

MILL SPRINGS ACADEMY LEARNER PROFILE

Mill Springs Academy is a values-based educational community dedicated to the academic, physical and social growth of those students who have not realized their full potential in traditional classroom settings.

"If a student can't learn the way we teach, we should teach the way a student can learn." Tweetie Moore, Founder

- **Courteous**

We value relationships that are based on attentive communication. We expect all members of the community to practice open, honest communication and to do so in a mannerly and supportive way.

- **Considerate**

We value relationships that are based on showing others respect and dignity. We want all students, teachers and parents to be aware of and considerate of one another's differences. Through words, actions and expectations, the community acknowledges and accepts all members.

- **Cooperative**

We value a community that is collaborative and responsive to the needs of its members and of the larger world. The collective group of students, teachers and parents respond/react to individuals and groups with a shared interest in determining the best course of action to meet academic, social, emotional, and/or physical needs.

FINE ARTS - PERFORMING

MIDDLE (GRADES 5 – 6)

Band (yearlong elective)

Band students will choose one of the following instruments with the Band Director's help: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, percussion, or piano. Those who wish to play the French horn must first start on trumpet, and those wanting to play Tuba or Baritone will begin on trombone. Acceptance into the string section (Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass, or Guitar) is by audition only. They will learn proper posture, breathing technique, playing techniques, and instrument care for their respective instrument. They will also review and/or learn how to read music notation. The musicians will be able to demonstrate contribution in a positive manner to the group effort of making music including attending class regularly with music and equipment, completing homework assignments, actively participating in class and all performances. Students will be able to respond to conducting patterns, cues, and interpretive gestures, and will be able to demonstrate the ability to physically tune their instrument aurally with a sounding pitch. They will also be able to demonstrate appropriate concert etiquette as an actively involved performer.

Exploring Music and Theatre (semester elective)

This class focuses on learning the basics of theatre and building acting skills and basic vocal musicianship skills. All students will learn theatre AND music; however, they may choose to focus on one or the other or both in their projects in class. Students use hands-on experience and also theatre textbooks, music literature, and discussion to learn all the basics of theatre and music. Course content is based on the idea that a love for and a knowledge of the theatre and music (whether as an active participant, a reader of good plays, or simply as a member of an audience) is a significant means of enriching an individual's life. The course also introduces students to the principles and techniques of creating believable characters through action, improvisation, analysis, movement, vocal control, basic music theory, proper vocal technique, audition workshop, scene study and interpretation. All students will perform monologues and/or short scenes and/or solo or small group songs throughout the semester and at the end of the year Arts Showcase. They may also sing with the 7th-12th grade MSA Chorus.

Introduction to Theatre (semester elective)

This is an introductory course designed to both increase students' understanding and appreciation of theatre and to introduce the students to acting for the stage. Course content is based on the idea that a love for and a knowledge of the theatre (whether as an active participant, a reader of good plays, or simply as a member of theatre audience) is a significant means of enriching an individual's life. Intended to enhance the students' ability to become an appreciative and discerning theater audience member, we discuss script analysis, types of theatre, terminology, basic history and cultural topics, and management. The course also introduces students to the principles and techniques of creating believable characters through action, improvisation, analysis, movement, vocal control, audition workshop, scene study and interpretation.

Junior Theatre Festival (semester elective)

Prerequisite: Audition, additional fee

In this class, students will be preparing 15 minutes of a current musical to perform for the Junior Theatre Festival in January! Students will learn dancing, acting, and singing skills and how to work as a team. An audition is required but all students that complete the audition will be assigned a part. The festival will be held annually in January and is required as part of this class.

About the Festival: The Junior Theatre Festival is the largest festival dedicated to young people and musical theatre and brings students, teachers, and Broadway professionals together to celebrate musical theatre in an educational environment. Over 5,000 students from around the world get together for this festival. Included in the weekend are adjudications of the performance by Broadway experts, workshops in musical theatre and technical theatre, a viewing of the newest musicals, a Radio Disney Dance party, and at the end of the festival all students see a show together. There will also be special guests... past years have included Broadway composer Stephen Schwartz, performers from the movie "Into the Woods" and the sitcom "Glee," American Idol's Michael Orland, High School Musical star Zac Efron, Christy Carlson Romano, Broadway stars, and President of Disney Theatrical Group, Thomas Schumacher.



Music Leadership (semester elective)

Prerequisite: Recommendation of teacher

Students in Music Leadership are accepted upon approval. They will assist with younger students in Lower School in a production and may also act as a narrator or other special performer to help in a younger group's projects. Music leaders are expected to be able to help lead class by leading vocal warm-ups, helping students learn vocal parts, demonstrating proper vocal technique, and also modeling appropriate behavior for students. Those who are chosen to be music leaders will learn valuable skills in teacher education. Leaders are also required to work on independent projects with the instructor to further their musical and/or teaching knowledge. These may include piano study, vocal lessons, and vocal solo and/or choral competition preparation.

Stagecraft I (semester elective) - \$40.00 supply fee

In Stagecraft I students in grades 5-8 will learn about the how and why of theater, from stage directions to theater history and costuming to set construction. Students paint, hammer and build several projects that will be featured on the Stallings Theatre stage. All students in this class will use hand tools and learn about shop safety. Students are required to provide work clothes so as not to ruin uniforms. Students must be prepared to work hard and have fun. This class is a prerequisite of Stagecraft II.

Stagecraft II (semester elective)

Prerequisite: Stagecraft I or student may interview with the teacher and demonstrate tool skill in order to advance without the prerequisite; \$40.00 supply fee

In Stagecraft II students in grades 5-8 will be introduced to projection and crew leadership positions. Students build and paint several projects that will be featured on the Stallings Theatre stage. All students will use hand tools and limited power tools and learn about shop safety. Students will be required to hold tech crew positions at MSA events. Students are required to provide work clothes so as not to ruin uniforms. Students must be prepared to work hard and have fun. This class is a prerequisite of Stagecraft III.

Stagecraft III (semester elective)

Prerequisite: Stagecraft I or student may interview with the teacher and demonstrate tool skill in order to advance without the prerequisite; \$40.00 supply fee

In Stagecraft III students in grades 5-8 will be introduced to projection and crew leadership positions. Students build and paint several projects that will be featured on the Stallings Theatre stage. All students will use hand tools and limited power tools and learn about shop safety. Students will be required to hold tech crew positions at MSA events. Students are required to provide work clothes so as not to ruin uniforms. Students must be prepared to work hard and have fun. This class is a prerequisite of Technical Theater I.

PREUPPER SCHOOL/COMMUNICATION ARTS (GRADES 7 - 8)

Note: Students are required to take one semester of either a Visual or Performing Arts elective during their two years (7th and 8th grades) in PreUpper School/Communication Arts Divisions

Acting Styles (semester elective)

Acting Styles focuses on the dramatic and performance styles of several different periods in history, and is intended to be an advanced level acting course. Students will be introduced to the culture of each period and the theatrical practices of the day. Each student will perform, individually and in groups, scene work drawn from each style. Periods covered will include Ancient Greece, Italian Comedia dell'Arte, French Neoclassicism, Elizabethan England (Shakespeare), and Contemporary. Some basic historical research and analytical writing will be required. At the end of the course, in addition to the historical background of each time period and the tools to perform each style properly, students will be equipped with at least two contrasting monologues suitable for auditions.

Advanced Acting/Singing (semester elective)

Requirements: Teacher approval required, Performance

In this course, students will perform in groups and as featured performers. This course requires students to prepare for and perform at the GISA Literary Festival in February/March and other special events. They will learn advanced

acting/characterization techniques and advanced music study. Students will be chosen to either perform as vocal soloists/trio performance/quartet performers OR to perform acting pieces OR to play piano as their concentration for this class and to compete in Literary Festival. All students in this class will also be part of the MSA Chorus.

Band (yearlong elective)

Band students will choose one of the following instruments with the Band Director's help: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, horn, trombone, tuba, percussion, or piano. Acceptance into the string section (Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass, Guitar, or Bass Guitar) is by audition only. They will learn proper posture, breathing technique, playing techniques, and instrument care for their respective instrument. They will also review and/or learn how to read music notation. No prior experience is required. The musicians will be able to demonstrate contribution in a positive manner to the group effort of making music including attending class regularly with music and equipment, completing homework assignments, actively participating in class and all performances. Students will be able to respond to conducting patterns, cues, and interpretive gestures, and will be able to demonstrate the ability to physically tune their instrument aurally with a sounding pitch. They will also be able to demonstrate appropriate concert etiquette as an actively involved performer.

Directed Theatre Studies (semester elective)

This project driven course will allow students to choose the areas of Theatre that are interesting to them, and learn about them more in depth than they might be able to normally. Students will choose a short list of topics at the start of the semester and will research and learn, culminating in a presentation to the class for each topic. Students can choose from almost any area of theatre: acting, writing, directing, sketch comedy, theatre history, stage combat, interpretive dance, and just about anything they can think of! It could be something broad, or very specific. The possibilities are endless! The course will be very student driven. Under the supervision of the instructor, students will take on leadership roles and make major decisions about how their coursework takes shape.

Improvisation (semester elective)

This course is designed to provide students the opportunity to learn improvisational (unscripted) theatre techniques. Based on philosophies and methodologies developed by Viola Spolin, students will learn that improvisation involves listening, reacting, and focus. Students will learn the history of improvisation in theatre from storytelling in indigenous theatre; improvisational stock characters in medieval pageant plays, commedia dell'Arte and melodrama; satirical improvisation; and contemporary improvisational companies such as the San Francisco Mime Troupe, Teatro Campesino and Second City. Improvisational acting projects will provide positive group experiences in collaborative assignments, developing self-discipline, evaluating the performances of others, and accepting constructive criticism. The class will include journaling, visualization, class exercises, and the possibility of a performance later in the semester.

Introduction to Theatre (semester elective)

This is an introductory course designed to both increase students' understanding and appreciation of theatre and to introduce the students to acting for the stage. Course content is based on the idea that a love for and a knowledge of the theatre (whether as an active participant, a reader of good plays, or simply as a member of theatre audience) is a significant means of enriching an individual's life. Intended to enhance the students' ability to become an appreciative and discerning theater audience member, we discuss script analysis, types of theatre, terminology, basic history and cultural topics, and management. The course also introduces students to the principles and techniques of creating believable characters through action, improvisation, analysis, movement, vocal control, audition workshop, scene study and interpretation.

Junior Theatre Festival (semester elective); additional fee

In The Junior Theatre Festival Class (JTF), students will work with middle school students in a mentoring environment to put together selections from a major musical to perform at the Junior Theatre Festival in January. This is a performance class. JTF is the largest musical theatre festival in the world and is put on by Disney, MTI, and itheatrics. It is a chance for students to learn from Broadway adjudicators and participate in a weekend full of activities with thousands of other musical theatre students from across the country. As students prepare for this weekend, they will spend a semester building their music, dance, acting, and mentoring skills.

About the Festival: The Junior Theatre Festival is the largest festival dedicated to young people and musical theatre and brings students, teachers, and Broadway professionals together to celebrate musical theatre in an educational environment. Over 5,000 students from around the world get together for this festival. Included in the weekend are adjudications of the performance by Broadway experts, workshops in musical theatre and technical theatre, a viewing of the newest musicals, a Radio Disney Dance party, and at the end of the festival all students see a show together. There will also be special guests... past years have included Broadway composer Stephen Schwartz, performers from the movie "Into the Woods" and the sitcom

“Glee,” American Idol’s Michael Orland, High School Musical star Zac Efron, Christy Carlson Romano, Broadway stars, and President of Disney Theatrical Group, Thomas Schumacher.

Movement and Speaking for the Stage (semester elective)

This course is designed to introduce techniques for effective use of the speaking voice and the body on the stage. Classes in breathing, release of tension, voice placement and elimination of regionalism are designed to free the natural sound and develop awareness of the voice as a creative, expressive instrument. Through in-class projects, this class explores the tenets of public speaking as well as the assessment of literary aesthetics and performative form. The movement training is designed to produce flexible, strong, well-coordinated bodies which will respond easily and readily to the creative demands of acting. Specific topics include theatre movement, period/style, mask, mime, physical comedy, basic stage combat, light gymnastics, and modern dance.

Music Leadership (semester elective)

Prerequisite: Recommendation of teacher

Students in Music Leadership are accepted upon approval. They will assist with younger students (Lower or Middle) in a production and may also act as a narrator or other special performer to help in younger group’s projects. Music leaders are expected to be able to help lead class by leading vocal warm-ups, helping students learn vocal parts, demonstrating proper vocal technique, and also modeling appropriate behavior for students. Those who are chosen to be music leaders will learn valuable skills in teacher education. Leaders are also required to work on independent projects with the instructor to further their musical and/or teaching knowledge. These may include piano study, vocal lessons, college audition preparation, and vocal solo and/or choral competition preparation.

Music Theory (semester elective)

Students in Music Theory will be introduced to the principles of harmony in music beginning with the construction of major and minor scales, the circle of fifths, interval training, triad construction, basic chord recognition, musical notation, rhythmic counting, and basic four-part writing. They will compare, contrast, and critique music played in class and will give thoughts and impressions. By the end of the course, participants will be able to read basic music notation and will be able to discern intervals, scales, and modes by ear. They will develop an awareness of pitch, beat, dynamics, simple rhythmic patterns, and expressive qualities. They will be able to read and write simple rhythmic notation using traditional or non-traditional symbols, and will be able to improvise simple rhythmic accompaniments on pitched and unpitched instruments to accompany songs and play activities. Students will be able to describe and respond to musical examples through identification of simple aspects of music, and will be able to identify and compare various historical and cultural aspects of music. They will also be able to understand the relationship between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.

Pep Band/Chamber Music (semester elective)

Students in Pep Band will learn to play in a smaller ensemble than a traditional full band setting. They will be taught several shorter pieces of music and learn how to integrate them into an athletic setting. This is designed to sharpen students’ response time and encourage a large retention rate of musical mechanisms including rhythms, melodies, and harmonies, as well as improving their technical mastery of their particular instrument. Over the course of the semester they will also learn a more cohesive medley of songs to perform as short halftime shows during home basketball games. During the course, students will be performing at all home varsity basketball games. Students will be taught time management skills and will be expected to commit to the full season of performances, which extends into the spring semester. Upon the close of the basketball season, students will turn to playing small ensemble music which blends the team-like atmosphere of Pep Band with the more classical training of Symphonic Band. In Chamber Music, students will expand upon the small ensemble knowledge they learned in Pep Band. Students will be taught a more soloist form of playing that will foster leadership skills in a performance and classroom setting alike. By the end of the course, students will be able to recognize more complex rhythms, dynamics, and theoretical aspects of music such as melody, harmony, and chord structure. They will be able to compare and contrast their instrument’s role in various musical settings and learn the proper hierarchy of musical concepts like melody and countermelody.

Performing Arts/Chorus (semester elective)

Students in Performing Arts/Chorus perform in the chorus as well as choose individual projects in the field of music to develop throughout the semester. Projects are based on music history, music business, or music performance and may be completed in a variety of ways (through reports, performances, or other) and may focus on any style of music, including contemporary. As part of the chorus, students will learn to demonstrate correct singing posture, breathing technique, and vocal production, and will also learn the basics of reading music and acting skills. Teamwork activities and learning to self-monitor vocal health are also emphasized in this course. Leadership skills are also nurtured by giving students chances to

learn to lead portions of class and help choose selections through careful study. Public performances are scheduled throughout the year and students are required to participate. Students are encouraged to enroll in chorus for all semesters it is offered, 7th-12th grade, as musical skills will build on themselves and teamwork will be best achieved with a consistent group of performers.



Play Adaptation (semester elective)

Definition of Adaptation: a change or the process of change by which an organism or species becomes better suited to its environment. In this class we will explore why we would adapt a literary work into a play. We will discover how to create relevant living theater by taking the old and making it new. We will watch some examples of good adaptation such as Sherlock, Forbidden Planet and Westside Story. We will work as a team to write our own adaptation of a literary work chosen by the students. This 20-minute play will have a staged reading for an audience. You don't have to be a writer you just have to have good ideas and a willingness to collaborate.

Playing Shakespeare (semester elective)

William Shakespeare was one of the most influential writers in the English language. But who was he? Why was he so important? And what's up with all those "thee's and "thou's"? We shall endeavor to answer these questions and more as we explore the life and times of Shakespeare. We will learn about Elizabethan England, and how his words were shaped by those around him. We will explore the mystery of whether or not Shakespeare was a real person. And most importantly, we will figure out what exactly he was trying to say. We will be reading and performing the Bard's words almost daily and writing our own "Shakespearean" poems and scenes. We will look at how stage combat was an integral part of Shakespeare's plays, and create some of our own. Each student will direct their own Shakespearean scene in class! By the end of the class, students will be able to read, understand, and perform Shakespeare on their own!

Playwriting and Songwriting (semester elective)

Students in this class will learn about theatre and the music industry from a whole new perspective, by choosing a track- either playwriting or songwriting- and collaborating with classmates in opposite tracks to put together scenes with music for their final projects. The playwriting track go through 10 units: types of plays, different theater spaces, story structure, story development, playwriting format, stage directions, dialogue, lyrics, transitions, and submitting work. The songwriting track will go through 7 main units: the anatomy of a song, expression versus communication, semantic parameters, prosodic parameters, phonetic parameters, collaboration, and submitting work.

Stagecraft I (semester elective); \$40.00 supply fee

In Stagecraft I students in grades 5-8 will learn about the how and why of theater, from stage directions to theater history and costuming to set construction. Students paint, hammer and build several projects that will be featured on the Stallings Theatre stage. All students in this class will use hand tools and learn about shop safety. Students are required to provide work clothes so as not to ruin uniforms. Students must be prepared to work hard and have fun. This class is a prerequisite of Stagecraft II.

Stagecraft II (semester elective)

Prerequisite: Stagecraft I or student may interview with the teacher and demonstrate tool skill in order to advance without the prerequisite; \$40.00 supply fee

In Stagecraft II students in grades 5-8 will be introduced to projection and crew leadership positions. Students build and paint several projects that will be featured on the Stallings Theatre stage. All students will use hand tools and limited power tools and learn about shop safety. Students will be required to hold tech crew positions at MSA events. Students are required to provide work clothes so as not to ruin uniforms. Students must be prepared to work hard and have fun. This class is a prerequisite of Stagecraft III.

Stagecraft III (semester elective)

Prerequisite: Stagecraft I or student may interview with the teacher and demonstrate tool skill in order to advance without the prerequisite; \$40.00 supply fee

In Stagecraft III students in grades 5-8 will be introduced to projection and crew leadership positions. Students build and paint several projects that will be featured on the Stallings Theatre stage. All students will use hand tools and limited power tools and learn about shop safety. Students will be required to hold tech crew positions at MSA events. Students are required to provide work clothes so as not to ruin uniforms. Students must be prepared to work hard and have fun. This class is a prerequisite of Technical Theater I.

Stage Makeup Design and Special Effects (semester elective)

This course provides hands-on learning of makeup design and application. Also, the techniques and application of performing stage illusion/magic will be part of the class. The students will construct magic apparatus and perform tricks. They will also learn the history of both disciplines. The semester will culminate with the direct application of student design of stage illusion and makeup for the spring musical production. **There is a fee associated with this course.**



Technical Theatre I (semester elective)

Prerequisite: Stagecraft III or student may interview with the teacher and demonstrate tool skills in order to advance without the prerequisite; \$40.00 supply fee

In Technical Theater I, students in grades 7-12 will work on construction, sound, and lighting projects for MSA events. These projects will be complex in nature and require students to lift heavy objects. Students will be required to take on tech crew positions for MSA productions that include, but are not limited to, sound board operator, light board operator, running crew, props master, etc. Students are required to provide work clothes so as not to ruin uniforms. Students must be prepared to work hard and have fun. This class is a prerequisite of Technical Theater II.

Technical Theatre II (semester elective)

Prerequisite: Technical Theatre I or student may interview with the teacher and demonstrate tool skills in order to advance without the prerequisite; \$40.00 supply fee

In Technical Theater II students in grades 7-12 will work on construction, sound and lighting projects for MSA events. These projects will be complex in nature and require students to lift heavy objects. Students in this class will be required to take on tech crew positions for MSA productions that include, but are not limited to, stage manager, assistant stage manager, assistant director, special effects charge, etc. Students are required to provide work clothes so as not to ruin uniforms. Students must be prepared to work hard and have fun.

Theatre Design I (semester elective); \$40.00 supply fee

This class is an introduction to theatrical design. The approach is very hands-on, so being artistic and thinking “outside the box” is a must! Students will learn about lighting design, scenic design, sound design, costume design and will do a large project for each design unit. All projects will be PHYSICAL projects such as collages, sculptures, items for stage, drawings, etc. The sound unit will involve basic acting and movement. Students will be required to provide basic materials and will begin building their own design kits. There is a fee associated with this class.

Theatre Ensemble Performance Project (semester elective)

This course provides experienced juniors and seniors the opportunity to sharpen the skills they have already developed in the Theatre. As a class, students will develop a "thesis" project which will hone their wide range of acting, technical, and production talents. Throughout the semester, students will create a live theatrical event, with students involved at every level and in every role. Students will be pushed to think creatively about how and where theatre can be performed, while filling, expanding and showcasing the roles of lead actors, designers, and even director.

Theatre, Film, and Culture (semester elective)

This course analyzes the essential differences between theatrical and cinematic approaches to drama, and the cultural impact each approach can have. Through selected play/film combinations, the course looks at how the director uses actors and the visual languages of the stage and screen to guide and stimulate the audience's responses. Students will also explore the principles of theatre and film appreciation and analysis through readings, directed class discussions, and viewing of films and film excerpts. Plays and films discussed will all have a cultural and social component that will be a point of intense focus. Students will have the opportunity to explore these facets of society in depth as the class progresses.

Theatre Production (semester elective)

Prerequisite: Audition

This course produces a full- scale musical during the spring semester. Students must audition and be cast in the musical and will work closely with a director, musical director and choreographer to learn the music, dances and to develop their characters. **After school rehearsals are required.** Students gain a well- rounded theatrical stage experience.

COMMUNICATION ARTS/UPPER (GRADES 9 – 12)

Acting Styles (semester elective) - 0.5 CU

Acting Styles focuses on the dramatic and performance styles of several different periods in history, and is intended to be an advanced level acting course. Students will be introduced to the culture of each period and the theatrical practices of the day. Each student will perform, individually and in groups, scene work drawn from each style. Periods covered will include Ancient Greece, Italian Comedia dell'Arte, French Neoclassicism, Elizabethan England (Shakespeare), and Contemporary. Some basic historical research and analytical writing will be required. At the end of the course, in addition to the historical background of each time period and the tools to perform each style properly, students will be equipped with at least two contrasting monologues suitable for auditions.

Advanced Acting/Singing (semester elective) – 0.5 CU

Requirements: Teacher approval required, Performance

In this course, students will perform in groups and as featured performers. This course requires students to prepare for and perform at the GISA Literary Festival in February/March and other special events. They will learn advanced acting/characterization techniques and advanced music study. Students will be chosen to either perform as vocal soloists/trio performance/quartet performers OR to perform acting pieces OR to play piano as their concentration for this class and to compete in Literary Festival. All students in this class will also be part of the MSA Chorus.

Band (yearlong elective) – 1.0 CU

Band students will choose one of the following instruments with the Band Director's help: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, horn, trombone, tuba, percussion, or piano. Acceptance into the string section (Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass, Guitar, or Bass Guitar) is by audition only. They will learn proper posture, breathing technique, playing techniques, and instrument care for their respective instrument. They will also review and/or learn how to read music notation. No prior experience is required. The musicians will be able to demonstrate contribution in a positive manner to the group effort of making music including attending class regularly with music and equipment, completing homework assignments, actively participating in class and all performances. Students will be able to respond to conducting patterns, cues, and interpretive gestures, and will be able to demonstrate the ability to physically tune their instrument aurally with a sounding pitch. They will also be able to demonstrate appropriate concert etiquette as an actively involved performer.

Directed Theatre Studies (semester elective) – 0.5 CU

This project driven course will allow students to choose the areas of Theatre that are interesting to them, and learn about them more in depth than they might be able to normally. Students will choose a short list of topics at the start of the semester and will research and learn, culminating in a presentation to the class for each topic. Students can choose from almost any area of theatre: acting, writing, directing, sketch comedy, theatre history, stage combat, interpretive dance, and just about anything they can think of! It could be something broad, or very specific. The possibilities are endless! The course will be very student driven. Under the supervision of the instructor, students will take on leadership roles and make major decisions about how their coursework takes shape.

Improvisation (semester elective) – 0.5 CU

This course is designed to provide students the opportunity to learn improvisational (unscripted) theatre techniques. Based on philosophies and methodologies developed by Viola Spolin, students will learn that improvisation involves listening, reacting, and focus. Students will learn the history of improvisation in theatre from storytelling in indigenous theatre; improvisational stock characters in medieval pageant plays, commedia dell'Arte and melodrama; satirical improvisation; and contemporary improvisational companies such as the San Francisco Mime Troupe, Teatro Campesino and Second City. Improvisational acting projects will provide positive group experiences in collaborative assignments, developing self-discipline, evaluating the performances of others, and accepting constructive criticism. The class will include journaling, visualization, class exercises, and the possibility of a performance later in the semester.

Introduction to Theatre (semester elective) – 0.5 CU

This is an introductory course designed to both increase students' understanding and appreciation of theatre, and to introduce the students to acting for the stage. Course content is based on the idea that a love for and a knowledge of the theatre--whether as an active participant, a reader of good plays, or simply as a member of a theatre audience--is a significant means of enriching an individual's life. Intended for the student to enhance his/her ability to become an appreciative and discerning theater audience member, we discuss script analysis, types of theatre, terminology, basic history and cultural topics, and management. The course also introduces students to the principles and techniques of creating believable characters through action, improvisation, analysis, movement, vocal control, audition workshop, scene study and interpretation.

Junior Theatre Festival (semester elective) – 0.5 CU; additional fee

In The Junior Theatre Festival Class (JTF), students will work with Middle School students in a mentoring environment to put together selections from a major musical to perform at the Junior Theatre Festival in January. This is a performance class. JTF is the largest musical theatre festival in the world and is put on by Disney, MTI, and itheatrics. It is a chance for students to learn from Broadway adjudicators and participate in a weekend full of activities with thousands of other musical theatre students from across the country. As students prepare for this weekend, they will spend a semester building their music, dance, acting, and mentoring skills.

About the Festival: The Junior Theatre Festival is the largest festival dedicated to young people and musical theatre and brings students, teachers, and Broadway professionals together to celebrate musical theatre in an educational environment. Over 5,000 students from around the world get together for this festival! Included in the weekend are adjudications of the performance by Broadway experts, workshops in musical theatre and technical theatre, a viewing of the newest musicals, a Radio Disney Dance party, and at the end of the festival all students see a show together. There will also be special guests... past years have included Broadway composer Stephen Schwartz, performers from the movie "Into the Woods" and the sitcom "Glee," American Idol's Michael Orland, High School Musical star Zac Efron, Christy Carlson Romano, Broadway stars, and President of Disney Theatrical Group, Thomas Schumacher.



Movement and Speaking for the Stage (semester elective) – 0.5 CU

This course is designed to introduce techniques for effective use of the speaking voice and the body on the stage. Classes in breathing, release of tension, voice placement and elimination of regionalism are designed to free the natural sound and develop awareness of the voice as a creative, expressive instrument. Through in-class projects, this class explores the tenets of public speaking as well as the assessment of literary aesthetics and performative form. The movement training is designed to produce flexible, strong, well-coordinated bodies which will respond easily and readily to the creative demands of acting. Specific topics include theatre movement, period/style, mask, mime, physical comedy, basic stage combat, light gymnastics, and modern dance.

Music History (semester elective) - 0.5 CU

This course traces the history of Western Music from its first extant traces (liturgical chant) to the music of the 20th century. The course investigates many of the significant music-historical developments over this extensive period, focusing on key composers and repertoire. Along with the traditional history of genres and styles, students learn about the historical and cultural context of music and music making at various times and places. This course is not only to introduce students to the earlier history of their own artistic tradition, but also to expand their conceptions of the nature and purposes of music itself by exposing them to less familiar music and cultures.

Music Leadership (semester elective) – 0.5 CU

Prerequisite: Recommendation of teacher

Students in Music Leadership are accepted upon approval. They will assist with younger students (lower or middle) in a production and may also act as a narrator or other special performer in younger student's projects. Music leaders are expected to be able to help lead class by leading vocal warm-ups, helping students learn vocal parts, demonstrating proper vocal technique, and also modeling appropriate behavior for students. Those who are chosen to be music leaders will learn valuable skills in teacher education. Leaders are also required to work on independent projects with the instructor to further their musical and/or teaching knowledge. These may include piano study, vocal lessons, college audition preparation, and vocal solo and/or choral competition preparation.

Music Theory (semester elective) – 0.5 CU

Students in Music Theory will be introduced to the principles of harmony in music beginning with the construction of major and minor scales, the circle of fifths, interval training, triad construction, basic chord recognition, musical notation, rhythmic counting, and basic four-part writing. They will compare, contrast, and critique music played in class and will give thoughts and impressions. By the end of the course, participants will be able to read basic music notation and will be able to discern intervals, scales, and modes by ear. They will develop an awareness of pitch, beat, dynamics, simple rhythmic patterns, and expressive qualities. They will be able to read and write simple rhythmic notation using traditional or non-traditional symbols, and will be able to improvise simple rhythmic accompaniments on pitched and unpitched instruments to accompany songs and play activities. Students will be able to describe and respond to musical examples through identification of simple aspects of music, and will be able to identify and compare various historical and cultural aspects of music. They will also be able to understand the relationship between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.

Pep Band/Chamber Music (semester elective) – 0.5 CU

Students in Pep Band will learn to play in a smaller ensemble than a traditional full band setting. They will be taught several shorter pieces of music and learn how to integrate them into an athletic setting. This is designed to sharpen students' response time and encourage a large retention rate of musical mechanisms including rhythms, melodies, and harmonies, as well as improving their technical mastery of their particular instrument. Over the course of the semester they will also learn a more cohesive medley of songs to perform as short halftime shows during home basketball games. Students will be performing at all home varsity basketball games throughout the semester. Students will be taught time management skills and will be expected to commit to the full season of performances, which extends into the spring semester. Upon the close of the basketball season, students will turn to playing small ensemble music which blends the team-like atmosphere of Pep Band with the more classical training of Symphonic Band. In Chamber Music, students will expand upon the small ensemble knowledge they learned in Pep Band. Students will be taught a more soloist form of playing that will foster leadership skills in a performance and classroom setting alike. By the end of the course, students will be able to recognize more complex rhythms, dynamics, and theoretical aspects of music such as melody, harmony, and chord structure. They will be able to compare and contrast their instrument's role in various musical settings and learn the proper hierarchy of musical concepts like melody and countermelody.

Performing Arts/Chorus (semester elective) – 0.5 CU

Students in Performing Arts/Chorus perform in the chorus and as well as choose individual projects in the field of music to develop throughout the semester. Projects are based on music history, music business, or music performance and may be completed in a variety of ways (through reports, performances, or other) and may focus on any style of music, including contemporary. As part of the chorus, students will learn to demonstrate correct singing posture, breathing technique, and vocal production, and will also learn the basics of reading music and acting skills. Teamwork activities and learning to self-monitor vocal health are also emphasized in this course. Leadership skills are also nurtured by giving students chances to learn to lead portions of class and help choose selections through careful study. Public performances are scheduled throughout the year and students are required to participate. Students are encouraged to enroll in chorus for all semesters it is offered, 9th-12th grade, as musical skills will build on themselves and teamwork will be best achieved with a consistent group of performers.



Play Adaptation (semester elective) – 0.5 CU

Definition of Adaptation: a change or the process of change by which an organism or species becomes better suited to its environment. In this class we will explore why we would adapt a literary work into a play. We will discover how to create relevant living theater by taking the old and making it new. We will watch some examples of good adaptation such as Sherlock, Forbidden Planet and Westside Story. We will work as a team to write our own adaptation of a literary work chosen by the students. This 20-minute play will have a staged reading for an audience. You don't have to be a writer you just have to have good ideas and a willingness to collaborate.

Playing Shakespeare (semester elective) – 0.5 CU

William Shakespeare was one of the most influential writers in the English language. But who was he? Why was he so important? And what's up with all those "thee's and "thou's? We shall endeavor to answer these questions and more as we explore the life and times of Shakespeare. We will learn about Elizabethan England, and how his words were shaped by those around him. We will explore the mystery of whether or not Shakespeare was a real person. And most importantly, we will figure out what exactly he was trying to say. We will be reading and performing the Bard's words almost daily and writing our own "Shakespearean" poems and scenes. We will look at how stage combat was an integral part of Shakespeare's plays, and creating some of our own. Each student will direct their own Shakespearean scene in class! By the end of the class, students will be able to read, understand, and perform Shakespeare on their own!

Playwriting and Songwriting (semester elective) – 0.5 CU

Students in this class will learn about theatre and the music industry from a whole new perspective, by choosing a track- either playwriting or songwriting- and collaborating with classmates in opposite tracks to put together scenes with music for their final projects. The playwriting track go through 10 units: types of plays, different theater spaces, story structure, story development, playwriting format, stage directions, dialogue, lyrics, transitions, and submitting work. The songwriting track will go through 7 main units: the anatomy of a song, expression versus communication, semantic parameters, prosodic parameters, phonetic parameters, collaboration, and submitting work.

Stage Makeup Design and Special Effects (semester elective)

This course provides hands-on learning of makeup design and application. Also, the techniques and application of performing stage illusion/magic will be part of the class. The students will construct magic apparatus and perform tricks. They will also learn the history of both disciplines. The semester will culminate with the direct application of student design of stage illusion and makeup for the spring musical production. **There is a fee associated with this course.**

Symphonic Band- Intermediate and Advanced (yearlong elective) – 1.0 CU

Prerequisite: Audition and Director recommendation

Students in Symphonic Band will continue to progress on their chosen instrument using proper posture, breathing technique, playing techniques, and demonstrating the proper care for their instrument. They will continue to progress in their reading of music notation and will compare, contrast, and critique music performed in class and will give suggestions for improvement. Students will also be responsible for some performance obligations with the band at Mill Springs, and may be required to perform in other venues. Performers will be able to demonstrate contribution in a positive manner to the group effort of making music including attending class regularly with music and equipment, completing homework assignments, actively participating in class and all performances. They will be able to respond to conducting patterns, cues, and interpretive gestures. The musicians will also be able to demonstrate appropriate concert etiquette as an actively involved performer. Participants will be able to demonstrate the ability to adjust intonation either individually or within the ensemble by compensating harmonic structure or melodic lines through embouchure or fingering manipulations with director or technological assistance and will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the instrument being studied by identifying and repairing minor instrument problems. They will be able to prepare and perform repertoire representing diverse world cultures, historical periods, and styles. Students will be able to demonstrate a clear understanding of musicality through the use of correct phrasing, shaping, and direction of musical line, dynamics, and expressive nuance throughout a performance. Students will be able to identify and define standard notations and non-traditional symbols for pitch, rhythm, dynamics, tempo, articulation, and expression. They will be able to describe similarities and differences in the meanings of common terms used in music, art, dance, and drama. Music terminology could include the following: color, movement, line, expression, rhythm, style, symmetry, form, interpretation, texture, harmony, patterns and sequence, repetition, history, and culture.

Technical Theatre I (semester elective) – 0.5 CU

Prerequisite: Stagecraft III or student may interview with the teacher and demonstrate tool skills in order to advance without the prerequisite; \$40.00 supply fee

In Technical Theater I, students in grades 9 -12 will work on construction, sound, and lighting projects for MSA events. These projects will be complex in nature and require students to lift heavy objects. Students will be required to take on tech crew positions for MSA productions that include, but are not limited to, sound board operator, light board operator, running crew, props master, etc. Students are required to provide work clothes so as not to ruin uniforms. Students must be prepared to work hard and have fun. This class is a prerequisite of Technical Theater II.

Technical Theatre II (semester elective) – 0.5 CU

Prerequisite: Technical Theatre I or student may interview with the teacher and demonstrate tool skills in order to advance without the prerequisite; \$40.00 supply fee

In Technical Theater II students in grades 9 -12 will work on construction, sound and lighting projects for MSA events. These projects will be complex in nature and require students to lift heavy objects. Students in this class will be required to take on tech crew positions for MSA productions that include, but are not limited to, stage manager, assistant stage manager, assistant director, special effects charge, etc. Students are required to provide work clothes so as not to ruin uniforms. Students must be prepared to work hard and have fun.



Theatre Ensemble Performance Project (semester elective) – 0.5CU

Prerequisites: Juniors and seniors who have already participated in at least two MSA theatre productions (One Act Play and/or spring musical); course requires teacher recommendation or permission

This course provides experienced juniors and seniors the opportunity to sharpen the skills they have already developed in the Theatre. As a class, students will develop a "thesis" project which will hone their wide range of acting, technical, and production talents. Throughout the semester, students will create a live theatrical event, with students involved at every level and in every role. Students will be pushed to think creatively about how and where theatre can be performed, while filling, expanding and showcasing the roles of lead actors, designers, and even director.

Theatre Design I (semester elective) – 0.5 CU; \$40.00 supply fee

This class is an introduction to theatrical design. The approach is very hands-on, so being artistic and thinking “outside the box” is a must! Students will learn about lighting design, scenic design, sound design, costume design and will do a large project for each design unit. All projects will be PHYSICAL projects such as collages, sculptures, items for stage, drawings, etc. The sound unit will involve basic acting and movement. Students will be required to provide basic materials and will begin building their own design kits. There is a fee associated with this class.

Theatre Design II (semester elective, Grades 9 - 12) – 0.5 CU

Prerequisite: Theatre Design I; \$40.00 supply fee

Students will be exploring many different aspects of scenic, lighting, costume and sound design in this class. Assignments and lessons will range from the theoretical to the practical. This is an ideal class for anyone with a creative eye and mind, theatre artist or not! We will play with and get acquainted with color, aspects of light, dimensions of sound, as well as creating costumes and designs. Students will also take at least one field trip to a professional show where they will be able to examine the aspects of design in a professional show.

Theatre, Film, and Culture (semester elective) – 0.5 CU

This course analyzes the essential differences between theatrical and cinematic approaches to drama, and the cultural impact each approach can have. Through selected play/film combinations, the course looks at how the director uses actors and the visual languages of the stage and screen to guide and stimulate the audience’s responses. Students will also explore the principles of theatre and film appreciation and analysis through readings, directed class discussions, and viewing of films and film excerpts. Plays and films discussed will all have a cultural and social component that will be a point of intense focus. Students will have the opportunity to explore these facets of society in depth as the class progresses.

Theatre Production (semester elective) - 0.5 CU

Prerequisite: Audition

This course produces a full- scale musical during the spring semester. Students must audition and be cast in the musical and will work closely with a director, musical director and choreographer to learn the music, dances and to develop their characters. After school rehearsals are required. Students gain a well- rounded theatrical stage experience.