Anderson Theater

Department Handbook

2019-2020



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**Our Mission**

Anderson Theatre Department endeavors to provide a comprehensive educational experience through challenging, multi-level coursework and diverse production opportunities where students will develop, not only performance skills, but an enriched understanding of themselves and the world around them.

**Our Values**

Community

* Communication and Collaboration\*
* School and Cross-Cultural Skills\*
* Integrity and Respect+

Discipline

* Initiative and Self-Direction\*
* Productivity and Accountability\*
* Resilience and Persistence\*\*

Innovation

* Creativity and Innovation\*
* Critical Thinking and Problem Solving\*
* Information, Communications, and Technology Literacy\*

Pride

* Flexibility and Adaptability\*
* Leadership and Responsibility\*
* Achievement and Excellence +

\* = 21st Century Skills

+ = Listed as Anderson High School Values

\*\* = Listed under Developing Mind and Body in article “The Benefits of a Theatre Education”

Anderson Theater Directors

**Mr. LaVergne’s Bio**

Justin LaVergne has been an actor for over 20 years and is currently a company member at The Vortex theatre in Austin. He graduated from the University of Texas with a BA in Theatre and Dance and a BFA in Theatre Studies.  He has been in several musicals, operas, straight plays, and performance pieces. Some of his favorite roles are Igor in Young Frankenstein and Lord Farquaad in Shrek the Musical. He has taught at Georgetown Palace at their summer youth program and directed their first ever Devised Theatre Workshop Performance. This may be his third year teaching, but not his third year in theatre. He looks forward to bringing his real-world experience into the classroom to help the future generation of theatre people.

Theater Director Contact Information

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Justin LaVergne

Office# 512-414-7932

justin.lavergne@austinisd.org

Keep up with us online!

* Anderson Theater Department Facebook PAGE
* [www.andersontheater.org](http://www.andersontheater.org)
* Instagram: littletheatercompany

Theater Class Schedule

2018 – 2019

Mr. LaVergne Mrs. Seney

**A DAY**

0 Hour Musical Theater (Wed)

1st Theater Arts 1 1st Technical Theater 1

2nd Freshman Select (Conf.) 2nd Freshman Select

3rd Conference 3rd Honors Theater

4th Theater Productions 2-4 4th Theater Productions 2-4(Conf.)

**B DAY**

0 Hour Musical Theater (Tu, Th)

5th Theater Performance Studies 5th Conference

6th Theater Arts 1 6th Technical Theater 1

7th Theater Arts 2 7th Technical Theater 1

8th Conference 8th Advanced Tech 2-4

**Theater Tutoring**

Tutoring for all theater classes is available Tuesday- Friday during lunch, or F.I.T. class, in the Black Box Theater. Students seeking tutoring must make an appointment with their theater director ahead of time.

**Classroom Rules & Consequences**

**Classroom Rules:**

1. Follow all directions (written or oral) the first time they are given.

2. Be in your seat by the time the tardy bell rings.

3. Be prepared for class with all supplies and assignments.

4. Display respect for yourself, others, and the work space.

5. Practice appropriate audience etiquette.

6. No hats may be worn in class, or in the building. Hats will be taken, if worn.

7. No cell phones/electronic devices during class, unless teacher allows for instructional use.

8. No gum. Chewing gum during a performance will result in a grade reduction.

9. 20/20 Rule – Students may not be excused to the restroom in the first/last 20 minutes of the class period.

In addition to these rules, students are expected to follow all school district policies, and to exercise reasonable judgment and common sense.

**Consequences:**

1st offense Warning

2nd offense Private conference

3rd offense Parent contact

4th offense Referral

Severe offense Immediate referral

Offenses will also cause a reduction in the student's citizenship grade.

**Grading Policies**

**Grading Policies:**

All of these grades are averaged for the six weeks grade. It is important to note that you may not have very many grades during the six weeks, so one zero may drastically affect your grade. Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated, and will result in a zero being assigned to the student involved, as well as a reduced citizenship grade. Unauthorized prompting or use of a script during a memorized activity will be considered cheating.

1. Daily Grades: 60%
2. Major Grades: 40%

Daily Grades include: participation in class activities, folder checks, and audience etiquette

Major Grades include: written tests, performances, and play reviews

**Make-up Work:**

Each student is responsible for all work missed during an absence. Please do not return to class expecting the teacher to cover the prior day's material for you as class begins. This is a participation class; therefore it is your responsibility to contact a classmate prior to your return to acquaint yourself with what you have missed. The general rule is that a student has as many days to make up work as per number of days absent.

**Late work:**

Written work may be made up under district policy but scene work and performances must go on as scheduled. Performance oriented classes are not like other classes. At the time of a scheduled performance, all members who have committed themselves to the process must be present for the full product to be exhibited. Performances are due for all students on the first day scheduled. **Late performances ar**e **not accepted.** If you are absent on the day prior to a performance, you will still be expected to perform on the assigned due date. Tests and long range projects are due for all students on the date scheduled, even those who are absent on the day prior to the due date. Please do not procrastinate on long range assignments; plan ahead. (In short, if you’re absent for a performance day, you will receive a 0 for a major grade)

**Performance, Script Subject Matter, & Video Policies**

# PERFORMANCES

Students will be performing multiple times throughout the year. Performances are critical to the learning and understanding of a theater student not only as an actor but as an audience member. Since performances are so important to the class, performance grades may be weighted and will often be used as the 6 wks test.

Students will be expected to intelligently critique performances that they see as well their own. **To enhance this project some performances will be videotaped. These videos are used as an educational tool in which the student can see 1st hand which performance aspects they are doing well on and which ones can be improved upon.**

**Script subject matter**

Students are expected to use reasonable discretion in editing scripts for rehearsal and performance in a classroom setting. Please use good judgment and implement the following guidelines:

a. Delete all profanity from your rehearsal script with marker or white-out.

b. Do not use profanity or suggestive business in class, rehearsal, or performance.

c. Seek teacher approval for any questionable language or business before it is used.

**Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in a failing grade and referral to office.**

# Videos and DVDs

The students will watch a wide variety of plays, musicals, documentaries, movies, and educational videos during the course of the year. These videos give the students a chance to experience different types of theatre genre, style, talent levels and performance technique.

**Anderson Theater Curriculum Track**

**Theater 1 – Exploring the world of Theater**

* Introduction to the different aspects and elements of Theater

**Theater 2 – Theater Creation**

* Acting Resume & Audition Repertoire
* Running a Theater Company
* Technical Theater Design Skills
* Enriching acting skills through scene work
* Devising and Creating Theater Pieces

**Honors Theater – Exploring Theater through the ages**

* Acting skills
* Anderson, AISD, and Austin Community engagement
* Guest Directors and Instructors
* Directing and Design Skills
* Production skills
  + Year A
    - Classical Greek (Sophomore Literature)
    - American Literature
  + Year B
    - Shakespeare (Sophmore Literature)
    - Social Action Theater

**Performance Studies – Exploring Theater through performance**

* Acting skills
* Anderson, AISD, and Austin Community engagement
* Guest Directors and Instructors
* Directing and Design Skills
* Production skills
  + Year A
    - Middle School Literature
    - World Literature
  + Year B
    - Middle School Literature
    - Modern Theater

**Freshman Select (Theater Production 1) – Igniting the Theater Artist and Community**

* Introduction to the different aspects and elements of Theater
* Acting Skills
* Production Skills
  + Freshman Play
  + Freshman UIL One Act Play

**Theater Production 2-4 – Engaging the Community through Theater**

* Acting skills
* Anderson, AISD, and Austin Community engagement
* Guest Directors and Instructors
* Directing and Design Skills
* Production Skills
  + - Directing the Young Performer at The University of Texas at Austin
    - UIL One Act Play – Workshop & Contest casts

**Tech Theater 1 – Exploring the Production**

* Theater Safety
* Theater Architecture
* Careers in Theater
* Script Analysis for Design and Production
* Instruction, Design, and Craftsmanship in:
* Sound
* Lights
* Costumes

**Tech Theater 2-4 – Creating the World of the Play**

* Practice Theater Safety
* Analyze scripts for design
* Design, draft and construct scenery
* Design and implement theatrical lighting and sound
* Execute stage management responsibilities
* Script analysis for technical purposes
* Use and upkeep of tools and facilities
* Careers in Technical Theater

**Musical Theater I-IV – Engaged Storytelling through Song and Dance**

* Fall Semester
  + Musical Revue
  + Script writing
  + Show creation
* Spring Semester
  + One-Act Musical
  + Community engagement

**Course Descriptions and Expectations**

**Theatre Arts 1**

**Exploring the World of Theater**

**Course Description**

This Theater Arts 1 class is designed to give the student a well-rounded experience as we explore the many activities, careers, and opportunities available to them in the world of theater.

**Content**

**Throughout the school year the student will experience:**

* Team Building & Ensemble Duet Acting Scenes
* Theater Performance thru the ages Introductory Technical Theater
* Play Readings Audition Technique
* Group Collaboration

**PLAY REVIEWS**

Theater Arts 1 students must attend ONE live theatre production PER SEMESTER.

Theater Arts 1 students can attend a live theater performance here at AHS, a neighboring high school, or community/professional theater. Theater Arts 1 students must provide a ticket stub or program to attach to the play review sheet in order to earn full credit.

Once Theater Arts 1 students have seen the performance, they will fill out a Play Review sheet, attach their program/ticket stub, and keep it in their class folder until the end of the semester.

All play reviews are due 1 week before the end of the semester.

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**Theatre Arts 2**

**Creating the Actor**

**Course Description**

Theater Arts 2 is an acting class that is designed to challenge students to grow as artists and performers. The goal of this class is to build the student’s acting experience through introductory acting technique workshops, scene studies, and performance opportunities.

**CONTENT**

* Team Building & Ensemble Play Readings/Technical Theater Applications
* Audition Monologue and skills Showcase Performances
* Acting Workshops & Technique Acting Resume & Audition Repertoire
* Scene Studies/Duet Acting Scenes

Department Obligations

As a member of the Anderson Theater 2 class, you are expected to perform in the following Anderson Theater Department activities:

1. Fall performance will be December 13th at 7pm in the AHS Theater. Admission is a minimum $5 donation or two canned food items. All proceeds donated to local food kitchen or charity.
2. Spring Showcase performance will be April 13th at 7pm in the AHS Theater Admission is a minimum $5 donation or two canned food items. All proceeds donated to local food kitchen or charity.

**\*\*Failure to perform in these showcases will result in a failing major grade.\*\***

DEPARTMENT FIT:

Participation in Departmental FIT is **mandatory**. The first Friday of the month, advanced theater classes meet in the Theater during FIT. Theater teachers will assign you to these FIT sessions. If a student is failing a class and needs a to be in that failing class’ FIT and there are no other alternatives, the teacher of the failing class may move the student into their FIT, but theater teachers will not be releasing students. This requires students to plan ahead and communicate with their teachers.

**PLAY REVIEWS**

Theater Arts 2 students must attend ONE live theatre production PER SEMESTER.

Theater Arts 2 students can attend a live theater performance here at AHS, a neighboring high school, or community/professional theater. Theater Arts 2 students must provide a ticket stub or program to attach to the play review sheet in order to earn full credit.

Once Theater Arts 2 students have seen the performance, they will fill out a Play Review sheet, attach their program/ticket stub, and keep it in their class folder until the end of the semester.

All play reviews are due 1 week before the end of the semester.

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**Honors Theater**

**Exploring Theater through the Ages**

Course Description (Prerequisite: Theater Arts 2 and theater director approval)

This Theater Honors 3/4 class is designed to give the student a dynamic experience through the creation of diverse and expressive productions that are a culmination of theatrical skills in acting, design, and directing.

**CONTENT**

* Realized Productions
* Building and audition portfolio
* Script reading/analysis
* Varied Theatrical periods and styles
* Directing and design work
* Learn and implement acting techniques

PUBLIC PERFORMANCES:

Participation in Public Performances is mandatory. All performances are at 7pm in the AHS Theater. Students are typically called at 4:30 for a dress rehearsal and dinner is managed by the Theater Booster Club. Public Performance grades will be based on your professionalism during the public performance.

Professionalism Expectations

• 30 % Punctual – On time. Stayed the whole time. In costume and make-up on time.

• 30 % Polite – Quiet backstage. Positive supportive attitude.

• 30% Prepared – Lines and blocking memorized. Having all needed supplies, props, costume pieces. Setting props and costumes before house opens.

• 30% Participation – Good leader/follower during warm-ups. Perform your role to the best of your ability.

PERFORMANCE DATES

1. Twelfth Night: Nov. 21 and 22 at 3pm and Nov. 22 at 7pm in the AHS Theater. Admission is a minimum $5 donation or two canned food items. All proceeds donated to local food kitchen or charity.
2. Devised Performance w/ Guest Artist: February TBD in the AHS Theater. Admission is a minimum $5 donation or two canned food items. All proceeds donated to local food kitchen or charity.

PLAY PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT:

All Theater Arts III/IV students are required to attend 2 of the following:

1. Freshman Play: December 6th at 7pm in the AHS Theater. Admission is a minimum $5 donation or two canned food items. All proceeds donated to local food kitchen or charity.
2. Musical Theater Showcase: December 7 at 2pm & 7pm in the AHS Theater. Admission is a minimum $5 donation or two canned food items. All proceeds donated to local food kitchen or charity.
3. One Act Play Showcase: March 11 at 6pm in the AHS Theater. Admission is a minimum $5 donation or two canned food items. All proceeds donated to local food kitchen or charity.
4. Musical Theater Performance: May 2nd at 2pm & 7pm in the AHS Theater. Admission is a minimum $5 donation or two canned food items. All proceeds donated to local food kitchen or charity.

PLAY PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE EXPECTATION:

If you are not in the cast or crew of Musical or Spring Play you are expected (not required) to attend and bring one friend/family. Instead of traditional fund raisers (candy sales or magazine subscriptions), we use box office to pay for operating expenses, camp scholarships, and community donations.

Fall Show: Oct 25 and 26 at 8pm and Midnight in the AHS Theater. Admission $5 students/senior citizens, $10 adults.

UT Collaboration Show: Nov 15-16 at 7pm at the Lab Theater on the UT campus. Admission is a community donation (past donations have included canned goods, money for anti-bullying campaigns, and children’s coats)

Musical: January 23, 24, and 25 at 7pm and January 26 at 2pm in the AHS Theater. Admission prices $10 students/senior citizens, $15 for adults.

Student Directed Plays: May 16 at 5pm and 7pm in the AHS Theater. Admission goes toward camp scholarships.

DIRECTING SPRING SHOW

Seniors are required to direct during Spring Play. Underclassmen interested in directing will have opportunities based on the discretion of the Theater Directors.

DEPARTMENT FIT:

Participation in Departmental FIT is mandatory. The first Friday of the month, advanced theater classes meet in the Theater during FIT. Theater teachers will assign you to these FIT sessions. If a student is failing a class and needs a to be in that failing class’ FIT and there are no other alternatives, the teacher of the failing class may move the student into their FIT, but theater teachers will not be releasing students. This requires students to plan ahead and communicate with their teachers.

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**Performance Studies**

**Exploring Theater through performance**

Course Description (Prerequisite: Theater Arts 2 and theater director approval)

This multi-level class is designed to give the student a dynamic experience through the creation of diverse and expressive productions that are a culmination of theatrical skills in acting, design, and directing.

**CONTENT**

* Realized Productions
* Building and audition portfolio
* Script reading/analysis
* Varied Theatrical periods and styles
* Directing and design work
* Learn and implement acting techniques

PUBLIC PERFORMANCES:

Participation in Public Performances is mandatory. All performances are at 7pm in the AHS Theater. Students are typically called at 4:30 for a dress rehearsal and dinner is managed by the Theater Booster Club. Public Performance grades will be based on your professionalism during the public performance.

Professionalism Expectations

• 30 % Punctual – On time. Stayed the whole time. In costume and make-up on time.

• 30 % Polite – Quiet backstage. Positive supportive attitude.

• 30% Prepared – Lines and blocking memorized. Having all needed supplies, props, costume pieces. Setting props and costumes before house opens.

• 30% Participation – Good leader/follower during warm-ups. Perform your role to the best of your ability.

PERFORMANCE DATES

1. TBD: November 7th at 7pm in the AHS Theater. Admission is a minimum $5 donation or two canned food items. All proceeds donated to local food kitchen or charity.
2. Puffs: April 3rd at 7pm in the AHS Theater. Admission is a minimum $5 donation or two canned food items. All proceeds donated to local food kitchen or charity.

PLAY PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT:

All Performance studies students are required to attend 2 of the following:

1. Freshman Play: December 6th at 7pm in the AHS Theater. Admission is a minimum $5 donation or two canned food items. All proceeds donated to local food kitchen or charity.
2. Musical Theater Showcase: December 7 at 2pm & 7pm in the AHS Theater. Admission is a minimum $5 donation or two canned food items. All proceeds donated to local food kitchen or charity.
3. One Act Play Showcase: March 11 at 6pm in the AHS Theater. Admission is a minimum $5 donation or two canned food items. All proceeds donated to local food kitchen or charity.
4. Musical Theater Performance: May 2nd at 2pm & 7pm in the AHS Theater. Admission is a minimum $5 donation or two canned food items. All proceeds donated to local food kitchen or charity.

PLAY PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE EXPECTATION:

If you are not in the cast or crew of Musical or Spring Play you are expected (not required) to attend and bring one friend/family. Instead of traditional fund raisers (candy sales or magazine subscriptions), we use box office to pay for operating expenses, camp scholarships, and community donations.

Fall Show: Oct 25 and 26 at 8pm and Midnight in the AHS Theater. Admission $5 students/senior citizens, $10 adults.

UT Collaboration Show: Nov 15-16 at 7pm at the Lab Theater on the UT campus. Admission is a community donation (past donations have included canned goods, money for anti-bullying campaigns, and children’s coats)

Musical: January 23, 24, and 25 at 7pm and January 26 at 2pm in the AHS Theater. Admission prices $10 students/senior citizens, $15 for adults.

Student Directed Plays: May 16 at 5pm and 7pm in the AHS Theater. Admission goes toward camp scholarships.

DIRECTING SPRING SHOW

Seniors are required to direct during Spring Play. Underclassmen interested in directing will have opportunities based on the discretion of the Theater Directors.

DEPARTMENT FIT:

Participation in Departmental FIT is mandatory. The first Friday of the month, advanced theater classes meet in the Theater during FIT. Theater teachers will assign you to these FIT sessions. If a student is failing a class and needs a to be in that failing class’ FIT and there are no other alternatives, the teacher of the failing class may move the student into their FIT, but theater teachers will not be releasing students. This requires students to plan ahead and communicate with their teachers.

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**Freshman Select**

**Igniting the Theater Artist and Community**

**Course Description** (Prerequisite: AUDITION ONLY CLASS)

The Freshman Select class is an advanced and focused upper level Theater Arts 1 acting class for incoming freshman only. Freshman Select students will learn acting technique, perform in duet and group scenes, produce and perform in-class plays, attend theater performances, and be involved in all AHS theater department activities.

**CONTENT**

Introduction to General Theater Knowledge and Skills

• Realized productions  
• Building an Audition Portfolio  
• Script Reading, Analysis, and Scoring  
• Varied Theatrical periods and styles  
• Learn and implement acting and design techniques

SUMMER AND BEGINNING OF THE YEAR:

BOOTCAMP- Students get theater orientation and prepare their audition repertoire for performance..

STRUT YOUR STUFF- Public performance of audition repertoire for family and friends.

FRESHMAN PLAY AND ONE ACT PLAY PERFORMANCES:

Participation in Freshman Play and One Act Play Performances is mandatory. Rehearsals will be in class. Performances will be the only afterschool requirements.

FALL SHOW:

Participation in Fall Show is expected. Level of participation will be determined on an individual basis. Freshman Select students need to be prepared to communicate their conflicts with directors to effectively find the best type of participation for each individual student.

PERFORMANCE DATES

Fall Show: Oct 26 at 8pm in the AHS Theater.

Freshman Show: December 6th at 7pm in the AHS Theater.

One Act Plays: Clinic Performance TBD. Public Performance-March 11th 6pm in the AHS Theater.

PLAY PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT:

Required to attend one performance out of the Advanced Theater Productions, one per year.

Required to attend one of the two Musical Theater Performances.

PLAY PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE EXPECTATION:

If you are not in the cast or crew of Musical or Spring Play you are expected (not required) to attend and bring one friend/family. Instead of traditional fund raisers (candy sales or magazine subscriptions), we use box office to pay for operating expenses, camp scholarships, and community donations.

Fall Show: Oct 25 and 26 at 8pm and Midnight in the AHS Theater. Admission $5 students/senior citizens, $10 adults.

UT Collaboration Show: Nov 15-16 at 7pm at the Lab Theater on the UT campus. Admission is a community donation (past donations have included canned goods, money for anti-bullying campaigns, and children’s coats)

Musical: January 23, 24, and 25 at 7pm and January 26 at 2pm in the AHS Theater. Admission prices $10 students/senior citizens, $15 for adults.

Student Directed Plays: May 16 at 5pm and 7pm in the AHS Theater. Admission goes toward camp scholarships.

MAINSTAGE AUDITIONS AND CREW INTERVIEWS: All Freshman Select students are required to participate in either Auditions OR Crew Interviews for Musical and Spring Play. Students are not required to accept a role or position, there will be an option on the audition/interview form for students participating for the class requirement only.

• Musical - Auditions: October 7 or 8, 4:45pm-7:30pm in the AHS Choir room

OR Crew Interviews: October 28.

• Student Directed Plays - Auditions: April 6 and 7

DEPARTMENT FIT:

Participation in Departmental FIT is mandatory. The first Friday of the month, advanced theater classes meet in the Theater during FIT. Theater teachers will assign you to these FIT sessions. If a student is failing a class and needs a to be in that failing class’ FIT and there are no other alternatives, the teacher of the failing class may move the student into their FIT, but theater teachers will not be releasing students. This requires students to plan ahead and communicate with their teachers.

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**Theater Production 2-4**

**Engaging the Community Through Theater**

**Course Description** (Prerequisite: AUDITION ONLY CLASS – Students must have a minimum of Theater Arts 1, or Freshman Select, to audition for the class. Auditions are held at the end of the spring semester in the Anderson Theater Department.

The Theater Production course is designed to challenge the advanced theater student through play production and scene studies. Throughout the year theater production students will continue to develop their understanding of theater and performance by modeling professional theater careers as they work together to produce plays in class. Theater Production students will be challenged with acting and producing plays of various genre, developing as a supporting cast and crew member, and applying performance skills/techniques learned in previous theater classes to develop as a theater artist.

**CONTENT**

Audition Portfolio, Applying Acting Technique, Play Readings, Play Production, Crew Work, Script Scoring, Scene Analysis, Special Effects Make-Up, Department Leadership, Mentor Freshman Select Students, Acting Styles

SUMMER AND BEGINNING OF THE YEAR:

PRE-BOOTCAMP MENTOR MEETING-

BOOTCAMP- Students get theater orientation and prepare their audition repertoire for performance.

STRUT YOUR STUFF- Public performance of audition repertoire for family and friends

UT COLLABORATION SHOW, AND ONE ACT PLAY PERFORMANCES:

Participation in UT Collaboration Show and One Act Play Performances is mandatory.

Professionalism Expectations: Performance participation will be graded on a student’s professionalism.

* 30 % Punctual – On time. Stayed the whole time. In costume and make-up on time.
* 30 % Polite – Quiet backstage. Positive supportive attitude. Good leader/follower during warm-ups.
* 30% Prepared – Lines and blocking/tech procedures memorized. Having all needed supplies. Setting props and costumes, cues and supplies before house opens.
* 10% Participation –Perform your role/job to the best of your ability.

PERFORMANCE DATES

UT Collaboration Show: Nov 15-16 at 7pm at the Lab Theater on the UT campus.

One Act Plays: Clinic Performances TBD . Public Performance- March 11th 6:00pm in the AHS Theater.

PLAY PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT:

Required to attend the following:

1. Freshman Show: Dec 6 at 7pm in the AHS Theater. Admission is a minimum $5 donation or two canned food items. All proceeds donated to local food kitchen or charity.

Required to attend two of the following:

1. Twelfth Night: Nov. 22 at 7pm in the AHS Theater. Admission is a minimum $5 donation or two canned food items. All proceeds donated to local food kitchen or charity.
2. Devised Performance: Feb TBD in the AHS Theater. Admission is a minimum $5 donation or two canned food items. All proceeds donated to local food kitchen or charity.

Required to attend one of the following:

1. Musical Theater Showcase: December 7 at 2pm & 7pm in the AHS Theater. Admission is a minimum $5 donation or two canned food items. All proceeds donated to local food kitchen or charity.
2. Musical Theater Performance: May 2 at 2pm & 7pm in the AHS Theater. Admission is a minimum $5 donation or two canned food items. All proceeds donated to local food kitchen or charity.

MAINSTAGE AUDITIONS AND CREW INTERVIEWS: All Theater Productions students are required to participate in either Auditions OR Crew Interviews for Musical and Spring Play. Students are not required to accept a role or position, there will be an option on the audition/interview form for students participating for the class requirement only.

• Musical - Auditions: October 7 or 8, 4:45pm-7:30pm in the AHS Choir room

OR Crew Interviews: October 28.

• Student Directed Plays - Auditions: April 6 and 7

DIRECTING SPRING SHOW

Seniors are required to direct during Spring Play. Underclassmen interested in directing will have opportunities based on the discretion of the Theater Directors.

DEPARTMENT FIT:

Participation in Departmental FIT is mandatory. The first Friday of the month, advanced theater classes meet in the Theater during FIT. Theater teachers will assign you to these FIT sessions. If a student is failing a class and needs a to be in that failing class’ FIT and there are no other alternatives, the teacher of the failing class may move the student into their FIT, but theater teachers will not be releasing students. This requires students to plan ahead and communicate with their teachers.

**Behavioral Obligations**

Theater Production students are Ambassadors for Anderson High School and the Anderson Theater Department. While it is a privilege to be a member of this class, you must always remember that your actions, and attitude (at school and in your daily life) reflect upon your school and this department. You must commit yourself to excellence and hold yourself to the highest standards in order to stay in this class.

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**Technical Theater 1**

**Exploring the Production**

**Course Description**

This course is designed to give the student a hands-on introductory experience in each of the technical elements involved in creating a theatrical production.

**Content**

Throughout the school year the student will experience:

* Theater Safety Instruction, Design, and Craftsmanship:
* Theater Architecture Scenery Costumes
* Careers in Theater Lights Stage Man.
* Script Analysis for Design and Production Sound

**Play Performance Attendance Requirement:**

Every student enrolled in a Technical Theater class is REQUIRED to attend a live performance of a play each semester. (Total of 2 for the current school year) Students are encouraged to attend an Anderson High School production. They may also attend any Austin ISD school play performance, a play production from another school district, a performance at a community, religious organization, or professional theater. Play analysis worksheets will be available on BLEND. Concerts, dance recitals or improvisational productions do not qualify as performance of a play.

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**Advanced Technical Theater 2-4**

**Creating the world of the Play**

**Course Description**

This course is designed to give the student a hands-on experience in analyzing, designing, building, running, and striking a production.

**Content**

* Practice Theater Safety Execute stage management responsibilities
* Analyze scripts for design purpose Design and build costume/make-up
* Design, draft and construct scenery Script analysis for technical purposes
* Design and implement theatrical Use and upkeep of tools and facilities

Lighting and sound Careers in Technical Theater

MAINSTAGE AUDITIONS AND CREW INTERVIEWS: All Advanced Tech students are required to participate in Crew Interviews for Musical. Students are not required to accept a position, there will be an option on the interview form for students participating for the class requirement only.

• Musical Crew Interviews: October 28, 4:30-6:30pm

STRIKE ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:

All Advanced Technical Theater students are required to participate in fall show strike and musical strike. Advanced Tech students are required to stay for the first hour of strike, strike starts when the show is over and the entire company is assembled for instructions.

PLAY PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT:

Required to attend two of the following:

*Advanced theater productions*

*Fall show*

*Musical*

PLAY PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE EXPECTATION:

If you are not in the cast or crew of Musical or Spring Play you are expected (not required) to attend and bring one friend/family. Instead of traditional fund raisers (candy sales or magazine subscriptions), we use box office to pay for operating expenses, camp scholarships, and community donations.

Fall Show: Oct 25 and 26 at 8pm and Midnight in the AHS Theater. Admission $5 students/senior citizens, $10 adults.

UT Collaboration Show: Nov 15-16 at 7pm at the Lab Theater on the UT campus. Admission is a community donation (past donations have included canned goods, money for anti-bullying campaigns, and children’s coats)

Musical: January 23, 24, and 25 at 7pm and January 26 at 2pm in the AHS Theater. Admission prices $10 students/senior citizens, $15 for adults.

Student Directed Plays: May 16 at 5pm and 7pm in the AHS Theater. Admission goes toward camp scholarships.

DEPARTMENT FIT:

Participation in Departmental FIT is mandatory. The first Friday of the month, advanced theater classes meet in the Theater during FIT. Theater teachers will assign you to these FIT sessions. If a student is failing a class and needs a to be in that failing class’ FIT and there are no other alternatives, the teacher of the failing class may move the student into their FIT, but theater teachers will not be releasing students. This requires students to plan ahead and communicate with their teachers.

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**Musical Theater I-IV**

**Engaged Storytelling through Song and Dance**

**Objectives**

Musical Theatre is a unique class in which students study the fundamentals of acting, dancing, and singing through rehearsal and production. Students will learn the history of musical theater as they are exposed to musical theater literature. Students will also study specific techniques for auditioning and performance that will build their confidence to participate in musical productions.

**Content**

**Rehearse and perform a musical revue in the fall and a Spring musical.**

**Grading Policies:** All of these grades are averaged for the six weeks grade.

1. Daily Grades 60%

2. Major Grades 40%

Daily Grades include: participation in class/rehearsals, memorization deadlines (for lines, music, and choreography), wearing proper attire during class

Major Grades include: dress rehearsals, performances, peer & self-evaluations.

**APPROPRIATE DANCE ATTIRE:** Students will be expected to dress appropriately for rehearsals. It is important that you are comfortable and feel confident in the clothes that you are wearing while dancing and moving on stage. Students will have the dressing rooms available to them to change clothes after class to prepare for school.

**Ladies**

Please wear comfortable work-out pants and shirts that allow for stretching. Jeans will not be allowed for dancing, stretching, or movement. Athletic shorts will be permitted with tights or leggings underneath. Tennis shoes, jazz shoes, jazz sneakers, or ballet shoes will be acceptable for footwear. All women should wear their hair out of their faces when dancing.

**Men**

Please wear comfortable work-out pants or shorts. Jeans will not be allowed for dancing, stretching, or movement. T-shirts must allow room for stretching. Button down shirts should not be worn to class unless instructed. Tennis shoes or jazz shoes will be acceptable footwear.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Students must be eligible in order to perform with the musical theater class. We will adhere to the UIL eligibility standards and follow the AISD grading policy. Therefore, we will monitor students’ performances in other classes. Students will be encouraged to attend tutoring and study sessions in order to help them be successful in the classroom. Students who lose their eligibility status will work on their core classwork during the musical theater time to help them be more successful in that class.

**Musical Theater Class Requirements**

Members of the Musical Theater Class are expected to perform in the Fall Showcase and Spring Musical Performance, as they are a culmination of the work that the students have prepared in the class. Members of the MTC are also required to audition for the annual musical. MTC students are encouraged to be in the musical, but may opt out after auditions, if their schedule does not allow them to participate.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

Please mark your calendars with the following dates. If you foresee a conflict, please notify Mr. LaVergne as soon as possible. A separate rehearsal schedule for each performance will be sent out closer to the production.

Musical Theater Showcase: December 7 at 2pm & 7pm in the AHS Theater. Admission is Free.

Musical Theater Performance: May 2 at 2pm & 7pm in the AHS Theater. Admission is Free.

**REHEARSAL/CLASS ATTENDANCE**

Attendance in class is imperative for successful student growth, cohesion of the ensemble, and ultimately building an effective production. If you have a conflict class time rehearsal or a performance date, please notify Mr. LaVergne as soon as possible.

If you have a family emergency, please have your parent notify Mr. LaVergne immediately. If a student has an excused absence during a blocking or choreography rehearsal, they are responsible for the material that was missed. If a student does not learn the choreography or blocking by the next rehearsal for the material that was missed, they are subject to being removed from the number.

DEPARTMENT FIT:

Participation in Departmental FIT is mandatory. The first Friday of the month, advanced theater classes meet in the Theater during FIT. Theater teachers will assign you to these FIT sessions. If a student is failing a class and needs a to be in that failing class’ FIT and there are no other alternatives, the teacher of the failing class may move the student into their FIT, but theater teachers will not be releasing students. This requires students to plan ahead and communicate with their teachers.

**Little Theater Company (LTC)**

The Little Theater Company (LTC) is a campus organization that provides enrichment opportunities for Theater students. LTC Officers organize and facilitate various projects and events for theater students to get involved in the Anderson Theater Community, the Anderson Fine Arts Community, the Anderson Community, and the Austin Area Community. The ultimate goal is to have students from across all the Theater classes involved in the activites created by the Officers. Officers should form committees and the committees should be instrumental in the implementation of their activites and responsibilities.

The name “Little Theater” predates the existing theater building. Anderson’s orginal theater was in the current weight room, a much smaller space, hence the moniker “Little Theater.”

**Anderson Theater Officer Duties**

**Middle School Chair** – Show announcements/posters at MMS, organize Anderson Theater people to see MMS plays, visiting MMS theater classes to lead workshops, recruitment event of some sort, Course Fair for MMS students

**Anderson Chair** – Someone that knows about what’s going on in the school. Invite theater students to sporting events, Homecoming game/dance, clubs, “friends of Anderson”, write announcements for our shows/events, post messages on the marquee, posters around school and in classrooms. Course Fair for current Anderson students.

**Friends of Theater** are teachers Advanced Theater students nominate for “treats” and publicity for display for every show Anderson theater performs. The list is all Anderson Fine Arts Teachers plus the top nominated non-Fine Arts teachers. The current cap is 40 teachers total, cap should be set by LTC officers.

**Fine Arts Chair**- organize theater students to attend other Anderson Fine Arts events such as Band, Choir, and Orchestra concerts, Dance shows/events, Art competitions/events, good show gifts/cards/banners for fine arts competitions.

**Austin Area Theater Liaison** – post community auditions/shows on the callboard, plan a fall & spring evening of community theater, promote Anderson theater students to attend local high school plays/musicals, send show posters to surrounding high schools, promote local high school’s shows in our department.

**Community Service Chair** – organize a community service project for the Anderson Theater students, one in the fall and one in the spring. This position requires a lot of planning, collaboration, and communication. (Retirement home idea: have one well planned show that can travel to several retirement homes in one day.)

**Historian – Photography** – This person is responsible for taking photographs at all Anderson Theater events. This person will also store the photos properly so that everyone knows where to find the photos that they have taken. Responsible for making the Theater Banquet Slide Show. Events that need to be photographed: Boot Camp, Strut Your Stuff, all Honors Theater Shows, all Performance Studies Shows, Fall Show, all Productions Shows, Musical, all Theater 2 Shows, Course Fair, all Musical Theater Class Shows, Student Direct Shows, Austin ISD Musical Showcase, Banquet

**Historian – Film** -This person is responsible for filming all Anderson Theater events. This person will also store the film properly so that everyone knows where to find the film that they have taken. Responsible for making the Theater Banquet Slide Show. Events that need to be filmed: Strut Your Stuff, all Honors Theater Shows, all Performance Studies Shows, Fall Show, all Productions Shows, Musical, all Theater 2 Shows, all Musical Theater Class Shows, Student Direct Shows.

**Social Chair** - organize a social event for the Anderson Theater students, one in the fall and one in the spring. This position requires a lot of planning, collaboration, and communication. Liaison between all of the advanced theater classes. Keep all theater class students informed of department events. Invite all theater students to theater department events. Schedule and plan one LTC social meeting in the fall and one in the spring. (Fall= 1 LTC Meeting & 1 Social Event, same for spring) Organize and facilitate Theater Mentors.

**Theater Mentors:** Junior and Senior students in Performance Studies, Honors Theater, Theater Productions, and Advanced Tech can apply to be mentors to Sophomores and Freshmen in Performance Studies, Theater Productions, Freshmen Select and Theater 2. Activites and Responsibilities for Mentors will be outlined by the LTC Officers.

**Communications** – runs the LTC officer meetings, progress tracks on officer checklists/status reports, takes minutes during the officer meetings, liaison to the theater directors, spokesperson for the theater department, maintains the department FB page, maintains LTC page on the department website, organizes LTC officer attendance at theater Booster meetings (2 officers at each meeting, 1 meeting in fall, 1 meeting in spring) Coordinate all officer events with the master calendar – make sure there are no conflicts.

**Extracurricular Play Production Policies**

**Anderson Theatre Department**

BEHAVIORAL OBLIGATIONS

* It is a privilege to be a member of an extracurricular play production; therefore, students must always remember that their actions reflect upon their school and the Anderson Theater Department. Students involved in our extracurricular productions must commit themselves to excellence and hold themselves to the highest standards in order to stay in the production.
* All school rules and disciplinary actions apply to students involved in extracurricular play productions. Additionally, students with excessive disciplinary issues may be removed from the extracurricular production by the theater director and/or a school administrator.
* The use of alcohol, cigarettes, or illegal drugs of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in immediate removal from the extracurricular production.
* School and District policies regarding In School Suspension and Suspension/Expulsion will be upheld in all extracurricular productions. Rehearsals missed due to disciplinary actions will be unexcused absences and may result in removal from the company.

GRADES

* No Pass, No Play. Students are expected to maintain good grades while working on a production. If students receive a failing grade on any 6 weeks grading report then they become ineligible for extracurricular activities and will be subject to removal from the cast.
* It is the STUDENT’s responsibility to report a failing grade on their 6 weeks report to the director as soon as possible. GRADES COME FIRST.
* We encourage students to study before and after they come to rehearsal. We suggest that all students bring their homework to rehearsal and utilize any down time during rehearsal to study/complete homework. Plan ahead for papers and major tests.

**Script Selection and Season**

The Anderson Theater Department strives to provide quality theater arts education through diverse and equitable play selections each year. The plays that we choose to produce are based on the needs of the students that are currently involved in our department; therefore play selection will vary from year to year.

Typically, we will produce four main stage productions throughout the school year.

**Fall Play** –mid-late October

The Fall Play is usually a large cast production directed by an Anderson Theater director.

**Musical** –mid-late January

The annual Musical is the largest production that we will produce every year. It is a collaborative production that involves the Art, Band, Choir, Dance, Orchestra, and Theater departments here at Anderson. It is directed and produced by the Anderson Theater directors.

**Student Directed 10 Minute Play Festival** - mid May

Students that are interested in directing will go through an application/interview process in the early spring semester. The student directors will work with student actors and technicians to produce their ten minute plays.

**Participation Opportunities**

**Leadership Roles**

The Anderson Theater Department cultivates a community of leaders by providing a multitude of student leadership opportunities in every production. When you come see a main stage performance you will see a production run entirely by high school theater students. Students can apply for leadership in performance and production positions prior to a play’s audition date. The student leaders are chosen and mentored by the Anderson Theater directors throughout the production process. Student leadership positions include:

(Student Director, Assistant Director, Stage Manager, Student Technical Director, Dramaturge, Student Choreographer, and Crew heads for Lighting, Sound, Props, Costume, Makeup, and Set construction)

**Auditions**

Casting decisions are difficult to make. The bottom line is that this is educational theater. Auditions are subjective with an emphasis on what’s best for ALL students involved.

We generally cast every student that comes to audition for our shows in some capacity. We are not in the habit of turning kids away if we don’t have to. The UIL One Act Play is the only production that we produce that has a regulated number of students that we can cast. Students may not always be cast in the role or crew position that they hoped to get, but they will usually be a part of the cast in some form or fashion.

Anderson Theater’s main stage production auditions (the annual musical, and spring show) are open to ALL Anderson High School students. Students do not have to be in a Theater Arts class in order to audition for these productions.

We post audition announcements in the theater classrooms and on the theater department callboard a few weeks prior to the audition date. We also run an announcement for the whole school in the weeks prior to an audition.

Auditions are typically held after school in the theater from 4:30-6:30PM and last 2-3 days. The first day is usually a monologue performance or cold reading. The second day is usually a “callback”, which means the directors have posted a list of names of students from the first day of auditions that the directors would like to see again.

Musical auditions are a little different as they are usually three days long. Students will usually sign up for one of three audition dates that are posted on the callboards, black box, and in the choir room prior to the audition dates. They will report to the theater on the date that they signed up for and will be led through a singing, dancing, and acting audition. Students must attend one of these three general audition dates in order to be considered for casting. Callback auditions will be posted within a day or two of the general auditions. Students must attend the callbacks, if their name is on the callback list, in order to be considered for casting.

**Crew Interviews**

Students interested in participating on the Technical Crew will apply and interview for available positions, typically the day after call backs for the current production. The application process will typically include an applications to be filled out prior to interviews, an interview with the directors and crew heads for the production, and/or a presentation of research and design materials outlined on the crew application.

Crew Positions typically available are

* Scenery
* Lights
* Sounds
* Costumes
* Publicity
* Hair and Make-up
* House
* Props

**Participant Expectations**

**Rehearsals**

Our rehearsals are generally held in the theater from 4:30-6:30PM, Monday-Friday. Rehearsal days and times will vary based on the production.

**Rehearsal Etiquette**

* Every member of the cast and crew is equally important to the success of the production. There are no “stars” or “prima donnas.” Cooperation is essential to building an ensemble.
* The production staff and crew are the director’s assistants and are directly responsible to the director. They are there to support you, as a cast member, and they shall be treated with respect. If a problem arises between any member of the cast or crew, both parties should see the director immediately.
* There can only be one director. Avoid offering unsolicited suggestion, chastising, arguing with, or prompting another actor.
* Conversation backstage, either in rehearsal or performance, should be restricted to matters concerning the production.
* Give your best at each rehearsal or performance and expect the best from those around you. Always work up to your full potential rather than “marking” or “walking through” a rehearsal, so that everyone knows what to expect.
* Cell Phones and/or other electronic devices are not allowed on stage, backstage, or in the booth. Put them away before rehearsal begins. You may check your phone during breaks. This goes for ALL members of the company.

**Performances**

* Cast and Crew members are generally called one hour before curtain for a straight play and an hour and a half for a musical. (Individual prep times may require actors to arrive before call time in order to be performance ready by warm ups.)
* Students must hang up all costumes and change into their street clothes before they will be allowed to go in front of house after a production.
* Only cast and crew members are allowed backstage and in the dressing rooms before, during, and after a production. The actors will greet their family and friends in the theater lobby after the production.
* If there is an emergency and you need to contact a cast/crew member during a production, please notify one of the theater directors to assist you.

**Show Photography and Video**

There are very strict copyright laws that we are bound to in our royalty agreements, therefore we do not allow our audience members to photograph or film our productions. We hire a professional photographer to take cast photos of every production. We will make these photos available to our theater students and families once the photos are released.

We will also hire a professional videographer to film and edit our productions when it is allowed under copyright. We will make these DVD’s available to theater students and families as well.

**Show Week**

“Show week” is the hectic week before we open a show. The final days of rehearsal are an intricate part of the production process because it usually involves integrating and coordinating all the aspects of production into a final, audience worthy product.

Students should be prepared for the stress and heightened work load of this portion of the process. We expect students to be aware of the demands and continue to meet academic expectations during this time. This will mean working ahead in courses and making mature decisions about academic priorities.

**Strike**

All participants of a production, cast and crew are expected to be present for the entirety of Strike. The goal of Strike is to restore the theater facilities and resources to the state of functioning organization. In other words, EVERYTHING used in the production is returned to its pre-production condition. **No one in the company is released until all of the Strike is complete to the satisfaction of the directors.**

**Audience Etiquette**

Whether attending an Anderson Production, visiting another high school production, or a professional production, you are expected to serve as an example and an ambassador for a long time. Everyone in the audience has been looking forward to seeing the performance. A production team puts in many long hours and a lot of hard work to mount a performance for an audience. If you keep in mind common courtesy for the performers as well as your fellow audience members, everyone’s theater experience will be optimized.

1. Plan to arrive fifteen to thirty minutes before the performance begins.
2. Respect postings on gum, food, drinks, or candy policies in the theater.
3. Please go to the bathroom before seating for performance or at intermission.
4. Turn OFF ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES and/or anything that can disturb the production, actors and the audience members during the performance. It is very impolite to have it go off during the show.
5. Light will dim just before a performance and then go dark. Show your knowledge by sitting quietly and calmly.
6. Do not talk or whisper during the performance. The actors on stage can hear you which is why you can hear them so way. Laughter is permissible only at appropriate times.
7. No taking pictures or video recording is allowed.
8. Don’t leave your seat until the cast has taken their curtain call at the end.
9. Show your appreciation by clapping, and if so moved, stand and clap. The actors love to hear applause. This shows how much you enjoyed the performance.
10. Yelling, screaming, standing on chairs, and noise makers are NOT appropriate for the theater.

**Anderson Theater Letter Jacket Requirements**

In order to be eligible to earn a letter jacket for theater at Anderson High School, students must participate in a minimum of 8 stage credits in the Anderson Theater Department and meet the following criteria:

* Have a minimum of 3 Theater Arts OR Technical Theater class credits.
* Participate as a technician in at least one production (if you are primarily an actor) or, participate as an actor in at least one production (if you are primarily a technician).

Special Notes:

* Main stage productions that rehearse 40 hours or more outside classroom hours earn 1 credit. Student directed and in-class productions will count as a ½ credit.
* Credit for technical participation will be determined by the theater director and will depend on the amount of time the student committed to the production. Ushering & Concessions will not count towards credit to earn a letter jacket as it does not require a time commitment.

Procedures for ordering the letter jacket:

The week after musical, students will update their Letter Jacket forms. Anderson directors will review these forms and schedule Balfour to visit AHS in early February. Letter garments will be passed out at the end of year banquet.

Anderson pays for a plain sweater with a letter. Balfour charges $50 for that. Or if they want a traditional plain jacket with letter it’s $40 which we would also cover. The cost of any additional patches or embellishments is the responsibility of the student. If a student already has a jacket or sweater, we pay for a patch to be added to their current jacket or sweater. If a student doesn't want a Balfour garment, a student can choose to get just a letter.

Anderson will pay for ONE letter garment. If you letter in more than one activity, you add patches to your ONE letter garment (whether a jacket or a sweater.) If you want more than one garment, you are responsible for the cost of your second letter garment.

A Note about our Theater Department Letter Jackets:

The Anderson Theater LTC Officers and student body of 2014-2015 voted to change our traditional patent leather letter jacket to be the “old school” letterman sweater. Parents/students must inform their theater teacher, in writing, prior to the order date in order to receive the traditional letter jacket worn by the rest of the school, if they do not want the letter sweater.

Anderson Theater Department

Student Pledge

**Student Pledge**

I have read the Anderson Theater Department Handbook. (available @ [www.andersontheater.org](http://www.andersontheater.org)) I understand and accept the duties and responsibilities of a student in this theater arts program. I realize that failure to abide by the policies of this class may result in my immediate dismissal from the class. *I also realize that an unexcused absence from a performance may result in an automatic “F” for the project.*

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Student Signature Date

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Print Student Name

**Parent Pledge**

I have read the Anderson Theater Department Handbook (available @ [www.andersontheater.org](http://www.andersontheater.org)) and understand the responsibilities that my son/daughter will assume while in this class. I also recognize that he/she will consequently need my assistance, encouragement, and understanding in regards to some of the demands of this class.

I hereby give my consent for my son/daughter to actively participate in this theater arts program.

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Parent Signature Date

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Print Parent Name

**AHS Mission Statement**  
In partnership with our parents and our community, Anderson High School strives to provide a comprehensive educational experience that is high quality, challenging, and inspires all students to make a positive contribution to society.