

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Contact: **Jim Smith**  
jsmith@ridgenet.org

## RHS Leading Norridge & Harwood Heights' Efforts for National Theatre Education Awareness Campaign

Norridge/Harwood Heights, Illinois, March 1, 2021—Theatre in Our Schools Month (TIOS) is a grassroots effort to educate everyone about the benefits of having theatre in the schools, and to draw attention to the need for more access to quality programs for all students. The campaign is jointly sponsored nationally by the [American Alliance for Theatre & Education](#) (AATE), the [Educational Theatre Association](#) (EdTA) and the [International Thespian Society](#) (ITS).

Ridgewood High School is helping to promote awareness for the arts through information, activities, videos, classes, community service and more for TIOS.

Ridgewood High School is the home of ITS Troupe 6662, the nationwide high school drama honorary society planning TIOS activities. TIOS is a chance for students, parents, communities, school boards and elected officials to become familiar with the benefits of school theatre participation, which include development of the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills of communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking.

In fact, according to The College Board, in 2015, students who took four years of arts classes in high school scored an average of 92 points higher on their SATs than students who took only one half year or less. But, according to the U. S. Department of Education, only 28 percent of public high schools in high poverty areas offer theatre instruction.

And according to a [2016 poll](#):

- 9 in 10 American adults agree that the arts are part of a well-rounded K-12 education.
- 90 percent believe students should receive an education in the arts in elementary school, middle school and high school.

The [poll](#), “Americans Speak Out about the Arts: An In-Depth Look at Perceptions and Attitudes about the Arts in America,” was conducted by Americans for the Arts.

To see ITS Troupe 6662, and the Ridgewood High School drama program in action, come to the next performance, of *The Addams Family* on May 21, 22 or the 23. Visit [www.rhsil.booktix.com](http://www.rhsil.booktix.com) for additional information regarding indoor and virtual tickets!

For more information about TIOS visit [schooltheatre.org/programs/tios](http://schooltheatre.org/programs/tios) and follow #TheatreinOurSchools on social media.

[About the American Alliance for Theatre & Education](#)

[About the Educational Theatre Association](#)

[About the International Thespian Society](#)



EDUCATIONAL  
THEATRE  
ASSOCIATION



INTERNATIONAL  
THESPIAN SOCIETY



Educational Theatre  
FOUNDATION