

## OVERVIEW



*The Ipswich Public School system has a fine tradition of involving its students in stage performances with annual theme-based, grade-level concerts. In fourth and fifth grades, the students also present a play. During the preparation and performance of these shows, students learn the basics of stage presence, diction, singing, and dancing.*

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

*The Ipswich Middle School theater faculty team, under the direction of Theresa Z. Natti together with Ms. Cayot, Mrs. Eaton, Mr. Jewell, and Mr. Patch, provides students with a comprehensive drama curriculum culminating in a theatrical production. Theater vocabulary, character development, acting, singing, backstage crew demands, choreography, set design, costuming, props, lighting, sound, program, and publicity are covered while preparing for performance.*

*The middle school musical is performed in February. Middle School Drama is part of a continuing theater curriculum, preparing students for the high school drama program.*



## HIGH SCHOOL

*Theater education at the Ipswich High School includes our drama club, The Company, which performs fall and spring productions (with musicals at least biannually), plus a one-act play for the Massachusetts High School Drama Guild festival competition. Festival entries, under Mrs. Faust's direction, have won over 225 individual acting and technical awards, and have progressed to the semi-final level of competition six times and to the state finals once. Any student can join The Company as an actor, technician, crew member, or usher, and does not need to "do" every show to remain a member. New members are always welcome. At the annual music, art, and drama awards banquet, a panel of faculty judges announces "Academy Awards" for the two best leading performances, two best supporting performances, and two best technical accomplishments of the year.*

*The Company's production of FIDDLER ON THE ROOF was one of the top ten shows chosen in the 2006 inaugural year of the North Shore Music Theatre Spotlight Awards, with nominations for Best Leading Actor, Best Supporting Actor, Best Musical Direction, Best Ensemble Chorus, Best Show, and a win for Best Featured Actor. In 2007, THE WIZARD OF OZ received nominations for Best Leading Actor, Best Orchestra and Best Costume Design. In August of 2007 The Company performed Euripides' THE TROJAN WOMEN at the American High School Theatre Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland, part of the prestigious annual Fringe Festival.*

*Students of all high school grade levels can elect Introduction to Drama, followed by Advanced Drama. Both courses involve script study, monologue and scene work, and some technical theater training. They can also elect Technical Theater; a blend of script study, dramaturgy, design, and technical skills complemented by hands-on work in set construction, lighting, sound, and costuming.*

*Graduates of Ipswich High School have been accepted to drama programs at such diverse and prestigious fine art schools as Emerson College, Boston University's School of Fine Arts, New York University, and the American Academy of Dramatic Arts.*

