



## FESTIVAL REMINDERS/RULES FOR PARTICIPATING DIRECTORS

Festival is a wonderful opportunity to expose students to a wide variety of live performances. It's possible that students (and even parents) may have never attended a live performance in a theater. Therefore, Festival provides a wonderful opportunity for you to discuss basic theater etiquette with them.

*Being respectful and considerate of others is the main idea behind "rules" of conduct, and they make the day more enjoyable for all.*

1. The Massachusetts High School Drama Guild Festival is primarily an educational enterprise. It is that spirit that should be embraced by all participants. Avoid encouraging over competitive behavior that takes away from the enjoyment of the day. Be sure to engage your students in discussions that point out the positive aspects of other shows. Remind students (and parents) that they do not know who might be sitting behind them or standing next to them in line (or in a bathroom stall) that might overhear and be hurt by negative comments about another show.
2. Remember that no one is allowed to enter or leave the theater once a show has begun. It is too distracting. You might want to remind your parents and supporters of this, if they plan to attend your performance so they will arrive on time.
3. During a performance nothing should distract from the production on the stage. Audience members may not talk, whisper, sing, or hum, and should avoid crinkling candy wrappers and programs, moving to the music, or anything else that disturbs others in the audience. Also, students should be listening to the production and not wearing headphones.
4. Please stress the importance of students being respectful of other students work and conducting themselves as a good audience. No hats should be worn inside the auditorium. Performers appreciate enthusiastic applause and laughter at jokes, but no whistling or shouting. Doing "the wave" or any other "baseball game" behaviors while waiting for the next performance is not appropriate. This is not a rock concert and stadium conduct is not appropriate. Booing is rude and never appropriate.
5. Audience members should turn off cell phones, pages, watch alarms, and other electronic devices. If someone forgets and it goes off during a performance, they should immediately turn it off and not answer. They can check during an intermission.
6. Students should keep their feet on the floor and bottoms on the seat; neither on the seat or object in front of them. Kneeling might block the view of a person behind them. They should never stand or walk on the seats.
7. Students should not bring anything to the auditorium except themselves (no backpacks, cell phones, headphones, food, etc.). **Eating and drinking are not permitted in theaters.**

8. Your cast and crew are admitted free to the festival and are given a button for the day. All other guests and fans must pay a ticket price of \$10.00 for the day. Make sure your program is accurate so we have the correct numbers for the buttons. A lost button will cost the student \$10.00 for another one.
9. As director, you alone will be responsible for checking in with the checker in the auditorium before each play except for the one immediately preceding your own. This allows us to know that your whole cast and crew is in the house ready to go. Even if you don't leave the theatre, you must check in each time.
10. Please check to make sure your room is cleaned at the end of the day and that all set, prop, and make-up material go home with your group.
11. Make sure you let your host director know of any unusual needs that you may have for the day. Also let your hosts know if there is a handicap student who will need special access.
12. Make sure that you have your transportation ready for pick-up very close to the time of the awards ceremony. It is unfair to your host school for you to be waiting for rides after the festival day is over.
13. No cast or crew member may leave before the last show of the day is over without express written permission from the Middle School Council President.