



QUICK START GUIDE FOR THEATRE BOOSTER PARENTS

Cherry Hill East Theatre Boosters is a non-profit organization of Cherry Hill High School East parents. We provide monetary support to East theatre with donations toward scholarships, equipment purchases, and student activities. In addition, we volunteer our time to plan and run a number of events for the theatre department throughout the school year. Parents are encouraged to become involved in their student's theatre education by joining Theatre Boosters and participating in the activities to support East theatre.

This guide has two purposes. It gives an overview of the opportunities and expectations for East theatre students. It also explains the purpose of Theatre Boosters and how parents can help.

THEATRE ACTIVITIES AT EAST

Theatre activities at East are practically non-stop. It starts with an after school meeting for all interested students during the first week of classes and culminates with year-end celebrations in May and June.

Shows

After the initial theatre meeting, the year cycles through auditions, rehearsals, behind-the-scenes preparation, and show nights for each of five annual productions.

- Crimson Theatre
- Fall Mainstage Show
- Studio 2
- Spring Musical
- One Act Play & Film Festival

Cast Members: Students must audition for parts in the plays. Major roles in the Mainstage productions are usually double cast (two students share the role, performing on alternate nights). The final cast list will be posted on the theatre bulletin board at school. Cast members and their parents must sign and return a contract. Rehearsals are held at least once a week and increase in frequency and intensity as opening night approaches. Rehearsal schedules are published by the stage manager on Sunday night for the coming week. Costumes are part of the show budget, however cast members may sometimes need to purchase a few pieces, such as character shoes or hosiery, to complete their costumes.

Student Production Staff & Crew: Students are involved in all aspects of offstage production including stage management, technical direction, scenery, sound, carpentry, lighting, prop management, costuming, make-up/hair, vocal and dance direction, publicity, and general crew. Crew members are required to attend crew calls, most of which occur in the evening.

Mime Company

Cherry Hill East has a mime troupe! Auditions are held in September and the troupe has weekly rehearsals. Students do not have to participate in the plays to be the company. Mime Company performs at various community events through the year.

International Thespian Society Troupe 213

The Thespian Society is the theatre honor society. Students who have met certain requirements may apply for membership as early as spring of sophomore year. The induction ceremony for new members is held in early June. Thespian Society members help decide which shows are produced, plan and host the annual Halloween dance, and organize field trips to local and Broadway shows.

ABOUT THEATRE BOOSTERS

Cherry Hill East Theatre Boosters provides financial and volunteer support to Cherry Hill High School East's theatre department. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Memberships are valid from September through August. All or part of the membership cost is deductible for federal tax purposes. To join Theatre Boosters, complete the information form and mail it with membership dues to the address on the form. Membership can be completed and paid by credit card through our website at www.chetb.weebly.com. Merchant fees are included in the prices listed online.

Financial Support

We contribute to three Cherry Hill East theatre-related scholarships and also fund our own scholarship. Boosters donations have helped the theatre department purchase sewing machines, lighting equipment, sound equipment, and more. And the Thespian Society depends on us for the Halloween Dance DJ and cakes for the end of year theatre banquet and Thespian induction ceremony.

Our funds come from a number of sources. Membership dollars and snack bar proceeds are generally our biggest sources of income. Additional funding comes from mug and flower sales at the Mainstage shows, our annual apparel sale, the Mime Ice Cream Social, and restaurant dining nights.

Volunteer Support

Parent participation is essential to the success of Theatre Boosters. We cannot provide the services the students and staff count on without parent volunteers. Although this year will be different than years' past, some of the major volunteer efforts in past years were:

Pasta lunch: Twice a year, on the Saturday before the opening night of each Mainstage show, the cast and crew come together for "cue to cue" - a full-day rehearsal where the acting and technical aspects of the production come together for the first time in a complete run of the show. Since the students and staff are at the school all day, Theatre Boosters members provide them with lunch. Boosters parents donate pre-prepared entrées, side dishes, and desserts. We set up the buffet line, serve the cast, crew, and staff (and orchestra for the spring musical), then clean everything up at the end.

Tech week meals: Dress rehearsals are held on the two nights before each Mainstage opening. On these nights, we have sandwiches or pizza delivered to the school for the cast and crew. Theatre Boosters members arrange for the delivery, set up, serve, and clean up.

Box office: Tickets for Mainstage shows are available to families of the cast and crew the Saturday before opening – the same day as the pasta lunch. Tickets are available to the public from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on weekdays of show weeks and for one hour prior to each show time. The box office at Cherry Hill East is staffed with parent volunteers.

Memento sales: For each Mainstage show, a mug is designed and made available for sale to the cast, crew, and general public. A committee of Boosters members orders the mugs, assembles them with bags of candy and sell on show nights. We also sell flower bouquets for parents, family members, and friends to give to the cast and crew.

Snack bar: The snack bar is open at all five of the annual play productions. We provide a full snack bar at One Acts and the Mainstage productions, including hot dogs, popcorn, cupcakes, and coffee. A mini snack bar, offering candy and water, is open for Crimson Theatre and Studio 2. All snack bars are overseen and staffed by Theatre Boosters.

Mime Ice Cream Social: The Mime Company performs at the Social, but Boosters parents plan it, provide the toppings, and scoop the ice cream.

Cherry Hill East Theatre Boosters Board Positions

President, Kim Warren
Vice President – Fundraising, Heidie Garcia
Vice President – Operations, Christopher Nothnagel
Treasurer, Michael Neuwirth
Corresponding Secretary, Leslie Hornstein
Recording Secretary, Marc Pierlott
Parliamentarian, Kirsten Tewfik

For more information on CHE Theatre Boosters meetings, events and happenings, please visit our website at <http://chetb.weebly.com/>