Dear Theatre Teachers:

It’s that time of year to start planning for the 2020 Mississippi Theatre Association’s Annual Theatre Festival/Conference being held January 16-19 in Oxford, MS at The University of Mississippi.

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 10-Minute Play Festival, Individual Events Festival and the staged reading of our one-act playwriting competition winner. Still not convinced, visit our website, click on “About Us” and watch some of our videos about the festival.

The Festival website [http://www.mta-online.org/divisions/secondary-division/](http://www.mta-online.org/divisions/secondary-division/) contains all of the links and information needed to register for the festival. Here you can read more about the festival, 10-Minute Festival, Individual Events Festival, 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.

To register for the festival download the spreadsheet registration form on the Festival website. When you open the spreadsheet you will first complete the overall counts of people attending the festival, provide information about your school and your production (if applicable). Instructions are outlined on page 2.

We are no longer using the Joy of Tournaments for the Individual Events Registration. If you have students participating in the College/University Auditions or auditioning for MTA’s $2,000 Scholarship you’ll need to direct students to register individually at [http://mta.matchingneeds.com/](http://mta.matchingneeds.com/). Schools entering students in the Scholarship are required to bring at least 1 item for the Silent Auction. Contact Tom Booth at tbooth54@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Teachers bringing students to the Festival must review with the students the “Code of Conduct” form that can be found on the “High School Information” 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 turned in at registration but each student must sign.

**The deadline for all registration materials is December 15.** Plan ahead as we MUST have it by this date or you may not be able to attend. We are also going to be assigning schools to tables for the luncheon on Sunday. These will be selected on a first-registered first-assigned basis.

Again, we hope that you will consider attending the 2020 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
execdir@mta-online.org

Suz Allmon
Secondary Chair
ogdrama@hotmail.com

Cindi Howie
Secondary Vice Chair
chowie@tesk12.com
MTA Festival Registration Instructions

To find the appropriate spreadsheet and additional information about the festival follow the information below:

a. Visit the MTA Festival Website at http://www.mta-online.org/2019-annual-statewide-festival/
b. Click on the “High School Festival” button
c. Read the “MTA Festival Guidelines”
d. Click on “Registration Spreadsheet” to download the spreadsheet and complete all tabs by December 15.
   1. First tab contains a checklist that includes due dates.
   2. The second tab contains the Festival Entry
   3. Form & director contact information; order form for participants; credit card information (if applicable);
   4. Select the tab labeled Event Registration. Complete one row per person attending the festival. This includes all cast and crew members. You’ll also indicate if they are participating in the different events such as individual events, 10-Minute Festival, etc.
   5. Select the Declaration tab and the Permissions tab and complete this information if your theatre advances to the state festival. Print these two tabs, sign them and mail them to Cunetto.
   6. Complete the Technical Questionnaire if you are competing in the Secondary or Community Theatre Festivals.
   7. Save the document.

e. From the High School Festival website – select “Upload your Festival Registration Spreadsheet”.
   1. This form will ask you to fill in a few pieces of information and then upload your spreadsheet to our registration system.
   2. You will receive a confirmation email that your entry was sent.

2. If you have students participating in College/University Auditions or auditioning for the MTA Scholarship have each register online here http://mta.matchingneeds.com/

3. If you have students participating in the College/University Auditions, you must bring at least 1 item for the Silent Auction.

**NOTE:** Please tell your bookkeepers that MTA has a new address and to be sure to update the address in their system or the P.O. and checks will be mailed to the wrong address.

New address:

Stacy Howell  
Mississippi Theatre Association  
P.O. Box 625  
Ocean Springs, MS 39566