

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Ted Juske, Athletic/Activities Director

TO: District 301 Board of Education

DATE: September 11, 2024

RE: Approval of Illinois High School Theatre Festival: All State CHS Student Participation

Our Director for CHS plays, musicals, and sponsor for drama club, Christine Heckman, is requesting the approval of an overnight trip for the 2024 All State Production: This information is regarding student selection and participation in the 2025 Illinois High School Theatre Festival All State Production of *The Prom*.

Background:

Produced annually for the past 50 years, the Illinois High School Theatre Festival (IHSTF) is held on Illinois' state college campuses, and this year's festival will be hosted at Illinois State University. This multi-day event offers educational experiences in the performing arts. Over a period of four days in early January, theatre students from across the state gather and participate in performance, technical, and design workshops led by high school and college faculty as well as professional artists. Additionally, students have the opportunity to meet with college performing arts faculty to learn more about degree and professional training programs. Further, high school drama programs and clubs from across Illinois bring selected productions to perform throughout the Festival, offering attendees the opportunity to attend multiple shows per day.

All State Production

The IHSTF All State Production serves as the capstone performance at the Festival in January. Participation in the production is a highly selective process for which students must audition (for performance and pit orchestra) or interview (for technical theatre areas). The application process opens to all Illinois rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors in May of the previous year. Students complete an application form, which includes a director's recommendation and a principal's recommendation. Students schedule an initial audition or interview and subsequently, may move onto a callback, which is the next stage in selection. From this point, the show is cast and the crew is selected. The students will rehearse or create the technical aspects of the show over several weekends leading up to the tech week (which are intensive day-long rehearsals coordinating performers and technical aspects of the show: set, lighting, costumes, sound, etc.)

At the festival, the All State Production runs several evenings, serving as a capstone performance, showcasing some of the most talented high school theatre students from across the state.

2025 All State Production: *The Prom* and Central High School Student Representation

With District support, Heckman attended the 2023 IHSTF as a high school theatre educator, CHS theatre director (for participating students), and workshop presenter teaching directing techniques for students and other Illinois theatre educators alike. Since this event is sponsored by the Illinois Theatre Association (ITA), which is an organization approved by the Illinois State Board of Education, the IHSTF is an approved educator professional development event.

As a result of Chris Heckman and Jim Struyk’s efforts, 2025 marks the **fourth consecutive year** that students have represented CHS in the All State Production. This year, **four** CHS students completed the application, audition, and interview process, three for technical theatre and one auditioned for the orchestra. Based on their interviews, audition, and technical portfolios, **ALL FOUR** of our students were selected to participate in the 2025 IHSTF All State Production, *The Prom*. **January (January 5-11, 2025) at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana campus**

These students are:

- **Noah Ventura ‘25: Technical Theatre - Set**
- **Rebecca Sanborn ‘26: Technical Theatre - Set**
- **Emily Ying-Orjuela ‘26 - Pit Orchestra**
- **Maggie Stallings ‘26- Technical Theatre - Set**

The Fine Arts department is proud to have these talented, hardworking students represent Central High School among some of the most talented theatre artists in the state.

Financial Considerations

- **\$600 fee for each student, totalling \$2400.** Students and their families will be responsible for any additional expenses (Makeup kits, supplies, additional food, additional college audition/ interview fees, etc).
- Lodging is not included for Mrs. Heckman (“sponsor”) in this cost; consequently she is requesting reimbursement/ coverage for the following expenses:
 - Stay at Homewood Suites Champaign Urbana, Jan. 9-11 : **\$528.96**
 - Food and additional expenses to be paid by Mrs. Heckman.

Additional Information Resources

- [Cast and Crew List](#)
- [Illinois High School Theatre Festival Website](#)
- [2025 The Prom All State Welcome Letter and Information- Student Itinerary](#)
- [Tentative Itinerary](#)

Total Request:	\$2928.96
● Festival Fees	\$2400 Payable: Illinois High School Theatre Fest
○ Noah Ventura	
○ Rebecca Sanborn	
○ Emily Ying-Orjuela	
○ Maggie Stallings	
● Coach/ Sponsor Hotel	\$528.96 (Payable to Homewood Suites by Hilton)