

# Thrive, Don't Just Survive Your First Years of Teaching



Introductions/Welcome

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## Personal Mission Statement

- [Who am I as a person?](#)
  - Your personal life, i.e., values, beliefs, purpose, etc.
  - Who am I as a professional theatre educator /career?
  - Personal Mission Statement as an educator.
- [Mission Statement for Your Theatre Program](#)
  - A mission statement establishes a; home connecting with your unique purpose, core values, and beliefs, articulating what you're all about and what success looks like.
    - [5 Reasons Your Theatre Program Needs a Mission Statement](#)
      - [Theatrefolk](#)

## 1st Year Teacher - Great Beginnings

- [Theatrefolks New Drama Teacher Toolkit](#)
  - Introducing the New Drama Teacher Toolkit. Think of it as your digital mentor. In this toolkit, you'll find exercises, activities, and information that will help you get through your first days, build your classroom management skills, and articulate the importance of your program.
- [Running a Theatre Program-A Guide for the Complete Clutz](#) - EdTA Learning Center
- [American Association of Community Theatres](#) - Start-Up Basics
  - A step-by-step approach to starting a theatre company
- [ABC's of Developing A Successful Theatre Program](#)
  - A strong theatre program doesn't just happen. It takes a lot of hard work plus excellent management skills akin to being a captain of a ship.
- [New Teachers Checklist](#)
  - A checklist of information a new teacher should know about working at a new school

## Professional Organizations

### National

#### [Educational Theatre Association](#) (EdTA)

The international association for school theatre. Shaping lives through theatre education. Home of the International Thespian Society and the Educational Theatre Association

- [EdTA Learning Centre](#) EdTA Learning Center has more resources behind the paywall
- [EdTA Membership options](#)

#### [American Alliance for Theatre and Education](#) (AATE)

The American Alliance for Theatre & Education serves and inspires a growing collective of theatre artists, educators, and scholars committed to transforming young people and communities through the theatre arts.

## Find a tribe - Join professional national and state organizations

- EdTA, District Teachers, teachers in your building, community, college/university.
- Network with other theatre teachers
- Find a Mentor- someone you can draw from for inspiration?
- Promote Self Care: boundaries, meal planning, exercise, and time management.
  - Don't be afraid to take a personal day - mental health day
- Remember your priorities: balancing family, work, shows, teaching, etc.
- Don't be afraid to say NO!

## Standards

- [National Core Arts Standards](#) (NCAS)
- State Standards
- District Standards

## Curriculum Maps

- [EdTA Jo Lane](#) (Amazing HS Level Curriculum Maps--aligned with 2014 standards written by Jo Lane)
- [NYC Department of Education - Sample Theatre Curriculum Maps](#)
- Russ Saxton Google File - [Curriculum Maps](#)

## Curriculum Resources

- [BYU Theatre Education Curriculum Database](#)
- [Utah Shakespeare Festival](#)
- [Folger Library Shakespeare](#)
- [The Kennedy Center](#)
- [Broadway Teaching Group](#)
- [Theatre Resources](#)

## Curriculum Resource (Books and Paid Subscription)

- [Raising the Curtain](#)
  - Two years of lesson plans for secondary theatre programs
- [Teachers Pay Teachers](#)
- [Theatrefolk](#)
  - For the month of August, you can join for \$1.00 and cancel in September.

## Lesson Plans

- [Theatrefolk](#)
- [Broadway Teaching Group](#)
- [Kamplays](#)
- [Lesson Plans for a High School Theatre Class](#)
- [Classroom Lesson Plans](#)

## Facebook Groups

[Theatre Teacher Lesson Lending](#)

[Theatre Education Distance Learning \(Resource Sharing and Support Network\)](#)

[High School Theatre Directors and Teachers](#)

[Technical Theater Educators](#)

## Other Resources

[Texas Educational Theatre Association](#). Click on the resources link for documents in great resources in their [Google Drive](#).

Pinterest

<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/drama-teacher/>

## Books

[New Theatre Teacher Books on Amazon Lists](#)

- List of Theatre Teacher Books

[Technical Theatre Book List on Amazon](#)

- List of Theatre Teacher Books

## Choosing A show

[How to Choose The Right Plays or Musicals to Produce](#)

StageAgent offers tips for choosing a show.

[How To Choose Your High School Musical](#)

School is almost here! Let MTI help you find your next show.

<https://schooltheatre.org/2023-play-survey-reveals-most-popular-high-school-shows/>

EdTA list of most produced shows

[Round-up: Back-to-School 101 for Drama Teachers](#)

Theatrefolk: We've tried to streamline the process by rounding up some of our best tips and guides to help get you started

## **Drama/Thespian Student Organization**

EdTA [Thespian Troupe Handbook](#)

## **Parent Booster Organization**

[Building a Booster Group](#)

## **1st Day of School**

[Harry and Rosemary Wong 1st Day of School/Seven Things Students Want to Know](#)

Disclosure/Syllabus

[47 Editable Syllabus Templates \(Course Syllabus\)](#)

[Student Supply List](#) List of students supply needs

[Amazon Wish List for Teachers](#)

[New Teacher Checklist](#) As a new teacher, you have a lot to learn in a short period of time. This checklist will provide a structure to follow as you progress through the school year.

Seating Chart - [Classroom Arrangements](#)

[Tips for new directors](#)

A veteran's guide to successful storytelling from EdTA

[New Drama Teacher Resource](#)

This website has been created to help new secondary drama teachers prepare for those early days and weeks.

## **Supplies**

[20 Items All Drama Teachers Need In Their Classrooms](#)

## **Settling into the school**

- Principal
- Principal Secretary
- Financial Secretary
- Custodians (Night custodians)

## **Setting up your classroom**

[How I Set Up My Middle School Theatre Classroom](#)

## YOU GOT THIS

When I was a beginning teacher; I had just one goal: make sure my students were the most highly sought-after college freshmen in the world. Literally, as I provided opportunities for the students to build their resumes, my program flourished. I was doing a lot of "all-nighters" and teaching school back to back with a few hours of sleep under my desk in between. I was producing a show or doing a competition every single month just to keep up with demand. My stakeholders LOVED me.

The problem was that I was single (until I was 41), 120 pounds overweight, and taking medications for diabetes, high blood pressure, stress, and anxiety. I was destroying my main stakeholder, ME.

I was a bad example to every teacher looking up to me because I was a state winner and had a bunch of awards. It was a sham.

My advice to every new teacher is to lower the bar. I know that sounds crazy. But inside your head and heart, I know you became a drama teacher because you want to change lives. Just do that. Do it, one kid at a time, because we need you to be in it for the long haul. We can't lose good teachers to burn out two or even ten years into this profession. I'm 31 years in, and I'm just getting good at it now. Because now I know: **I light my drama program from within myself. If there is no light to share, then what good am I? Preserve your goodness. Relax. Do solid work but do not let the work do you in. You are worth it.**

Jan Shelton Hunsaker 2020