



**STUDENT ACTIVITIES CONFERENCE  
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2023**

HERE IS AN TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF WHAT TO EXPECT.  
MORE SESSION DETAILS WILL BE ADDED BY SEPTEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>.

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*ACADEMIC COORDINATORS/COACHES*

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Academic sessions will be held in the University Teacher Center (UTC).

**ACADEMIC COORDINATORS:** Dr. David Stevens, UIL director of academics

*9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.*

*(This session is scheduled as a late start to accommodate those getting students into sessions.)*

- **High School Academic Coordinators and Coaches Update.** This is an overview for academic coordinators and coaches for creating a successful UIL Academic program. We will cover tips on recruiting, planning and organizing, as well as dates, forms, resources and where to get help. Dr. David Stevens, UIL director of academics. **Room UTC 1.104**

*10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.*

- **From the Coordinator's Perspective.** This will cover the basics for those new to the coordinator role as well as veterans. This is one successful coordinators ideas for recruiting, retention, contest preparations, travel ideas and lots of opportunity to ask questions. Guest presenter. **Room UTC 1.104**

*1:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.*

*(This session is scheduled to end early to accommodate for departure from the conference.)*

- **Coach and Coordinator Q&A.** The dialogue continues from where we were in the first session with time for questions. Dr. David Stevens, UIL director of academics. **Room UTC 1.104**

**ACCOUNTING:** Kay Whitton, state contest director

*9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.*

- **Succeeding (LaVerne) with Success: The Future of the UIL Accounting Contest.** Incoming UIL State Accounting Contest Director Kay Whitton will share her vision for the future of the accounting competition, as well as share online resources and strategies for success for all coaches, novice and experienced. **Room UTC 1.116**

*10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.*

- **Accounting Contest for Novices (experienced folks welcome too!).** Review of contest procedures and demonstration of a problem-solving techniques for a simple district-level concept that can be applied to a variety of problem formats. **Room UTC 1.116**

**COMPUTER APPLICATIONS:** Linda Tarrant, state contest director

*9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.*

- **From Zero to Invitational A.** BYOC (computer) for a fun-filled workshop intended for students and coaches who are just starting. We will discuss the basics of how to get started in Computer Applications, including what happens at a contest, what equipment you will need, how to practice and what to learn. The hands-on lesson will include some Excel basics, including how to create an Excel worksheet and chart and more. **Room UTC 1.144**

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **Invitational B to District.** BYOC (computer) for this session as it will be all hands-on for a database learning session. We will learn about Access tables, select queries, update queries and reports and more. Along the way contest strategies will be presented that might help you score just a few more points. **Room UTC 1.144**

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

- **Region and State.** BYOC (computer) This session is a deep dive into Microsoft Access and Excel. We'll be adding fields to queries and reports. We'll create relationships and populate fields with lookup tables. We'll modify reports after creating, learn to merge into Word and use format switches. **Room UTC 1.144**

**CURRENT ISSUES & EVENTS:** Dr. Bradley Wilson, state contest director

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **Keeping it Current.** The Current Issues and Events contest is designed to help students stay informed about more than what Elon Musk has done with Twitter, including issues at the local, state, national and international levels. Students become more informed members of society and more culturally aware. Over time, the contest evolves. Come discuss this evolution. **Room UTC 3.102**

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

- **Preparing to Write an Essay.** Come discuss and learn techniques on how to write an essay that covers the topic and earns 20% of the total score in Current Issues & Events and Social Studies. Review how essay writing is a valuable skill, helping students prepare for college and any work environment. **Room UTC 3.102**

**ESSAY CONTESTS & A+ Academics:** Lisa Parker, UIL director

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

- **UIL Essay Contests:** These contests offer students the unique opportunity to learn about an extraordinary Texan influence and become a UIL state finalist through submitting one paper online. Learn more about these incredible events and how to be successful. **Room UTC 1.102**

10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

- **UIL A+ Academics:** Bring any and all questions you have about UIL Academics for students in grades 2-8. This will be an informal session where I will cover the basics if you need them and/or offer some ideas for growth with your A+ Academic program. **Room UTC 1.102**

**JOURNALISM:** Alyssa Boehringer, UIL director of journalism

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

- **Copy Editing 101.** This contest means more than checking spelling. Involving a skill that truly helps students prepare for college and the workforce, come discuss the Copy Editing contest, everything from tips on teaching editing to taking and grading the test. Learn different levels of editing from checking grammar and style to assessing the legal and ethical implications of mass media contest. Bradley Wilson, contest director. **Room UTC 3.132**

9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

- **UIL News is Good News.** This session will focus on the basics of how to write a news story from a UIL news prompt. Alyssa Boehringer, UIL journalism director. **Room UTC 3.132**

10:45 a.m.– 11:20 p.m.

- **Get a Head Start in Headlines.** This session will focus on the criteria for writing solid headlines. We'll read some not-so-great ones too. Kari Riemer, Pflugerville Hendrickson HS. **Room UTC 3.132**

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **Feature This.** It's all about the lead. This session will focus on feature leads, story flow and what makes a good feature story. Alyssa Boehringer, UIL journalism director. **Room UTC 3.132**

12:15 p.m. – 12:40 p.m.

- **Take a Stand with Editorials.** In this session, we will explore the structure for editorial writing and share tips and strategies. Alyssa Boehringer, UIL journalism director. **Room UTC 3.132**

12:50 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

- **Coaching with Care.** Let's talk about all things Texas scholastic journalism and give coaches a chance to ask lingering questions. Alyssa Boehringer, UIL journalism director **Room UTC 3.132**

**LITERARY CRITICISM:** Mark Bernier, state contest director

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

- **The Absolute Basics.** Introducing the contest to students and coaches new to the challenge (introduction to poetry explication included). **Room UTC 3.124**

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **Poetry Explication for the Contest.** Review poetry in terms of the contest's expectations. **Room UTC 3.124**

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

- **The 2024 Reading List.** Review the reading list and the part 4's Tie-Breaking Essay. **Room UTC 3.124**

**READY WRITING:** Ruben Rodriguez, state contest director

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

- **An Introduction to Ready Writing: Everything New Competitors Need to Know About the Contest.** A review of UIL rules, the rubric and contest fundamentals and writing strategies. Designed for first-year competitors and beginning coaches. **Room UTC 3.122**

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **A Round Table Discussion with Ready Writing Coaches.** A Q&A discussion of the contest and what coaches want to know. **Room UTC 3.122**

**SOCIAL STUDIES:** Andy Bates, state contest director

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

- **Preparing for the Social Studies Contest.** A review of rules, contest format, information related to this year's topic, what type of questions to expect and resources that will prove useful. This session will also include specific ideas regarding effective ways to prepare for competition. **Room UTC 3.102**

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

- **Preparing to Write an Essay.** Come discuss and learn techniques on how to write an essay that covers the topic and earns 20% of the total score in Current Issues & Events and Social Studies. Review how essay writing is a valuable skill, helping students prepare for college and any work environment. **Room UTC 3.102**

**SPELLING & VOCABULARY:** Linda Berrey, state contest director

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **Becoming Legitimate Logophilic Laureates: Strategies for Upping Your Spelling Game.** A look at the 23-24 Spelling Contest's test format, rules and changes. **Room UTC 3.134**

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

- **Spelling & Vocabulary Practice Test.** A sample test will be given and scored. **Room UTC 3.134**

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**STEM & ROBOTICS**

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STEM & Robotic sessions will be held in the University Teacher Center (UTC).

**CALCULATOR APPLICATIONS:** Dr. Dave Bourell, state contest director

*9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.*

- **Beginning: Introduction to the Calculator Applications Contest. Room UTC 3.112**

*10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.*

- **Intermediate: State of the 2024 Contest and Workshop on Geometry Problems. Room UTC 3.112**

*12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.*

- **Advanced: Taking and Scoring the 2023 State Contest. Room UTC 3.112**

**COMPUTER SCIENCE:** Dr. Shyamal Mitra, state contest advisor

*9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.*

- **Introduction to the Computer Science Contest.** Includes rules, news, updates and a short practice test. **Room UTC 3.104**

*10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.*

- **Computer Science Written Contest.** Covers selected topics in Java and strategies for preparing for the written test. **Room UTC 3.104**

*12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.*

- **Computer Science Programming Contest.** Covers selected topics on data structures and algorithms to prepare for the programming contest. Includes a discussion on online resources. **Room UTC 3.104**

**MATHEMATICS & NUMBER SENSE:** Cliff McCurdy and Larry White, state contest directors

*9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.*

- **Number Sense Contest.** Guidelines, rules, resources, practice materials, etc. SAC 2023 Number Sense Test (take/grade). NEW 10 min-80 question test with Q&A to discuss and answer questions. **Room UTC 2.102A**

*10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.*

- **Mathematics Contest.** Rules, strategies and suggestions. SAC 2023 Mathematics Test – NEW 60 question test with Q&A to discuss. **Room UTC 2.102A**

*12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.*

- **Number Sense and Mathematics Joint Q&A Session. Room UTC 2.102A**

**SCIENCE:** Dr. Michelle McGehee, Dr. Brian Anderson and Dr. David Bixler, state contest directors

*9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.*

- **Introduction to the UIL Science Contest.** A contest overview including rules and practice questions. (For students and coaches) **Room UTC 3.110**

*10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.*

- **Science Contest Deep Dive.** Deconstructing the Science test, with insights into how each section is developed. (For students and coaches) **Room UTC 3.110**

*12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.*

- **UIL Science Roundtable.** Discussion and Q&A. Bring your questions for the contest directors and ideas to help new coaches build a successful team. (For coaches) **Room UTC 3.110**

**ROBOTICS & STEM:** David Trussell, UIL director of STEM

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

- **Bits & Bots – The Basics of UIL Robotics.** This session for coaches and coordinators will cover options, factors to consider, helpful resources and strategies for those interested in starting or expanding Robotics at their school. **Room UTC 1.132**

10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

- **Branching Out With STEM.** A successful UIL STEM program can be a great asset for your school community. This session for coordinators and coaches will tie together the different components of UIL STEM with helpful tips and resources to grow your program. **Room UTC 1.132**

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***SPEECH, DEBATE AND CONGRESS***

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Speech sessions will be held in the University Teacher Center (UTC).

**SPEECH:** Jana Riggins, UIL director of Speech, Debate and Congress

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

- **UIL Speaking Events in a Nutshell.** For students and coaches new to UIL. This workshop introduces all seven of the UIL Speech and Debate events, helping students to know which event might be their “fit” and providing a compass for new coaches navigating the speech world for the first time. Maribeth Harlow, Three Rivers HS; Jonathan Albor, former participant and state champion, University of the Incarnate Word. **UTC 4.122**

12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

- **Dialogue with your Director.** For coaches. Need clarification on rules or contest procedures? Want to share a creative idea or a potential rule change? Meet your state speech and debate director and let’s dialogue! Jana Riggins, UIL director. **UTC 4.104**

**ORAL INTERPRETATION:** M’Liss Hindman, state contest director

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

- **Prose and Poetry: Let’s Start at the Very Beginning.** For novice competitors. Starting at the very beginning is a very good place to start if you’re new to oral performance in high school. This workshop introduces novice and new prose/poetry coaches to the contest rules and procedures. Includes a student demonstration. Emily King, Liberty Hill HS. State Advisory Committee member. **UTC 2.112A**
- **Creating a Clear Story Arc from Clever and Careful Construction.** For advanced competitors. Learn how to create a unique performance while maintaining purpose. The discussion will include approaching Category B in both Prose and Poetry. Aimee Kasprzyk, Fine Arts Director, Corsicana ISD, **UTC 4.104**

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **New Categories for 2023-24.** For novice and varsity competitors and coaches. This year debuts brand new categories for prose and poetry. Contest officials will share the details of each category, documentation requirements and the intent behind each one. Jana Riggins, UIL State Director; M’Liss Hindman, UIL Prose/Poetry consultant. **UTC 2.112A**
- **Approaches to Creating Literary Programs.** For advanced competitors. This discussion focuses on developing unique themes for the new categories that will help your performance stand out. If you have literature already selected or you’re still in the “idea” stage, bring them with you for this interactive workshop. Aimee Kasprzyk, Director of Fine Arts, Corsicana ISD. **UTC 4.104**

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

- **Prose and Poetry Performance Hour.** This session is always a highlight, providing insight into what it takes to make it to the highest level of UIL competition. Be inspired by performances by state medalists

with oral critiques by experienced state meet judges/coaches. Adjudicators: M'Liss Hindman, UIL consultant; Aimee Kasprzyk, Fine Arts Director, Corsicana. **UTC 2.112A**

**EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING:** Ann Shofner, state contest director

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

- **An Introduction to Extemporaneous Speaking.** For novice competitors. Gain insight about the rules, draw room procedures and strategies for competing in Informative and Persuasive Speaking. Includes a live demonstration. Cadi Powers, Texas State University and Ann Shofner, UIL consultant. **UTC 4.102**

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **Preparation and Practice- Essential Keys to Perfection.** For novice and varsity speakers. Let this be your battle cry as you invest time in preparing and practicing to be a champion. Our state contest director will share how to make practice time productive. Ann Shofner, UIL Extemporaneous Speaking consultant. **UTC 4.102**

12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

- **Look at that Body! (of the Extemp Speech!)** The body is the heart and soul of every speech and is critical to truly answering the question you draw in the Informative or Persuasive contest. We'll take a good hard look at how to make it exceptional. Ann Shofner, UIL consultant. **UTC 4.102**
- **A Toolkit for Extemporaneous Speaking.** For advanced speakers. The economic way of thinking provides a toolkit for making sense of complex issues often addressed in informative and persuasive speaking questions. Economic principles help explain battles over trade, labor mobility, and industrial policy so speakers can explain reductions in housing and energy costs, how to make the electric grid more resilient, and how to raise average incomes, for example. Greg Rehmke, Economic Thinking. **UTC 4.110**

**DEBATE:** Rich Edwards, state contest director

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

- **The Basics of Lincoln Douglas Debate.** For novice competitors. Familiarizes beginning students with value debate. Learn LD Debate format, speaker responsibilities and case construction. Cheri Wienecke, Lometa HS. **UTC 4.124**
- **Advanced Lincoln Douglas Debate: A Deep Dive.** Analyzing the UIL Fall LD Debate topic and important research surrounding the topic of wealth inequality. Dr. Rich Edwards, Baylor University, UIL Debate consultant. **UTC 4.132**
- **Getting Started in Cross-Examination Debate.** For beginners. Come listen to CX debate made user-friendly. Learn the contest format, speaker responsibilities and understand basic terminology. **UTC 4.112**
- **Advanced CX Debate: Understanding the Economics of Economic Inequality.** Economists disagree on how to best measure income inequality. Many blame globalization and outsourcing to other countries for reducing wage increases in the U.S. This workshop will focus on arguments for the current policy debate topic. Greg Rehmke, Economic Thinking. **UTC 4.110**

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **Lincoln Douglas Debate: A Demonstration.** Watch a live round of LD Debate with commentary. Moderator with commentary. **UTC 4.124**
- **Advanced Lincoln Douglas Debate: Economics, Wealth Inequality and Democracy.** Wealth inequality has persisted over generations. Billionaires such as Warren Buffett, Bill Gates, Elon Musk and others have accumulated wealth that far exceeds others. Is this detrimental to democracy? This discussion analyzes important research surrounding the UIL Fall Debate topic area. Greg Rehmke, Economic Thinking. **UTC 4.110**
- **CX Debate Topic Analysis: The Affirmative.** The author of the *Policy Debate Quarterly* will examine the **affirmative** position providing great information and insight in this year's policy debate topic. Common affirmative cases will be covered. Dr. Rich Edwards, Baylor University and UIL Debate consultant. **UTC 4.132**

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

- **Advanced LD Debate: Concepts and Strategies.** This workshop will explore effective arguments and strategies for varsity LD debaters. **UTC 4.124**
- **CX Debate Topic Analysis: The Negative.** The author of the *Policy Debate Quarterly*, which is the first and most authoritative research released on the policy topic each year, will examine the **negative** position of this year's policy debate topic. Dr. Rich Edwards, Baylor University and UIL debate consultant. **UTC 4.132**

**CONGRESS:** Jana Riggins, UIL director of Speech, Debate and Congress

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **An Introduction to Congress.** If this is your first experience competing in Congress, come learn about this exciting event – we'll cover the rules, legislation, chamber roles and parliamentary procedure. Cadi Powers, Texas State University. **UTC 4.112**

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

- **Congress: Unlocking the Door to Success.** A discussion of the keys to success in Congress competition with advice on how to prepare and strategies within the chamber to make legislators more competitive. A Question/Answer period will be provided. **UTC 4.112**

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## ***THEATRE, DESIGN AND FILM***

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**THEATRE, DESIGN AND FILM:** Paula Rodriguez, UIL director of theatre

Sessions will take place at F. Loren Winship Building • 300 23<sup>rd</sup> St E • Austin, TX 78712 & Lab Theatre.

\*CHECK BACK FOR MORE SESSION UPDATES.

**ONE-ACT PLAY:** Paula Rodriguez, UIL director of theatre

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

- **Let's start from the very beginning: UIL One Act Play Rules, Planning, Updates and Questions!** This session is for all OAP directors. Overview of calendar and updates to the Handbook will be shared. Paula Rodriguez, UIL director of theatre.
- **Monologues & Auditioning:** Monologue coaching and guidance for auditioning for college theatre programs. Learn what to do and what not to do! Bring a memorized and worked on monologue from any script—60 seconds in length is more than enough. Lucian Douglas, Associate Professor, UT Austin (Equity, SAG-AFTRA)
- **Movement Composition Workshop**-Come explore creating original movement for the stage. We'll work on creating an individual original movement sequences using SITI Company's Composition technique, and then explore performing them together using SITI Company's Viewpoints. Lana Lesley, Lecturer, University of Texas at Austin, Department of Theatre and Dance
- **Crafting a cohesive atmosphere as a director.** World building is one of the main foundations of effective theater directing. Come experiment, play, and learn about how to construct an interesting atmosphere, communicate it to the cast and crew, and explore why it is so integral to "good" theater! Jax Schuck, UT Undergraduate Student
- **Games Exchange**-Come bring your favorite theatre games and learn new games from UT Theatre Education students in this interactive game exchange! UT Faculty, UT Undergraduate Student

- **This is Your Brain, This is Your Brain on RASA-** Emotions can be tough to play on stage, especially as a young actor. This workshop will show you a way to play with emotions that isn't so...emotional. Chuck Harris, Texas State University Staff, TTAO Adjudicator.
- **Preparing for a Theatre Career and Telling Parents-** Do you know about the jobs available in the theatre field? This interactive discussion focuses on the multitude of jobs out there for this career path, and you'll learn things you can be doing right now to get a head start. Additionally, we'll talk about how to communicate this kind of decision with family who prefer you somewhere else. Brian Nguyen, The Paramount Theatre
- **Needle & Thread: Hand Sewing Basics-** Dream about doing your own alterations or making an entire outfit but don't know where to start? Let's start your sewing journey from scratch, covering the fundamental hand sewing techniques, along with valuable tips and tricks, to ensure you begin your sewing adventure confidently and set up for success.

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **Games Exchange-**Come bring your favorite theatre games and learn new games from UT Theatre Education students in this *interactive* game exchange! UT Faculty, UT Undergraduate Student
- **Becoming a Theatre Teacher-** Seniors in the UT Austin Theatre Education BFA program will lead an interactive workshop designed for high school students considering careers as theatre teachers. Do you want to be the future of theatre education? Come join us! Seniors in UTeach Theatre
- **ZACH Theatre Acting Masterclass-** The best acting happens when the audience believes it is real. ZACH Theatre staff will guide you in an acting masterclass that will help give you some tools to creating more real and believable performances on stage and in front of the camera. Stephanie P. Smith, Chase Brewer, ZACH Theatre Performing Arts School
- **Smartest Rehearsal in the World PERFORMANCE—**Sharing and discussion of a performance piece currently in development and/or production. This could be a reading, an open rehearsal, or a scene/selection from a piece currently in production. Roxanne Schroeder-Arce, Mateo Hernandez, Xinyue Zhang, other cast and crew
- **Costume Design Crash Course-** Are you an aspiring costume designer? Do you want to learn about the fundamentals of live design? Obsessed with clothes? All of the above? Come join us for a costume design crash course and be ready to move, learn, collaborate, and create. Leah Hummel, Katie Concannon, UT Graduate student
- **Foam Capitals:** Get some tips and tricks to building capitals out of foam and other materials. What is the best glue? How to make them durable for transport? How do I get a specific shape I want? Bring your ideas and we can talk through them. Mel Edwards, state theatre & film consultant.
- **Rehearse the Rehearsal-** A guide to making the most of your OAP Tech Rehearsal- Carla Schumann- Contest Manager- TTAO-TBA
- **TBA-** Jose De Hoyos, Cast Stem High School, Southwest ISD

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

- **UIL OAP Contest FAQ's, Q& A's or AMA.** This session hopes to answer some popular question on the A+ OAP contest, Play selection, publishers and more. Paula Rodriguez, UIL director of theatre.
- **This is Your Brain, This is Your Brain on RASA-** Emotions can be tough to play on stage, especially as a young actor. This workshop will show you a way to play with emotions that isn't so...emotional. Chuck Harris, Texas State University Staff, TTAO Adjudicator.
- **Using Story the Right Way: Formula for Telling Compelling Stories.** The best stories follow a simple, repeatable formula and it can be seen everywhere, from songs to movies, to books to even marketing. Writers have known the power of storytelling since the time of Ancient Greece. We use story as devices to make sense of the world and this formula to help us identify what's most important in each tale. This



session is for student theatre artists, filmmakers, and designers; their teachers too. Mel Edwards, state theatre & film consultant.

- **Needle & Thread: Hand Sewing Basics-** Dream about doing your own alterations or making an entire outfit but don't know where to start? Let's start your sewing journey from scratch, covering the fundamental hand sewing techniques, along with valuable tips and tricks, to ensure you begin your sewing adventure confidently and set up for success.
- **TTAO Open Forum with Contest Managers and Adjudicators**, Carla Schumann- Contest Manager- TTAO-TBA
- **TBA.** Jose De Hoyos, Cast Stem High School, Southwest ISD – repeat session

**THEATRICAL DESIGN:** Rachael Gomez, state contest director

*9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.*

- **The Basics: What is the Theatrical Design Contest?** This Session is for those looking to enter the contest for the first time or who would like a refresher on the expectations. Because the challenge is different every year, it is important to update as you are starting your competition year. If you have never participated but would like to... hopefully this session will inspire you to compete in what promises to be our best year ever.

*10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.*

- **Way Down to HADESTOWN- The Prompt.** Our contest this year is based on the musical HADESTOWN by Anais Mitchell. The design challenges are super exciting and offer some new project opportunities within the different categories. This session will dig into the many possibilities of themes to express them within your designs.

*12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.*

- **What Makes a Winning Design.** The Theatrical Design Contest incorporates a 30/30/20/20 Evaluation system. Learn what to do to maximize success within the criteria. This is ultimately an artistic communication contest so let's talk about what that looks like for you. We will also talk pro-tips and tricks for making your entry stand out.

**FILM:** Paula Rodriguez, state contest director and Mel Edwards, consultant

*9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.*

- **Getting Started with the UIL Film Festival.** Are you new to UIL Film? This session will give you a jump start. Get informed about the categories and rules, view examples of past winners, and find the inspiration to use film as a storytelling medium." For students and teachers. Mel Edwards, state theatre & film consultant.
- **No More Alarm Clocks! Short Film Development and Structure.** FADE IN: RICHARD, 16, opens his eyes and turns off the alarm clock. No, no, NO! Are you tired of the cliché student stories? Drowning drug deals, bullies, nerd makeovers, and NINJAS? Let's talk about what makes a good story and how to structure it into a short film, and what we do when "We just can't think of anything good." Vanessa Mokry, Austin ISD Liberal Arts and Science Academy.

*10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.*

- **Nobelity Group.** TBA

*12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.*

- **No More Alarm Clocks! Short Film Development and Structure.** FADE IN: RICHARD, 16, opens his eyes and turns off the alarm clock. No, no, NO! Are you tired of the cliché student stories? Drowning drug deals, bullies, nerd makeovers, and NINJAS? Let's talk about what makes a good story and how to structure it into a short film, and what we do when "We just can't think of anything good." Vanessa Mokry, Austin ISD Liberal Arts and Science Academy.

Revised 9/11/23