



Westchester Academy for International Studies  
Theatre Department  
901 Yorkchester  
Houston, Texas 77079

To Whom It May Concern,

Since its creation a mere five years ago, the Theatre Department at Westchester Academy has grown into an accomplished program that has enriched the lives of our students and given the community exciting musicals and moving dramas. From their performances in our annual musical, Westchester theatre students have garnered numerous Tommy Tune nominations in all disciplines of the production. In some cases, students' performances have helped in part in receiving state theatre scholarships.

Like most public schools, Westchester turns to the community in support of our productions to help underwrite the costs of these productions. Our fundraisers include student-run car washes, selling concessions at our performances, advertising in our programs, and t-shirt sales. The generosity of our community, parents and staff has allowed the theatre program here at Westchester to make improvements in our theatre and to help keep the arts onstage and off.

As the program has grown in its size and scale, we now have begun to turn to the corporate community to help continue to build the program and enrich the lives of our student actors and crew. We need your support to enhance our program specifically in the following areas: new lighting equipment, costumes, maintaining our ability to produce and perform well-known musicals and plays throughout the year, and especially to keep our theatre training strong here at Westchester by visiting artists and field trips to experience live theatre performances. Our students are very eager to continue their performances here at Westchester but we are looking for extra support so that we can take them to the next level of professionalism!

There are several ways to become involved. Your support can include donations, financial support and services, incentive items for teachers and students, discounts, gift certificates, fund-raising opportunities through share programs, and assistance with special projects. Your gift will help us promote our premier productions and provide a richer experience to students in an active, learning program. Your support will help produce our upcoming musical production next November, *Peter Pan*. Our musicals take a lot of hard work and effort to produce as well as a lot of money. On average, our shows can cost anywhere from \$8,000-\$15,000. For our production of *Peter Pan*, we are hoping to bring in a 'fly system' so that our performers can create the unbelievable effects of *flying!* However, we cannot do this unless we get more financial support. There are of course other costs that go into a musical at the high school level. There are costs needed for costumes, which our students and parents design, and also for sound and lighting. Any help is greatly appreciated and will be going towards a wonderful program. Thanks for your interest in giving to the Westchester Theatre!

*Sincerely,*  
**Caroline Forney Helander**  
**Westchester Theatre Director/Teacher**  
[www.waistheatre.com](http://www.waistheatre.com)

