



WHS Theater Company
Weston High School
444 Wellesley Street
Weston, MA 02493

August 31, 2021

Dear Theater Company Families,

I am so pleased that you and your child are interested in being involved in our 2021-2022 T.Co fall season! We will start off the year with a production of *The 39 Steps*, adapted by Patrick Barlow. Inspired by the novel by John Buchan and the movie by Alfred Hitchcock, this fast paced comedy is billed as a blend of “a Hitchcock masterpiece,” “juicy spy novel,” and “a dash of Monty Python.” Originally written for four actors, our production will expand the cast to include an ensemble of players who create the sound effects, set movements, lighting specials, and many other theatrical elements, all while playing a total of roughly forty characters. Performances will be November 18th, 19th, and 20th, all at 7pm in the WHS Auditorium. We will also have a mandatory set strike on November 21st.

I am so excited to get back to in-person theater rehearsals! We will be following all school policies regarding masks and social distancing, and will often rehearse outside, as the weather permits. Please note that I will send out updates as soon as I learn anything about live audience possibilities; there is a chance that we add in additional performances if audience capacities are limited at each show. Any changes will be made within the existing fall play schedule and will be communicated as soon as possible.

Rehearsals for the fall play will begin on Monday, September 13th and will typically meet every Monday-Friday from 3:30-5:30pm. I will create an exact schedule of actor call dates after auditions, and I will do everything possible to accommodate students' busy schedules. That being said, please understand that all students are expected to attend all rehearsals for which they are called, and every actor should ideally be in rehearsal until at least 4:15 everyday for ensemble building and text and vocal workshops. The only exceptions to this include any **conflicts noted on this form**, and any **days absent from school**. Please note that if students are out sick from school, they are not expected, nor permitted to attend rehearsal that afternoon. Multiple unexcused absences will not be tolerated, as we are on a limited timeline and need to use each rehearsal to its full potential. Please note that any rehearsal conflicts that arise must be communicated at least one week in advance. There should be no surprises!

As with all of our productions, we have a week of tech rehearsals leading up to the show. Tech week will begin on Monday, November 15th. During this week, students are expected to be present at rehearsal every day, for the entire duration of the rehearsal. **Please note that students may not miss rehearsals, arrive late, or leave early at any point during tech week.** Our tech week rehearsals will begin at 3:30 and will end around 7:30pm each night; a more detailed schedule breakdown, including information about a dinner break, will be sent out following auditions.

In addition to tech week, there will be a mandatory tech rehearsal, called “cue to cue,” on Sunday, November 7th, to set lights and sound cues, as well as refine scenic transitions and staging moments. Please note this date as you begin planning out your fall schedules. We *will* have a rehearsal on Friday, November

12th (we will *not* rehearse on Veteran's Day, as there is no school) so please be mindful of that as you plan your fall weekends.

Technical work on the production will be completed primarily on Saturdays throughout October and November, as well as after school at students' discretion. There are many exciting opportunities to design and build the world of this play! Required dates include Tech Week, listed above, and any Saturdays that students are available. To sign up for tech crew, students should fill out the attached form and return it to me at school.

It is very important to me that all students have a positive and educational experience during this production. My goal is for your children to understand that their presence, time, and effort are crucial to the success of the production, whether they are in the cast or part of the technical crew. I appreciate your efforts to help your children stay committed and enthusiastic about being involved in the production.

Please go over this letter and fill out and sign the attached form *with your child* and have them return it to me at their audition. **In order to audition and/or sign up to be a part of the tech crew, students must have this form turned in.**

Please also utilize this form to list any and all rehearsal conflicts that you know of at this time. Rehearsal conflicts do not factor into casting decisions, however it is important that I know about them in order to build a rehearsal schedule that best utilizes everyone's valuable time. ***Please take the time to accurately complete this form.***

I also will use the contact information provided to send out important information to you and your children as the rehearsal process progresses. *Note: most contact from me will be via email; your phone number will only be used to contact you in the event of an emergency, if your child is missing from rehearsal without prior explanation, or if a personal matter arises that warrants a phone call.*

Lastly, I am so looking forward to year four in my role as Drama Director at Weston High School! We have many exciting projects in the works and I am hoping to recruit a strong team of parents to join C.A.S.T. - the Community Alliance for Student Theater. We depend on family support for a number of things in T.Co, from scenic building, to ticket selling, to snack providing! If you are interested in joining C.A.S.T. and being a part of our wonderful productions, please note that on page being returned to me! In addition, if at any point you need to discuss anything with me, please do not hesitate to email or call the high school. I am looking forward to working with you all this year and for many to come!

Many Thanks,
Mrs. Anne Isaacs
she/her/hers
WHS Drama Director, isaacs@weston.org

RETURN THIS PAGE **ONLY** TO MRS. ISAACS!!!!

Together, we have read the letter indicating the level of commitment required for participation in the 2021 Fall Play Production of *The 39 Steps* and we agree to the expectations for participation in the process. We understand that successful participation requires attendance at all scheduled rehearsals for which the student is called, cue to cue, tech week, all performances, and set strike.

Parent/Guardian name (please print): _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____

Parent/Guardian email address: _____

Parent/Guardian phone number(s): _____

Please check this box if you are interested in joining C.A.S.T.!

Student name (please print): _____

Student signature: _____

Student email address: _____

Student cell phone number: _____

Please list all rehearsal conflicts, including regularly scheduled as well as one-time conflicts; continue on back if needed: