Buchholz High School

Theater Parent Handbook

2025-2026



Contact Information:

Theater Director: Shannon Singley: singleysr@alachuaschools.net

BHS Drama Email: bobcatdrama1452@gmail.com

BHS Drama website: https://www.buchholzdrama.com/

Find us on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/Buchholz.Drama.Boosters/

Find us on Instagram at: https://www.instagram.com/buchholz_thespians/

Buchholz High School

5510 NW 27th Avenue Gainesville, Florida 32606 (352) 955-6702 bobcatdrama1452@gmail.com www.buchholzdrama.com



Welcome Parents and New Theater Students

Congratulations, parents. The student of theatre becomes the student of the world and our place in it. The drama classroom is the social laboratory, and students are creating meaning and connections through storytelling on and off the stage. Students of theatre are humanities minded. They often become a jack of all trades *and* a master of one. I hope you are excited to travel their journey with them—the support of family and friends make their shining stars shine brighter and the highs even higher.

I have seen students who struggle in school in other areas find their strengths and shine on the stage. Some students come to school for the intoxicating effect of working on a play, rehearsing a song, or building a set. As an instructor, and taking a page from my predecessor's book, I aim for students to look at their work with a sense of ownership and leadership experience. Students have opportunities to become officers, directors, designers, and coordinators. They can get trained in skills that will help them manage a team on the stage or in an office. Without student leadership, this ship would sink. Without parent involvement, we'd never make it back to shore.

I strive for each student and parent to understand their importance to the whole of the creation of theatre. No one is 'just' in the Chorus or 'just' the understudy. Every part makes the whole as every dot on a Seurat painting makes the scene. No student is 'only' on run-crew—if it's a job that needs to be done it is valuable! Every dot makes the painting, every student and parent makes the theatre a fulfilling place to be. I think to the Thespian motto, "Act well your part, there all the honor lies."

Yours sincerely,

Shannon Singley

Buchholz Drama and Theater Arts Teacher



Dear Buchholz Drama Families,

We're thrilled to welcome you to the **2025–2026 Buchholz Drama season**—and especially excited to welcome those of you who are new to the world of high school theater!

Our mission at the **Buchholz Drama Boosters** is to support a theater program that provides students with a rich, well-rounded educational experience. Through live performance and production, students gain exposure to the cultural and practical values of literature, music, dance, technical design, collaboration, responsibility, and creative expression. Our goal is to foster **confidence**, **teamwork**, **and mutual respect**, while helping every student shine—onstage or behind the scenes.

This year promises to be an incredible journey! Our season kicks off with the exciting production of **Six**, and includes **multiple shows**, **competitions**, and even a **trip to New York City**. We can't wait to see what our talented students will achieve.

Support the Program

Our productions are **100% funded** by the support of our community—through sponsorships, ticket sales, program ads, and concessions. If you or your business would like to support Buchholz Drama, we offer a variety of **sponsorship levels** with great visibility. For more info and to see our current sponsors, visit: www.buchholzdrama.com/copy-of-sponsors

To get involved, please be sure to:

- Complete the ACPS Volunteer Application (required to volunteer at any school event)
- Watch for SignUpGenius links before each show to choose your volunteer slot
- Stay connected through our weekly newsletter and regular emails for important dates, updates, and ways to support the program

We also invite all families to attend our Drama Booster meetings (dates announced in our weekly newsletters). While these meetings are geared toward parents, students are always welcome. We need your voice, your ideas, and your energy to make this a fantastic year for all involved!

Heidi Horwitz 2025-2026 BHS Drama Booster President



Information Packet Content:

- List of Board Members
- Important dates for the 2025-2026 Season
- Rules of Engagement
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Lab Fees and Details
- Florida Thespians District 12 Festival Information
- Unexpected Expenditures
- Necessary Paperwork
- Participation Paperwork Checklist
- Forms Required of All Parents/Guardians
 - Photo/Video Release
 - Parent/Guardian Contact Information
- Additional Forms Required Depending on Level of Involvement
 - o 1-day Field Trip Permission Slip
 - Request to Transport Students
 - o Reminder of Driver Paperwork



2025-2026 BHS Drama Boosters Board Members

President: Heidi Horwitz

Vice-President Jeff Guin

Secretary: Megan Hendricks

Treasurer: Kymberlee Silver

Merchandise: Sujan Roberts

Parent Representative: Amy Foltz



2025-2026 SEASON IMPORTANT DATES

Below you will find the current dates for the upcoming 2025-2026 season that have been scheduled. When you complete the parent/guardian contact information form at the end of this handbook, you will be added to the Drama Boosters email list to receive additional information about important dates and deadlines. Our drama calendar is also updated regularly as a resource on our web site: www.buchholzdrama.com

Fall Semester Production of Six

Show Dates: Week 1: October 2 - October 5, 2025 (Thursday - Sunday)

Week 2: October 9 - October 12, 2025 (Thursday - Sunday)

Performers Showcase: Tentative in December

Florida Thespians District 12 Festival - East Ridge High School in Clermont, FL

Dates: December 11-13, 2025 (One Act Festival will be December 11 or 12th and District Festival will be Saturday, December 13th)

Buchholz Drama (Troop 1452) participates in a district-level competition each year. Students are judged in performance categories such as acting, vocal and pantomime, and in tech categories such as costume, make up and set design, publicity, play-writing and more. Students who participate are typically at the Honors level.

- Cost: Included in Drama Lab Fee (see information page)
- Transportation via chartered bus, included for District Festival, but not for One Acts Festival
- One Act will perform either Thursday or Friday
- Chaperones needed for One Act day and Saturday

See the website link for more information: https://www.buchholzdrama.com/competitions



New York City Trip: Wednesday, January 7 - Sunday, January 11, 2026 Estimated Cost: \$1,595 plus airfare cost

See the website link for more information: (New York City Fact Sheet)
 https://www.buchholzdrama.com/newyorktrip

Winter Production: Arsenic and Old Lace

Show dates: January 22 - 25, 2026 (Thursday-Sunday) and January 29 - February 1, 2026

One Act Festival at Acrosstown Repertory Theatre (ART)

Show dates: February 27-28, 2026 (Tentative)

Florida Thespians Senior State Festival 2026: March 17-21, 2026 (during Alachua County Spring Break)

Cost: Estimated \$500: includes lodging fees for a 4-day, 3 or 4-night competition (meals not included)

Chaperones: needed and cost estimated \$600

For students who receive a high score during the Florida Thespians District 12 Festival, the BHS Theater Director will decide which students will be competing at the State Festival. It is held in downtown Tampa. Students attend the State competition either to compete in individual pieces or to watch others compete. BHS can bring six tech or performance pieces to officially participate, but anyone can come on the trip to watch and participate in the activities. There are also performance and acting workshops, main-stage performances, scholarship auditions, and more.

Spring Semester Production: Catch Me If You Can

Show dates: April 16-19 and April 23-26, 2026 (Tentative)

2025-2026 Buchholz Drama Awards Banquet

Date: May 2026 (Exact Date to be determined)



2025-2026 RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

To ensure a safe and flourishing drama community, please be familiar with the following guidelines:

- Teacher(s)/Theater Director may only communicate with students via school assigned emails and apps. Parents may communicate using other methods but are encouraged to use school assigned email.
- Unless staff is overseeing an after school project (i.e. rehearsals, projects, or performances), all communication between students and any school staff must remain during school hours.
- Stage Managers will be the moderators of all performance related communication reflecting the real world status of that position in a theater. Staff may only respond to email as stated above.
- Teachers/Staff are only permitted to provide transportation to students when attending a school related event/trip (ie. driving to the airport for an out of state flight, driving to the required Thespian meeting for both teacher and students or transporting students to an out-of-town competition or performance) only *after* the proper paperwork is filed with the school. Teachers cannot transport any student alone or give them a ride home. We ask that all parents/guardians be punctual or early in picking up their student(s). Please keep in contact with your student as pick up time in the world of theater can change at a moment's notice.
- Parents are asked to communicate with the theater director via email.
- Productions for the season are chosen by the theater director with input from the students. Shows will be rated G, PG or PG 13. These are the appropriate Mainstage production ratings for Buchholz High School.
- Any issues or complaints between students in the same class involving bullying, disruptive behavior, negative relations, etc will not be tolerated. Should the situation arise, it is encouraged that parents/guardians bring it to the attention of students' guidance counselor and program director.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Putting on a theater production is a big team effort—and we can't do it without your help! Each performance at the Buchholz High School Theater requires **many parent volunteers**, often **more than six per show**, to make everything run smoothly.

Because of this, we ask that every family volunteers in some capacity during the season.

Volunteer Application Required

Before you can volunteer at any show, you must complete the **ACPS Volunteer Application**. This is a school district requirement and must be submitted **before the start of the season**.

Complete the ACPS Volunteer Application here

We need help with the following roles at every performance:

House Manager (board member fills this duty) - 1 person

Concession Volunteers - 2 people

Box Office Volunteers - 2 people

Merchandise Volunteer - 2 person

Door Security - 1 person

We also need volunteers throughout the year. Please consider helping in one of these areas:

- Selling ads/sponsorships
- Publicity
- Finding props
- Building sets
- Making costumes
- Ticket Sales
- Contributing Food and Supplies for Tech Dinners and Cast Parties

Parents will receive SignUp Genius links to sign up to volunteer for specific shows. To volunteer throughout the year, contact: bobcatdrama1452@gmail.com



2025-2026 DRAMA LAB FEES ~ Due September 26, 2025

Students in all Honors 3 and 4 students and any students who compete in districts are required to pay the Drama Lab Fee of \$225*.

All students participating in the Florida Thespians District 12 Festival—whether they are competing or not—must pay a **\$225 Drama Lab Fee**. This fee covers:

- Festival registration for Troupe 1452
- Application fees for group performance pieces
- Admission to the Florida Thespians District 12 Competition
- Round-trip bus transportation
- Troupe t-shirts and lanyards
- Lunch and snacks for the event
- A small cushion for incidentals

Payment Options:

Check: Please make checks out to Buchholz Drama Boosters and drop in a locked box in the drama classroom

Venmo: @bhsdrama

In the comments, list students' name and "Drama Lab Fees" please.

For questions on special financial arrangements, please contact bobcatdrama1452@gmail.com

*Drop/Change Fee at District Competition: The District competition is covered by your Drama Lab Fee you pay at the beginning of the semester. Parents please know that if your student drops their piece(s) or changes their piece(s) that they registered with Florida Thespian District 12 Festival there will be a "drop fee" or "change fee" that the Florida Thespian District organization bills our troupe and directly to the student. Please know that these fees are not covered by the Drama Lab Fee and your student will be invoiced for their drop or change in piece.



FLORIDA THESPIANS DISTRICT 12 FESTIVAL

TROUPE 1452 (Buchholz Drama)

Festival Details:

- Main Festival Date: Saturday, December 13, 2025
- One Act Festival Date: Thursday or Friday, December 11 or 12, 2025
- Location for Main Festival: East Ridge High School, Clermont, FL
- Location for One Act Festival: Montverde Academy, Montverde, FL
- We will travel as a **Troupe** to this event.
- Note: Students competing in the One Act Festival will need to attend a preliminary competition held on Thursday or Friday before the main event on Saturday.

If your student is interested in participating or has questions, please reach out to Ms. Singley.

We will need chaperones/drivers for the One Act Festival and the Main Festival. Please be aware of the district's new policy requiring a Level 2 Background Check for all chaperones.



UNEXPECTED PERSONAL EXPENDITURES

As many in the Arts, we feel the weight of bearing the cost to provide an environment where students can explore and grow in their talents. While the majority of our budget is from production ticket sales and concession sales, it requires family and friends not only to attend shows but spread the word! We have a thriving theater department at the high school level in Alachua County. Our theater director has high expectations which takes an "all in" mentality from students and parents. As we support our kids, we thought it would be helpful to provide a non-exhaustive list of costs that are sometimes unexpected from a parent's perspective. Only the Lab Fee is mandatory.

- Lab Fee \$225
- State Competition if student qualifies \$500
- BHS Drama generic t-shirt and/or hoodie
- Shout out ads for your student in each digital show program, which are voluntary
- Attending fundraising dinners at local establishments also known as "Spirit Nights"
- Concession Stand donations via an Amazon Wish List or Sign Up Genius
- Character shoes (or other shoes needed for performances)
- Some costume pieces
- Costume makeup
- Show T-shirts
- Cast dinner party the last day a show runs
- Cast gift cost



NECESSARY PAPERWORK

As we begin the 2025-2026 season, some paperwork is needed. Even if you did all of this last year, the county requires that you do it again this year.

This information packet includes forms required of all parents/guardians, permission slips that are needed if your student(s) participate in our upcoming trips and competitions as well as forms for you to fill out to volunteer to assist us (which is absolutely vital to our success). You can also find the forms on our web site. Forms can be turned in to the Theater Director or emailed to: bobcatdrama1452@gmail.com

FORMS REQUIRED OF ALL PARENTS OF PARTICIPANTS

- 1. Consent and Release Form, Authorization to Photograph or Record Student
- 2. Parent/Guardian Contact Information

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED FORMS DEPENDING ON INVOLVEMENT

- 3. A **Parental Field Trip Permission Form,** allowing students to attend 1-day trips. (Please note that we make these forms generic so that they can apply to all of our trips over the course of the year, but these forms still apply *only* to school-approved drama trips.)
- 4. A **Parental Trip Permission For Overnight Trips Form**, which includes a medical release. We will have several overnight trips per year.
 - Please also attach a photocopy or scan of your student's health insurance ID.
- 5. A **Request to Transport Student(s) in Private Vehicle Form**. Please fill out this form, and include with it the following:
 - A. A copy of your vehicle's registration papers.
 - B. A copy of your up-to-date insurance information.
 - C. A copy of your <u>up-to-date</u> driver's license.

**PLEASE COPY THESE ITEMS ON THE SAME PAGE, FACING THE SAME DIRECTION, or the front office *will* reject them. We cannot process your paperwork unless ALL of this material is turned in. A drama booster member will be the liaison between a driver and BHS front office. This helps minimize errors and effort.



This year ACPS has added a security measure in the interest of student safety. ALL fieldwork chaperones must be approved through a Level 2 background check.

- 6. Volunteer Application for Alachua County Public Schools
 - All volunteers/chaperones must complete a volunteer application/Level 1 background check. You can apply at <u>Bit.ly/ACPSapp</u>. If you will always be supervised by an ACPS employee, never alone with students, you only need to complete this Level 1 background check. It is free to apply and be approved.
- 7. Chaperone Level 2 Background Check there is a new policy this year for chaperones. Chaperones, or anyone who will be interacting with students without the director present, must complete a Level 2 background check. This includes fieldtrips, days trips, or overnights. If you plan to chaperone, please complete the online application and select the Level 2 option. You will receive a second form from the school district requesting additional information. If you think you might already have a Level 2 background clearance, you can indicate that on the form, and the district will contact you to discuss the details. After completing the second form, you will receive instructions for how to complete the Level 2 background check process which includes fingerprinting. The process includes getting finger printed, which costs \$82 and lasts for five years. The fee does not go to the school or the program, and only covers the cost of fingerprinting.

Examples of volunteer activities needing a Level 1 Background Check

- Selling tickets at a show
- Selling concessions at a show without students assisting (if students are assisting, a Level 2 clearance is needed)
- Doing behind-the-scenes work without interacting with students

Examples of volunteer activities needing a Level 2 Background Check

- Chaperoning a troupe trip, such as a district or state Thespian competition (all chaperones must have Level 2 clearance, even if they aren't riding the bus).
- Assisting with a rehearsal or a show

If you aren't sure which level of clearance you need, please contact the Theater Director.



Participation Paperwork Checklist

KEQUIKED	OF ALI	L PAKII	CIPANI	2

1.	Lab Fee paid by September 26, 2025					
2.	Photo/Record Release Form					
3.	Parent/Guardian Contact Form					
ADDI	TIONAL REQUIRED FORMS DEPENDING IN INVOLVEMENT					
4.	One-day field trip permission slip filled out and signed:					
5.	Overnight field trip permission slip filled out and signed:					
	a. Health insurance card copy (front and back) attached:					
6.	Driver form filled out and signed (both sides):					
	a. Driver's license copy attached:					
	b. Insurance card copy attached:					
	c. Vehicle registration copy attached:					
	NOTE: Please put this information all on one page, with all items facing the same direction. Driver forms will be rejected if:					
	a) Any information is expired, or WILL EXPIRE by the end of our season (late May)b) Information does not match between documentsc) One piece of information is upside down compared to others on the same page					
7.	Volunteer Application - <u>Bit.ly/ACPSapp</u>					
8.	Chaperone Level 2 Background Check					



Please make sure that all information is up-to-date!
Email all documents to bobcatdrama1452@gmail.com or submit them to the Theater Director



Communications & Community Initiatives Consent and Release Form Authorization to Photograph or Record Student

I,	, the undersigned parent, guardian, or legal
with any and all school activities. I unders	ers, employees and approved media be photographed and/or recorded in connection tand the photographs and/or media productions t limited to public service announcements, school
,	norization serves as a waiver of privacy rights 1002.22, Florida Statutes, and other applicable
Signature of parent/guardian/custodian	Date

Form No.: ADM-2324-005 - Consent and Release - Authorization to Photograph or Record Student.doc / ADM New Date: 6/8/23

Parent/Guardian Contact Form

This form can also be submitted online:

https://www.buchholzdrama.com/parentforms/parentcontact

Student Information	
Name:	
Class Period:	
Grade:	
Parent/Guardian 1	
Name:	
Email:	
Check this box if you do NOT want to be subscribed to t	he
Drama Boosters email list	
Phone:	
Parent/Guardian 2	
Name:	
Email:	
Check this box if you do NOT want to be subscribed to the Drama Boosters email list	e
Phone:	



Curriculum Division Parental Field Trip Permission Day Trip

School:	Teacher:		G	rade:	_ Date:
_	ested for your son/daughter to g				
We will leave the se	chool at	a.m.	p.m. 🗆		
	chool on,			a.m.	p.m.
	Daytime:				
	Evening:				
	Other:				
Method of Travel:	□School Bus □Ci	•			
	Private Vehicle/Name	of Driver:_			_
	Other/Specify:				
The purpose of thi	s trip is:				
	ng this trip your student will be		84.0		
We anticipate appro	oximately one chaperone for e	very	students.		
If your son/daugh	ter has permission to go on th	nis trip, plea	ise sign below.		
	form as a consent signature for ess to my son or daughter if me			ff to give em	nergency treatment
Student Name: (Plea	ase Print)				
Signature of Parent	or Guardian:			Da	te:
Emerg	gency phone number(s) mu. This form has been update				e trip. *
Form No.: CUR-2425-0' New Date: 8/29/24	18 – Parental Field Trip Permission /Cu	rriculum	Di	stribution:	_Field Trip Sponsor _School Administrator _Parent/Guardian

Overnight Trip Permission

dent: First Name		Last Name	
der:	Grade: _		
ne Address:			*
/:	State:	z	ip:
ne Phone: ()			
ent/Guardian Name:			
30	Medical Release Ins	surance Statement	
Parent/Guardian Phone	Numbers: Work ()Cel	d: ()
Emergency Contact Oth	er Than Parent:		
Emergency Contact's Ph	none Number: ()_		
Insurance Company:	marks on himself	1 (1 (1 (1 (1 (1 (1 (1 (1 (1 (1 (1 (1 (1	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
Insurance Company Ade	dress:		
Policy Number:			
****Copy of the FRON	Γ and BACK of the ins	surance card MUST B	E ATTACHED****
Are you currently taking	g any medications? You	es	No
List Medications:			2.0
List Allergies - if any: _		1	
Special Health Concerns	s:		
MEDICAL TREA	ATMENT AUTHORIZ	ZATION AND LIABI	LITY RELEASE
child sustains injury or i sponsor, coach or chape licensed physician. I fur	hholz High School Grillness during the time rone to obtain medical ther acknowledge tha	oup mentioned on the period of the field trip I treatment deemed no t I will be responsible	previous page. In case n p, I hereby authorize the ecessary as prescribed by
	The second second		



Transportation Division Request to Transport Students in Private Vehicle

Name of Driver:		
Address:		
Event:		Date of Event:
Origin:	De	stination:
Time of Departure:	Time of Return:	Faculty Sponsor:
I request permission to tran	nsport student(s) in the follow	ving described private vehicle for this event:
Make:	Year:	Model:
License #:	State:	Registration:
1 0 1 1		iability insurance covering this vehicle with Policy #:
		ill be transported only in designated seating nicle manufacturer's crash protection system
I declare that I have read to	he foregoing form and that th	e facts stated in it are true.
		Date:
	Approval to Transport So	tudent(s) to transport student(s) in the private vehicle
Principal's Signature:		Date:
Attach photocopy of drive	r's license, insurance ID card	and list of names of student(s) to be transported
Form No.: TRN-2425-003 – Reques	st to Transport Students inPrivate Vehic	le.pdfSchool Administrator

Notes on completing the transportation form #TRN-920-003:

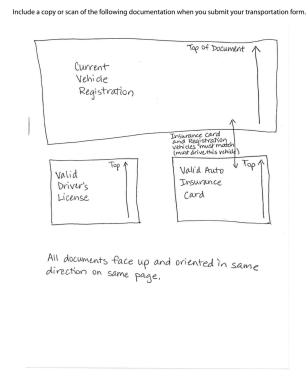
- License number, please insert your PLATE number
- For "Event" it should read "BHS drama events"
- Date of event: through the end of the academic year (05/31/2024)
- Origin & Destination: leave blank
- Time of departure & time of return: leave blank
- Faculty Sponsor: Shannon Singley

Please remember to include with the <u>request to transport form</u>:

- 1. A photocopy / scan of your UP-TO-DATE driver's license
- 2. A photocopy / scan of your vehicle registration
- 3. A photocopy / scan of your auto insurance

PLEASE COPY THESE ITEMS ON THE SAME PAGE, FACING THE SAME DIRECTION, or the front office *will* reject them.

These are required by the county for all volunteer drivers!



PLEASE SUBMIT ELECTRONICALLY TO <u>bobcatdrama1452@gmail.com</u> OR physically at one of the booster meetings.