



1. Educational Purpose & Learning Outcomes

The International Thespian Society, an honors organization for high school theatre students, proposes a field trip to the **Stratford Festival in Stratford, Ontario, Canada**, from **June 27–29**. This trip supports the development of students' artistic, analytical, and collaborative skills by providing exposure to world-class professional theatre and interactive performance training.

During the trip, students will attend **three professionally staged productions**—*Anne of Green Gables*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, and *Macbeth*—as well as participate in a **hands-on performance workshop** led by industry professionals. These experiences are aligned with our

performing arts curriculum and support state and national theatre standards, particularly in the areas of:

- **Theatre Appreciation and Criticism:** Students will analyze and reflect on acting techniques, directorial choices, staging, and production design across a variety of genres and styles—from classic Shakespearean tragedy to modern musical theatre.
- **Performance Skills and Technique:** The workshop provides direct instruction in acting, movement, or vocal performance, deepening students' practical theatre training beyond the classroom.
- **Cultural and Historical Understanding:** Through *Macbeth* and *Anne of Green Gables*, students will explore key literary works and historical contexts, making interdisciplinary connections with English Language Arts and Social Studies.
- **Professional Exposure and Career Awareness:** Experiencing live productions performed by accomplished artists gives students insight into potential careers in theatre and the performing arts, while modeling professional-level expectations and artistic excellence.



The Stratford Festival is internationally recognized for its artistic quality and educational programming. This trip offers a rare and meaningful opportunity for students to engage deeply with their craft in a safe, structured, and culturally rich environment. More information about the festival and programming can be found at www.stratfordfestival.ca.

2. Destination Details

Country: Canada

City: Stratford, Ontario

Specific Locations to Be Visited:

- **Stratford Festival Theatre**
- **Avon Theatre**
- **Workshop Venue:** Festival Theatre classroom
- **Local hotel accommodations:** Homewood Suites by Hilton® Waterloo/St. Jacobs, Ontario, Canada

3. Dates & Duration

- Leaving on Friday, June 27 at 8am
- Returning on Sunday, June 29 at 11:30pm
- *Dates and duration were voted on and decided upon by the International Thespian Society students eligible for the trip.*

4. Student Eligibility & Participation

- First 18 students who are current members (rising sophomores through 2025 graduates), in good standing, of the International Thespian Society. International Thespian Society is the honors theatre organization for Vicksburg High School.

5. Chaperones & Supervision

- ITS Troupe Director and Theatre Director: Melissa Sparks (full-time teacher at Vicksburg Middle School)
- Parent Chaperone: Kristen Hossink (also full-time teacher at Vicksburg Pathways)
- Students are at a 1:9 Teacher:Student ratio.
- *If 18 students are not interested, additional parent chaperone spots will be available and each parent will be vetted with a background check.*





6. Itinerary & Activities

Friday, Jun 27, 2025

8am Meet up and Load Vans

8:30am Leave for Stratford

12pm Bathroom break and Lunch

*Coolers brought from home with sandwich materials from Aldi at Picnic Tables
Five Lakes Rest Area, Attica, MI 48412*

If arriving early, check-in at hotel directly across from the restaurant before going to dinner.

5pm Dinner

[Jack's Family Restaurant](#)

20 Benjamin Rd, Waterloo, ON N2V 2G8, Canada

7pm (approximately) Arrive at the [Hotel](#).

*Check-in and get settled in your room.
Homewood Suites by Hilton® Waterloo/St. Jacobs, Ontario, Canada
45 Benjamin Road Waterloo, Ontario, N2V 2G8, Canada*

Hotel for swimming, games, and hang out time!

11pm Curfew - Busy day tomorrow!

Saturday, Jun 28, 2025

9am Breakfast in Hotel

10:30am Attend Musical Theatre Workshop

Festival Theatre Classrooms

55 Queen St, Stratford, ON N5A 6V2, Canada

12pm Lunch

Using the Coolers of Sandwich foods from the previous day

At the Festival Theatre Picnic Tables

Arthur Meighen Gardens

59 Queen St #55, Stratford, ON N5A 4M9, Canada

1pm Shopping

Festival Theatre Store and Avon Theatre store.

2pm Attend Anne of Green Gables

Anne of Green Gables: A new adaptation by Kat Sandler, offering a fresh perspective on the classic Canadian novel.

Avon Theatre

99 Downie St, Stratford, ON N5A 1X2

5pm Dinner

[Bentley's Inn](#)

99 Ontario St, Stratford, ON N5A 3H1, Canada

6:30-7:15pm Walk around and shop on Ontario/Downie St in small groups.

8pm Attend Dirty Rotten Scoundrels!

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels: A musical comedy directed by Bobby Garcia, bringing humor and charm to the stage.

Avon Theatre

99 Downie St, Stratford, ON N5A 1X2

11pm Back to hotel - Curfew and sleep!

Homewood Suites by Hilton® Waterloo/St. Jacobs, Ontario, Canada

45 Benjamin Road Waterloo, Ontario, N2V 2G8, Canada

Sunday, Jun 29, 2025

9am Hotel Breakfast, Pool time, relaxing

11am Check out

12pm Picnic Lunch

Arthur Meighen Gardens

59 Queen St #55, Stratford, ON N5A 4M9, Canada

1pm Shopping and Exploration

Ontario/Downie St

2pm Macbeth

Macbeth: Directed by Robert Lepage, this production sets Shakespeare's tragedy within the context of Quebec's biker gangs, providing a unique and contemporary twist.

Avon Theatre

99 Downie St, Stratford, ON N5A 1X2

4:45pm Drive Home

7:30pm Dinner

Golden Corral

15220 Hall Road Clinton Township, MI 48038

11:30pm Arrive back at Vicksburg.

NOTE: All performances and workshops were selected by the International Thespian Society students.

7. Travel Logistics

- Transportation: 2 Vicksburg Community Schools Vans, Driven by the 2 chaperones
- Accommodations: Homewood Suites by Hilton® Waterloo/St. Jacobs, Ontario, Canada
45 Benjamin Road Waterloo, Ontario, N2V 2G8, Canada
- Meals

- Breakfasts: On own or breakfast buffet at the Homewood Suites hotel
 - Lunches: Picnic style with store bought breads, meat, cheese, condiments, fruit, vegetables, salads, and paper products
 - Dinners: Night 1 - Jack's Family Restaurant; Night 2 - Bentley's Inn; Night 3 - Golden Corral
- Passport/visa requirements: All students and adults attending must have a passport or enhanced driver's license/enhanced ID.

8. Cost & Funding

- Total cost per student: \$320
- This includes food (\$100), lodging (\$100), Shows (\$100), Workshop (\$20).
- Fundraising for the cost of Vans and Gas include collecting donations at productions and hosting the Vicksburg Theatre Camp (June 16-20).

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