a student organization sponsored by the Educational Theatre Association that supports high school theatre arts and provides leadership opportunities for students at the state and national level. Many schools throughout the state have a 'Thespian Troupe'. We are Thespian Troupe 7400. The students involved call themselves Thespians, named after the first actor: Thespis. There is a $22 onetime fee to join the society, which includes a subscription to the theatre magazine, Dramatics. Members have occasional after school meetings that are optional. Annually, we attend the Michigan Thespian Festival and participate in the All State Showcase. Biannually we attend the National Thespian Festival held in Lincoln, Nebraska. The festivals include individual event competitions, workshops, performances, college information for all students participating as well as scholarship opportunities for graduating seniors.
5.) **What is the “MIFA one act”?**
This production will be presented at the Michigan Interscholastic Forensic Association Theater competition. MIFA sponsors the largest theatre festival in Michigan. Secondary schools participate in a tri-level theatre series that highlights traveling shows. A maximum of seven schools participate per site, which gives participants the opportunity to present their productions and see a variety of other shows. The constraints of a 45-minute traveling production mean that the cast and crew will be limited in size. In December students will audition for acting roles or apply for positions on the technical crew that will travel with the production. If our production makes it to the finals all cast and crew will be required to help pay a portion of their hotel accommodations for this two-day event.

6.) **Can I earn a varsity letter in theatre?**
Yes. A student must achieve the following to be eligible for a varsity letter.
- Be an active member of the International Thespian Society
- Accrue a total of 10 points. Each point is a marker for meritorious work in the Skyline theatre program
- Points must be earned in two of the seven categories (acting, production, business, directing, writing, festival work/attendance, participation in a showcase, service as a board member, chairing a committee.)
- Participation in at least two full-length productions or one full length and two one acts or four one acts.

After earning a varsity letter students will continue to accrue points for meritorious work to achieve the rank of honor thespian (60 points). In accepting the honor of varsity letter the student agrees to attend regular meetings, participate in our community service projects, represent Skyline theatre in an honorable manner and make every effort to stay active in the program.