



Vanden High School Advanced Drama Syllabus 2023-2024

Welcome to Advanced Drama

Welcome to drama class! I am especially excited to share what this class has in store for you! As we start a new year, I would like to take a minute to let you know what I expect and what we're doing in drama class this year! I warn you this is not a class for the faint of heart, and those who do not wish to perform and participate in the rigorous process of play production should reconsider their enrollment.

Course Description

In this advanced course, we will be answering the essential question, *Why do people create Theatre?* Students will learn the Rules of Theatre and demonstrate an appreciation of theatre arts by participating in various aspects of theatre production. This course delves deeper into the dramatic forms and techniques of modern acting methods to prepare students for future auditions and possible careers in theatre. This is a performance-based course and all students will be required and expected to be involved in **all** class performances. Students will be responsible for constructing, discussing, performing, and analyzing drama to develop a deeper understanding of the dramatic arts and how it influences the world around us.

Units of Study Breakdown

PART ONE

1. Trust and Awareness
2. Play Production
3. Monologues and Audition Technique
4. Writing for the stage

PART TWO

5. Producing Theatre
6. Technical Theatre
7. Musical Theatre Dance
8. Devised Theatre

Shows Produced in this Class

1. Show TBA (October 20-21)
2. One Act Festival (March 22-23)
3. Musical TBA (April 25-27)- in conjunction with the Drama Department

All students are required to perform in or **work on three class shows throughout the 2023-2024 school season.** Work can include: acting, selling concessions, crew, tech, or ushering. If you cannot work on a show you will need to do a second play critique.

Theatre Department Grading Scale

Daily Work	20%	Attendance, Participation in lessons and daily Warm-ups and Activities, Discussions, In-Class Assignments
Formative	30%	Leading Warm-ups, Rehearsals, Minor Projects, Quizzes
Summative	40%	Unit Assessments, Major Projects, Final Performances
Critiques and Analyses	10%	Course Portfolios, Play Critiques, Play Analyses, Performance Reflections, Character Analyses, and other major written work

Communication

Students should always feel free to come to me with any questions or concerns. If you know you are going to have to miss a class, let me know. If you are struggling with an assignment or concept, let me know. If you need anything, ever,

let me know! If I am unable to answer your questions in class, email is the second-best method for contacting me with questions or concerns. [Per Vanden's policy, instructors will respond to all emails within 48 hours (2 business days), not including weekends.]

Mr. Bolden's email: jbalden@travisusd.org

Required Materials

Students will need:

- Pen or pencil
- A 3 ring 1 inch binder (your theater notebook)
- 3 Divider tabs for notebook

Absence Policy

Absences, as well as tardies, will be handled according to Vanden policy The Rule of 85 (refer to VHS 2023-2024 student hand book). Making up missed work is the sole responsibility of the student. Students must make every effort to be here. As this class is group-oriented with mostly in-class activities, when students are absent, group work and discussions are missed, which will be very difficult to make up.

Absences can affect other students' performances as well. **Everyone in this class depends on each other; your presence is important!** Students who know they will be absent must email me as soon as possible so arrangements can be made!

If students miss a quiz, test, or other major assignment, they must make it up within **one week** of the time they return to class. *It is up to students to arrange a time to do this.* Students must make up assessments by making an appointment with me outside of class hours. In most cases, **final group performances will NOT be able to be made up.**

All students are required to participate in the class productions as this makes up the work for this course. As we rehearse mainly during class time, we must make the most of each class session so attendance will be closely monitored. If a cast member misses 20% of their required rehearsals, their role will be recast and they may be given a role in the ensemble instead. If a cast member misses 25% or more rehearsals, they will be cut from the show and must find an alternate way to make up their grade. Students should contact me as soon as they know they will be absent.

Behavior Policy

Students are expected to behave positively and professionally in my classroom at all times. This includes being on time to class, turning in assignments on time, and behaving respectfully, especially during student performances. **Please keep in mind, performing in front of a class is not easy for all students! Therefore, maintaining a positive and safe environment is our top priority!** Our aim is always to support each other, never to make anyone feel embarrassed, excluded, or uncomfortable. Bullying or discrimination will not be tolerated.

No eating in The Little Theatre or F2-2 unless specified by teacher for post performance celebrations, or for scene work.

Electronic Devices

Student use of personal cell phones, Ear Pods/headphones, smart watches, or other mobile communication devices is prohibited during class time. Students are to remove earbuds/ headphones and stow their phones/devices BEFORE entering F2-2 or the Little Theater.

Academic Integrity and Honesty

Academic integrity revolves around the principle of honesty and extends to all academic tasks, including homework, classwork, and assessments. Academic dishonesty undermines the value of education. Academic dishonesty means cheating, plagiarizing, using an AI tool such as ChatGPT, or getting unauthorized help on an examination, quiz or assignment. Any breaches of academic integrity will not be accepted and that work will be given zero points. Teacher will also follow up with Vanden administration.

*Please sign and return this form, acknowledging that you and a guardian have read and understand the above expectations. Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. Thank you!

--Mr. Bolden

Student Name (Printed)		
Student Signature		Date:
Guardian Name (Printed)		
Guardian Signature		Date:

Parents Support Opportunities- We need your help with Vanden Drama Boosters and productions. Please email Mr. Bolden if you are interested and available to help out.