



## Middleton Middle School 7th/8th Grade Drama

Instructor: Todd Thompson  
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Fall Trimester 2018  
Monday-Friday  
1 Trimester Credit

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Drama is designed to acquaint the student with physical and vocal awareness, including good speaking techniques, vocal expression, interpretive movement, and an awareness of diction. Throughout this course, students will have the opportunity to develop basic acting techniques through pantomiming, improvisation, monologuing, group acting scenes and full length productions. Students participate in a variety of activities to develop theater etiquette, good listening skills, and aesthetic growth through appreciation of theatrical events. Participation in performances is required and graded. There are no prerequisites to take Drama at any grade level

### OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- Develop character and find conflict within a monologue to make it dynamic.
- Understand how the elements of improvisation inform our acting choices.
- Analyze the elements of musical theater.
- Determine how previous knowledge of the elements of musical theater and the technique of process drama provide a context for devising pre-existing material.
- Analyze and understand how the elements of design inform and complement the story of a musical production.
- Determine how previous knowledge of theater skills inform our rehearsal and production process for a musical.
- Compare and contrast how the vocal elements (pitch, rate, volume, dialect and diction) and the physical elements (posture, gestures, facial expressions, mannerisms) are used to communicate character and conflict.

### INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES

Students will receive materials in class. Some materials they will need to take home (keep with them) and others they will leave in class. Students that are absent may check the *"Since You've Been Gone"* basket for materials or work they missed. Google classroom will be the a major go to place for assignments and resources. Resources can also be found in the Drama box in the room. .

### COMMUNICATION

If you have a question, the best way to reach me is by email, private message through Google Classroom or, use the most effective way...the REMIND app. Join REMIND by doing the following: TEXT **@mms8drama** to **81010** for 7-8 Drama  
TEXT **@mms78drama** to **81010**

I answer emails within 24 hours (Monday-Friday). Student grades may be viewed on Skyward.

\*Note: To avoid logging into Skyward every time, Skyward can be set to email progress reports and missing assignments. Grades will be updated each week no later than midnight on Sundays. Occasionally I'll meet with students to discuss how they are doing in class.

### ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

If a student is absent please contact the office. Students who arrive at school after the first tardy bell should report to the main office to sign in. Students are allowed six (6) absences per class period during the trimester.

Students who receive seven (7) absences in any class will lose credit unless cleared by the attendance office as extraordinary within five (5) days of the absence. Verbal communication must come from a parent/guardian within 48 hours of the absence to prevent truancy. The following absences count against a student's total of six (6) absences: In-School Suspension (I), Out of School Suspension (O), Truancy (R), Unverified (A), Verified (E), Unexcused (U)

## **TARDIES**

Students are considered tardy if not in their assigned classrooms when the tardy bell rings. Tardies accrue on a trimester basis.

## **GRADING**

**Drama grades are comprised of weekly participation, class assignments, writing activities, reflection activities, quizzes and performances.** 10% of a student's final grade will come from a course culminating activity/assessment. Grades breakdown as follows: 90-100% = A 80-89% = B 70-79% = C 60-69% = D < 59% = F

Students are expected to come to class prepared for the day's activities. This may mean bringing a script, prop, costume, or other homework; completing a paper, and/or memorizing lines.

Students earn 4 points per day. No points will be given on a day where there is an unexcused absence. Students may lose points for tardies, food or gum in class or lack of participating in the daily activities. If a student is not present on the day scheduled for presentation, the student will receive no credit for the presentation. Students will have the opportunity to make up assignments. All scripts are considered homework and need to be memorized.

## **ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION**

Students will submit assignments in both "hardcopy" form as well as digitally through Google Classroom. Hard copy assignments will be turned in during class to the "turn-in" bin.

## **LATE/MAKE-UP WORK**

After an absence, it is the student's responsibility to communicate with the teacher for make-up work. They are to check the weekly agenda posted on the whiteboard or refer to Google Classroom. Students are allowed to turn in late work 2 weeks after the due date or one week before the end of the unit or trimester (whichever comes first). If the assignment is not turned in during the allowed time period, the student will receive a zero (0) on the assignment.

## **RESUBMISSIONS**

Students will be allowed to redo failed assignments for a better grade. Redone assignments will count for no higher than a B. Additionally, students will be allowed to redo failed tests. For tests, students must take the initiative to schedule a time to retake the test. Retakes are not allowed on open note tests or projects.

## **PLAGIARISM/ACADEMIC OFFENSES**

If a student is caught plagiarizing or cheating they will be required to do the assignment again from the beginning and parents will be notified. All episodes of plagiarism will be documented. If it happens a second time, parents will be notified and the matter will be turned over to administration.

## **CELL PHONES, COMPUTERS, AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

**Cell phones are not allowed in the CHOIR classroom.** Students that are caught with their phone out during class will be dismissed to the office for a cell phone violation. The only exception to this rule is with Mr. Thompson's permission.

## **FOOD AND DRINK**

Food, gum and candy are not allowed in the classroom unless cleared by the teacher. Water bottles with lids are permitted. Offenders will lose their privileges and possibly lose class points for chronic offenses.

## **REQUIRED MATERIALS**

- Student laptops will be used during class regularly. There will be a sign outside the door indicating whether students will need their laptop for that day. Laptops are to remain in sleeves and cinch bags until they are needed for the class activity.
- A blue or black pen, pencil and an eraser. Other pen colors will not be accepted.
- Any script or handout given to a student as homework.

Please read the Drama syllabus with a parent/guardian. Once you've read it; sign, remove and return this entire page to Mr. Thompson no later than Friday, August 24th.

**Signature Page**

I/We have read and understand the 7th/8th Drama classroom expectations, cell phone policy and the list of required materials.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent - preferred contact method**

Email @ \_\_\_\_\_

Text @ \_\_\_\_\_

Call @ \_\_\_\_\_