



Middle School Theatre Arts
Mr. Booth – Room 105
Hours: 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Remind App: @ifaa-ta-ms
Schoolology Access Code: Z5968-QFDMZ

MAJOR CONCEPTS/CONTENT:

The drama course is designed to give students opportunity to experience drama as a significant and rewarding activity and to enable students to demonstrate knowledge of the historical background of drama. The content includes, but is not limited to, recognition of the different genres of drama (tragedy, comedy, farce, melodrama, musical) and the elements of playwriting; use of oral communication skills such as appropriate voice levels, gestures, posture, and language; understanding of the importance of drama as a reflection of society; and recognition of drama as a self-rewarding activity that involves the identification of the unique worth of the individual, the motivation behind human behavior; and the dynamics of interpersonal relationships.

MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

When dramatic performances are being prepared, rehearsed or produced, instructional activities ideally will be provided in a theatre, auditorium, or a room with a stage. When dramatic literature is being studied, instructional activities will be provided in a general classroom setting. Student activities and experiences will include, but will not be limited to, selecting and preparing material for a performance; rehearsing for a performance; performing for a class or public group; practicing character development, mime, solo, duet, and ensemble acting; participating in full-length plays; creating and applying makeup; building sets; stage managing and directing; managing props; selecting and creating costumes; voice-building and projection; and improving enunciation and pronunciation, control of body movement, and writing scripts for a production.

MAJOR EVALUATIVE TECHNIQUES:

Students will be evaluated for active class participation; through written examinations; for creativity, reliability, and dependability when performing assigned tasks/roles/responsibilities; and for participation.

ESSENTIAL OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of the drama course, students should be able to:

- Understand the basic concepts of drama.
- Apply basic drama concepts to the activities involved in theatrical productions.
- Participate in play cuttings and one-act play presentations while developing individual character interpretations.
- Participate in group meetings in which another person's comments or opinions are solicited.
- Clarify, illustrate, or expand on a response when asked to do so.
- Respond in a variety of ways to what is read, written, heard, or viewed.

COURSE GRADING/ASSESSMENT:

In each semester, there will be four categories in which students will be evaluated:

- Classroom behavior and participation.
- Individual and group scenes.
- In- and out-of-class activities.
- Quizzes and tests.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS/CONSEQUENCES:

Each day in class you will:

- Come to class prepared and on time.
- Maintain a "portfolio," a place to keep graded homework, scripts for scenes and other course materials and notes.
- Because of the unique nature of the work in this class, it is imperative that you maintain and demonstrate "sensible respect and courtesy" for the rights of anyone you interact with in the classroom (e.g. no put downs, don't talk when someone else is talking, raise your hand to ask or answer a question, etc.).
- Use positive language at all times.
- Exhibit the dignity, cooperation and responsibility necessary for any and all performance.

- Respect other students and their possessions.
- When evaluating other performers, offer constructive criticism.
- Be aware of deadlines for long-term assignments and prepare for unforeseen absences.
- Survive the entire period without electronic distractions and only use electronics when permitted to do so.
- Survive the entire period without gum, food or drink.
- Treat all equipment and props with respect.
- Theatre and what we'll study in class is a *discipline* that requires hard work; but it is also fun, so enjoy it!

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL:

All production scripts will be supplied to students. If scripts are lost, students will be responsible for replacing them.

SUPPLIES (REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED):

Students may be asked to supply costumes and props for some in-class and out-of-class productions. Students also are required to keep a notebook or binder for class as they will have lecture notes on a variety of topics related to their study of drama.

ATTENDANCE:

- Your period attendance is mandatory and absences must be cleared at the office.
- Unexcused tardies and absences will be dealt with according to school disciplinary policy.
- Because some work is impossible to make up, alternative assignments may be given.
- It is YOUR responsibility to check with me about homework or assignments you may have missed while absent. As long as an absence is excused, you will be allowed to make up the work you missed.

HOMEWORK:

- Homework will not be accepted late. Special circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Homework will be considered late if it is not presented at the beginning of class when I request it.
- All long-term projects and/or performances will be completed on time. For every day that an assignment is late, you lose a letter grade.

MAKE-UP WORK POLICY:

Students must get assignments before they leave school for any pre-arranged absences. It is the student's responsibility to collect all missing work after being absent from class. There will be a time period given to complete work based on the type of assignment.

PLAGIARISM:

Students are responsible for understanding plagiarism. Merriam Webster defines the term "plagiarize" as "to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own: use (another's production) without crediting the source... to commit literary theft." We will discuss this concept at length in class. I fully expect my students to do their own work

GRADING POLICY:

This class is based on a point system and follows a standard percent grade scale:

90-100%=A 80-89%=B 70-79%=C 60-69%=D 0-59%=F

Grading categories and weights are as follows

- Classwork (10%) – daily grades, in class and homework
- Projects (40%) – plays, musicals, other out-of-class performances
- Quizzes (15%) – tests (plays read, etc.), other than performance-based work
- Assessments (25%) – performance assignments (monologues, duet scenes, improve, etc.)
- Finals (10%)

TEACHER ACTIONS:

If you fail to follow classroom rules/expectations, the following will result:

- I will talk with you in private.
- Parent contact by phone.
- Parent/teacher/student conference.
- Referral to administration for disciplinary consequences.