

Theatre Arts Syllabus



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Course Description: This course is designed for the student interested in dramatic activities with an emphasis on performance. Areas covered in depth include: vocabulary, roles in the theatre, pantomime, movement, acting (scene work and one act plays), theatre evaluation, and theatre history (from ancient Greek to the present), the reading of plays, theatre design and tech, and attendance at live theatre performances (if applicable). Students will be involved every day in some performance-based activity. There is an emphasis on memorization, working as a team, and classroom attendance. Students will be creating projects throughout the term in groups/ teams just as they would encounter in the professional theatre world.

VIDEO/PHOTOGRAPHY: In this course, we often video record student class workshops and performances. Please complete the 'Media Release Form' to approve or disapprove the sharing of your student's Theatre Arts performance recordings with the district, school and community. **Recordings are strictly for education.**

Major Assignments and Projects:

The following assignments are required for the course:

Performances for varying audiences
Vocal Recitations
Duo Scenes and Monologues
Theatre History Presentations
Playwriting Scripts

Audience Etiquette and Rehearsal Focus
Play Reviews and Analysis
Technical Theatre Projects (if applicable)
Class One Act Production (if applicable)
Film

Field Trips: TBA (if applicable, all students will be required to complete a permission slip)

Assignments: Students will be expected to complete physical assignments in class and virtual assignments on Teams. The work will be assigned in class, on Microsoft Teams and on my CVPA teacher information page.

Thespian Troupe 5631: In addition to the class work, students have the opportunity to be inducted into the International High School Thespian Society by contributing their talents to community performances. Induction is based on a point system and the student's efforts to contribute their time and talents to theatrical performance associated with the Theatre department within their current school.

Play Performances: The best way to learn about theatre is to experience it. Students are expected to attend each theatrical production (if applicable) over the course of each semester and write a review of the show. Students that cannot attend, due to a justified personal or family reason, must discuss with the teacher prior to performance dates and will be given an alternate task.

Environment and Safety: To have a truly meaningful experience in this course, it is important that we observe two types of safety rules: physical and emotional. Our basic physical safety rule is no unplanned bodily contact. Without this rule, someone may come to physical harm. Just as important are emotional hurts. You and your peers put yourselves on the line when you present for each other. You openly share yourself with us and then allow others to comment on your expression. To preserve the integrity of and maintain positive feelings about your work, the following rules apply to all comments about presentations:

- o Respect the effort of each member of the class
- o Appreciate the choices made by each person
- o Be constructive in any criticism
- o Include positive responses as part of any full critique

It is essential that we care for each other well and work together for the common goal of a meaningful production.

Performance Materials: In order to establish the best environment possible it is important that all students feel comfortable being a part of the audience. **Many award winning theatrical plays, scenes and monologues have objectionable words, subject matter and situations.** Please don't bring material that is inappropriate for a classroom situation into the classroom. If you personally find something that is being presented objectionable in any way feel free to step outside the classroom, you may cut the material from your selection or talk to me personally so that a suitable solution can be found. It is important that we work together to create the most creative environment possible, in which all feel comfortable and learn. Creating this classroom environment is an important task for all of us!

Rules and Regulations of the Central VPA Theatre:

We are fortunate to have a nice performing arts facility and it takes cooperation from all of us to maintain it. Upon entering this theatre you hereby agree to abide to and enforce the following rules:

- **No food, drinks, or gum in the space at any time**
- **No feet on the seats, seat arms or backs**
- **Do not climb over the back of the seats**
- **Persons may be backstage or onstage with permission only**
- **Students may only be in the space with supervision**
- **Cell phones usage during class or rehearsals, is based on teacher directives and on a case-by-case basis**

Consequences for not following these rules:

1. Warning
2. Parent/Guardian Contact
3. REFERRAL TO ADMINISTRATION

THE SHOW MUST GO ON! It is essential that all students are here and on time ready to rehearse. When a player is missing, it becomes very difficult for the remainder of the cast to develop the play. Illness and appointments aren't always avoidable, so please do your best to stay healthy.

Grading and Evaluation:

Student progress will be evaluated using a standards-based assessment system which includes homework, projects and tests.

Daily Skills Practice

10 points can be earned per day for applying foundational skills practice during class sessions. Students who are absent are not evaluated for the day and are exempt from missing or gaining points on that day. Students who are present at school, but missing from class without administrative permission, will be given a '0' for skills practice on that day. Please see the grading scale below:

Enthusiasm/Effort - Student approach to class activities demonstrate a willingness to participate	+ 2 Points
Focused Rehearsal - Student maintains participation in teacher led, group led and individual practice while avoiding distractions that are not theatre class related	+ 2 Points
Attempted Lesson Aim - Student demonstrates an attempt to apply the class period's learning objective/aim throughout practice	+ 2 Points
Electronics in Check - Student uses technology in class for Theatre class related needs only as the teacher allows. Personal calls, texts and social media are not permitted during practice.	+ 2 Points
Actor Responsibilities - Student is prepared for daily practice. All actor tools are brought to class and not missing. (i.e. script, costume, pencil... etc)	+ 2 Points
Total Daily Points Possible	10 Points

T.A.S.C. (Theatre Arts Skills Chart):

We will be using a new tool called the **T.A.S.C. (Theatre Arts Skills Chart)** to track and measure how well students are meeting the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (MO DESE) Grade-Level Expectations (GLEs) for our course. This is for coaching and does not replace grades. By using this chart, we aim to:

- **Track Progress:** Regularly monitor how students are meeting specific learning objectives.
- **Identify Strengths and Areas for Improvement:** Understand where students excel and where additional support is needed.
- **Set Goals and Improve:** Use feedback to set personal goals and enhance skills over time.

Weekly Evaluation Process

Every week, students will complete the T.A.S.C. evaluation form. Here's how it will work:

1. **Weekly Completion:** Before each coaching session on Fridays, students will fill out the T.A.S.C. form. This involves reflecting on progress, assessing performance, and noting any challenges.
2. **Areas of Focus:** The form will cover various theatre arts skills, including performance techniques, creative processes, collaboration, and self-assessment. Each section will align with the MO DESE GLEs to ensure we are meeting state standards.
3. **Reflection and Feedback:** We will review the form together during our coaching sessions. This is an opportunity to receive personalized feedback, discuss progress, and adjust goals as needed.

Responsibility and Deadlines

- **Responsibility:** It is the student's responsibility to complete the T.A.S.C. form each week before our Friday coaching session. This will help ensure that the evaluation is up-to-date and reflective of current skills and progress.
- **Deadlines:** Please ensure that you submit your completed T.A.S.C. form by Thursday evening each week. This will give us time to review your responses and

Performance and Reflection Requirements

As part of your Theatre Arts course, each student is required to participate in at least one theatre performance and complete a written reflection paragraph. This is an important part of your learning experience and helps to assess your practical skills and critical thinking in theatre arts.

Performance Requirement:

- **Participation:** You must participate in at least one theatre performance during the semester. This could be a class production, a scene presentation, or any other theatre-related event organized as part of the course.

Reflection Paragraph Requirement:

- **Written Reflection:** After your performance, you are required to write a reflection mini essay. This should be two well-organized, typed paragraphs that include the following:
 - **Proper Grammar:** Ensure your writing is free of grammatical errors.
 - **Length:** Each paragraph should be *at least* 5 sentences long.
 - **Content:**
 - Paragraph 1 – Reflect on your performance experience, including what you learned, how you felt, and any challenges you faced.
 - Paragraph 2 – Reflect on the performance you attended as a member of the audience. What went well and why? What needed improvement and how?

Submission Details:

- **Due Date:** Both your performance and the written reflection are due on the day of final exams.
- **Format:** The reflection paragraph should be typed, with clear and correct grammar. Ensure that it is formatted neatly and ready for submission by the final exam day.

Students and parents/guardian, please sign and return the half page below to me. I am looking forward to having a great year together!

By signing this document, I acknowledge that I have read the whole Theatre Arts syllabus, I understand the content, and I know how to contact Mrs. Ogundipe if I have any questions or concerns.

Student name: _____ Date: _____

Student signature: _____

Parent/Guardian name: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____

(Sign and return this form to the teacher by August 30, 2024)