

Holland High Theatre & Forensics Programs

Make a Lasting Impression and Help Prepare Students!

Here are some things that prior students have said about the programs and the impact in their lives...

"Holland Theater is more than just state titles and standing ovations. Rather, it is about instilling self-confidence and preparedness to young men and women who otherwise would not find the courage.

For me it was a chance to take a risk. It afforded me the opportunity to lead by example and learn by mistake; and for that I am forever grateful."

Kyle Waterstone, Class of 2003,
working for NCAA

"My boss here at Sundance is fond of saying, "Nature doesn't tell stories. We do." This has always reminded me of the time and experiences I had at Holland High School Theatre. Sometimes the intangible IS the goal. Telling stories through Theatre not only moves the audience, it more importantly moves those who do it...and that motion of trying, telling, doing becomes the thing in-and-of itself. Because of programs like HHST, students evolve from teenagers to adults with a stronger desire and ability to enter the world stage as a whole. To tell stories is to participate with humanity. That's at least as important as algebra was as I see it, and more fun as I remember it."

Joseph Beyer, Class of 1991,
*Producer, Sundance Institute Online
& Associate Programmer Sundance*

"The experiences and skills I gained while participating in theatre at Holland High inspired me continue my studies in higher education. Mr. Schneider passed his passion for theatre onto me. He also made it clear that theatre didn't have to be a hobby, it could be a career. I am now an Assistant Professor of Costume Design at Michigan State University. In addition to teaching skills and theory; I am striving to instill the passion he so clearly gave me, into my students."

Jodi Ozimek, class of 1995,
Assistant Professor of Costume Design at MSU

"Through theatre, I became who I am today. It's more than just acting. It's dealing with stress, intensity, communication, and organization at a level beyond what any normal activity would require."

Nia Walker, Class of 2004,
*Executive Assistant Michigan Interscholastic
Forensics Association*

"I graduated from HHS almost ten years ago. Most of my fondest memories of HHS revolve around the theater department. My involvement in theater provided me with the confidence to speak in public as well as a deep appreciation for literature and the arts. I am profoundly grateful for the way Mr. Schneider and the rest of the department shaped my education."

Amanda Hontz Drury Class of 1999
Princeton Theological Seminary

"Holland High Theatre was a great way to not only meet new kids I might not otherwise have known, but I also had the opportunity to travel around the state and meet other student performers and watch what they worked on all year. I learned important things including building a set that could be both portable and sturdy, the basics of stage acting/blocking/choreographing, and most importantly, how to devote time and energy into something to produce a play which I could be proud of."

Charlie Sterken, Class of 2004,
Legal Assistant in New York

"HHS Competition Theatre is unlike any program I've encountered in that nearly every member of the company has some role in both the set construction and the performance itself. The result is an incredibly cohesive and versatile group of people working to improve our show in every aspect, not just their specialties.

Forensics, at its core, is about communication, about standing up before a room of judges and competitors and overcoming the nerves to persuade, educate, or move them. I look back on my years of forensics with incredible fondness because those were the times when I developed a sort of grace under pressure, the self-reliance and poise to smile, look someone in the eye, and start communicating my ideas.

There are so many little victories in forensics that transcend winning or losing and the judges' critiques. At first it's, 'Can I actually get up and talk for seven minutes?' and, 'Can I learn to tie my own tie before the tournament?' and you progress to, 'Can I transform the dull topic of this round into a speech that will engage my audience?' 'Can I get that stiff judge to laugh?' You confront yourself with these questions, and as you prove to yourself that you can meet your own challenges, your confidence soars."

Trevor Bakker, Class of 2006
Junior at Harvard University

Holland High School

THEATRE GUILD

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