



# Secondary Teachers

Dear Theatre Teachers:

It's that time of the year to start planning for the 2024 Mississippi Theatre Association's Annual Theatre Festival being held January 11-14, 2024 in Gulfport, MS

Many of you are already well into rehearsals for the High School Drama Festivals being held at MSU and USM. Although we would love for all of the theatres to compete at the state level, the time in our schedule just doesn't permit it. However, even if your theatre isn't selected to advance to the state festival, we hope that you will consider attending. If you haven't been to the festival, we hope that you will join us this year, even if only to watch productions, attend workshops and network with others from around the state. You and your students will have the opportunity to see high school productions, community theatre productions, as well as participate in the Individual Events Festival, and the staged reading of our one-act playwriting competition winners.

The festival [website](#) will contain all of the links and information needed to register for the festival. Here you can read more about the festival, Individual Events Festival, 10-minute Festival, Tech Relay, College & University Auditions as well as find information to prepare your students for the College & University audition process. The website will also contain hotel information and local contact information.

MTA is continuing to work to find the most effective registration process. Information and needed training on this registration process will be held prior to the registration process opening in November.

If you have students participating in the College / University Auditions or auditioning for MTA's \$500 Scholarship you will need to direct students to register individually at <http://mta.matchingneeds.com>. This year's MTA Scholarship fundraising mechanism is being discussed and details will be provided in September. If you would like to assist with this effort, contact Treasurer [Stephanie Chance](#).

Teachers bringing students to the Festival must review with the students the "Code of Conduct" form that can be found on the Secondary Festival website and have each student sign the form. Students need to understand theatre etiquette and how to behave in this type of setting. Please review this and speak directly to this information. This can be burned in at registration, but each student must sign.

The deadline for all registration materials is December 15, 2023. Plan ahead as we MUST have it by this date or you may not be able to attend. Please also note changes to the Youth Individual Events Festival and the November 15, 2023 deadline for students participating in this portion of the festival.

Again, we hope that you will consider attending the 2024 Festival. We are very excited about all that the festival has to offer you and your students. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or one of your regional representatives listed below.

Sincerely,

[Stacy Howell](#)  
Executive Director

[Olivia Dunwoody](#)  
Secondary Chair

[Sarah Hankins](#)  
Secondary Vice-Chair