

7th Grade Speech and Drama

Course Description:

The 7th grade Speech and Drama course builds upon and advances skills learned in the sixth grade. Dramatic literature is introduced, and more emphasis is placed on effective rehearsal techniques and character development. This class introduces students to a more intense study of movement, vocalization, acting areas and body positioning and helps students become more confident with stronger acting choices. Students develop higher-level thinking and performance skills while analyzing characters and text in scripted scene work as well as in improvisational exercises and games. This is a semester-long class.

Curriculum Work So Far:

1. Discussed the current reality of the course and the problems that existed.
2. Established end goals for students in the performing arts program and steps to achieve those goals.
3. Looked at the learning objectives measured and the work that students produced.
4. Agreed upon the skills students would learn during each course.
5. Discussed the amount of time allotted to the course and how that would affect our decision making in terms of what is most important to cover during the time we have with the students.
6. Looked at evidence and survey results from other students and families who have participated in the program at the different levels.
7. Drafted a curricular scope & sequence of 3 units for the semester that aligns with our end goals.

Unit 1: History and Context

Unit 2: Performance

Unit 3: Script/Text Analysis

8. Developed enduring understandings, essential questions, and student learning goals in alignment with the Missouri Fine Arts Grade Level Expectations. The enduring understandings and essential questions that drive the course are listed below. Additionally, each exploratory unit has specific enduring understandings, essential questions, and student learning goals.

Course Enduring Understandings:

- Art is a powerful, valuable tool for self-expression and communication.
- Theatre is collaborative; it takes people coming together.
- Theatre both reflects and affects life.

Course Essential Questions:

- How can participation in theatre (on or off stage) help develop empathy?
- How does participation in theatre (on or off stage) impact our choices, morality, reasoning, and ethics?
- How does participation in theatre (on or off stage) affect our behavior?
- How is theatre a reflection of life?
- How does theatre affect life?

Student Learning Overview:

- The course is meant to attract students to the Theatre Arts program and prepare them for more advanced theatre studies at the high school level.
- The course provides students with the necessary foundation to be successful later in the program as students gradually build their confidence level and presentational skills not only in theatre courses, but in all classes.
- The course units are the same for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Speech and Drama courses. However, students go more in-depth into the themes presented and are held to higher expectations as they progress.
- There are no prerequisites for this course.