

Selecting the Right GHS Theater Class

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Theater courses are fun. And they are an enjoyable way to learn many things. Theater courses improve your confidence and poise and your ability to speak and present in front of others.



Theater courses enhance your ability to work with language and to develop and express thoughtful understanding and interpretations. Theater courses ultimate focus on problem solving techniques and working collaboratively with others. And they provide a highly supportive and caring environment where each student feels comfortable exploring within their projects and trying new things. And they do all this and greatly enhance your education and understanding without adding much to your academic workload

General Observations:

The GHS Course of Study Guide has the following advice: Students wishing to audition successfully for plays are strongly encouraged to take one or more six block per cycle courses which strongly prepare students for the components and demands of auditions. We strongly recommend students with an interest in theater enroll in a theater class as it connects them to the program and students with similar interests.



Freshmen/Beginner Classes

All of our students start in beginner classes which have a range of student grade levels and experience levels. These classes help students transition into our upper level classes and give them a solid foundation in technique. They always provide each student appropriate challenges and support, and they all emphasize the fun of creativity and working as a team.

OnStage

First semester: Onstage is our principle performance course for beginners



This class offers students an opportunity to perform in a full length musical. There is multiple casting in this course to allow many students a chance at preparing and performing a main role. Last year's production of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* had 8 different casts. This class requires additional rehearsal time outside of the school day in the week prior to the performances. This class is taken by freshman, sophomores, juniors and seniors and can be repeated!

Ideal students for this class:

- students who love musical theater.
- students who enjoyed performing in their middle school musicals.
- student athletes who are interested in performing opportunities.
- students who want to try performing but never have.
- students who want a role in a musical and a musical theater performance experience
- Students interested in gaining confidence in front of an audience.

Comedy and Improv: This class teaches comedy and improvisational techniques through improvisational games and structures. It is a wonderful class for beginning acting students.

- This class appeals to a broad variety of students because it is so entertaining and enjoyable in its content, which is the creation of improv comedy performances
- Students gain great confidence speaking and performing in front of others
- Students are guided and taught ways to respond spontaneously
- The development of individual creativity is a major focus of the course
- This is the only theater class that does not have an outside of class preparation component.



Acting 1: A traditional acting course, focusing on acting technique including voice, speech, movement, characterization and text analysis. Memorized monologue and scene work is part of the class.

- Students who would like to increase their chance of auditioning successfully for main stage plays are highly encouraged to take this class.
- Students interested in learning about acting technique.
- Students interested in gaining confidence in front of an audience.

Acting for the Camera (*Spring Semester*)



This is a basic acting training course which has a focus on work in front of a camera, such as television, commercial and movie acting. It is for the beginning actor. Students will prepare and perform on camera monologues and scenes as well as other on-camera performance work including such things as speeches, newscasts, commercials and/or public service announcements.

- Students interested in gaining confidence in front of an audience.
- Students who would like to increase their chance of auditioning successfully for main stage plays are highly encouraged to take this class.
- Students interested in learning about acting technique.

Acting 2: This class builds on the Acting technique studied in Acting 1. The focus is on acting using challenging text of literary merit. Students prepare memorized monologue and scenes from Shakespeare and other classic playwrights.

- Students hoping to participate in the Shakespeare play are highly encouraged to take

this class.

Prerequisite: Acting 1 or Acting for the Camera

OnStage (3x)

A second semester, three block per cycle class introduces students to the musical theater genre by exploring various works of musical theater. Performance work is in class only.

Performance Opportunity Classes:

Many of our Theater classes lead to performance opportunities; students are able to get public performing experience by enrolling and participating in these courses.

On Stage! (Fall Semester): - described above.

Advanced Improv: This performance class is for students who have successfully completed any previous theater course and want to perform and further their improvisational skills in a performance setting. Students in this class will have the opportunity to perform in our Comedy Tonight shows.

Ideal students for Advanced Improv:

- students who have an interest in performing.
- students who enjoyed participating in Comedy and Improv and want to further develop their creative skills.
- Freshmen who are taking any other first semester Theater Arts course.

Advanced Theater Seminar: The writing for theater course which creates the original works for theater festival (Magic Circle). This course is not for novice theater students; Acting Two is a prerequisite.

Theater Workshop: This course stages and produces the mainstage plays; it is selective and students must have teacher permission which is obtained by an audition process late April/Early May.

Technical Theater Classes:

Stagecraft and Design and Theater Workshop

Ideal students for this class:

- Students who have enjoyed working backstage on their middle school plays.
- Students with an interest in visual art or interested in building sets, lighting, and sound design.
- Students who enjoy technology classes
- Students who like to make things
- No experience is needed in technical theater.



Recommendations and possible combinations:

Student	First Semester	Second Semester
<i>The Musical Theater Student</i>	Onstage	Acting One Acting for the Camera [Another possibility is some combination of Comedy and Improvisations and/or Advanced Improv and Performance and/or Onstage3x]
<i>A non-musical Theater student</i>	Acting One	Acting for the Camera Acting Two [Another possibility is some combination of Comedy and Improvisations and/or Advanced Improv and Performance]
<i>The “Is Acting for Me?” student</i>	Comedy and Improvisation	Acting One Acting for the Camera [Another possibility is some combination of Advanced Improv and Performance and/or Onstage3x]
<i>The Technical Theater Student</i>	Stagecraft and/or Theater Workshop	Stagecraft and/or Theater Workshop