

# 9TH GRADE

*Starting your own 9th grade team!*

## *Top Tips:*

### USE YOUR UPPERCLASS STUDENTS AS MENTORS OR DIRECTORS

One of my students' *favorite* things about Large Group season is getting to work with senior student directors.

Many 9th graders finish their first season telling me they can't wait to come back and direct!

Student director duties:

- Choose script
- Understand + follow rules for the category
- Plan + run rehearsals
- Weekly check-in
- Support their team at contest
- Review comment sheets

Arrange "rehearsal exchanges" between your 10-12 grade groups and your 9th graders.

### TAKE ADVANTAGE OF DOUBLING UP ON YOUR CONTEST ENTRIES

Ever felt like there was some unfair competition between your older students and your brand-new 9th graders for spots? Add a 9th grade team!

Allows 9th graders to explore different contest categories in Large Group and IEs, minus the competition for limited space in a cast.

YES! Everyone can find a place in IHSSA.

REMEMBER: 9th grade entries may consist of **ONLY** 9th graders.

### PLAN REHEARSALS WITH 9TH GRADERS IN MIND

Most 9th graders cannot drive themselves to and from rehearsal!

They may have other extracurriculars they want to try. If their schedule allows, let them dip their toes in IHSSA anyway they can.

Unless they have grown up going to speech contest for older siblings or friends, they may not have *any* experience with the category they have been cast in.

Print off the rules. Read them together. Watch examples.

## GOT QUESTIONS?

*Contact me:*

Liz Meier  
Valley Southwoods Freshman High School  
West Des Moines, IA  
meiere@wdmcs.org

