

## 8th Grade Speech and Drama

### Course Description:

The 8th grade Speech and Drama course continues to develop acting and performance skills using more advanced scene work, improvisational exercises and games. A wider variety of dramatic literature is studied, using an active approach. Dramatic structure, character and script analysis are emphasized. Students study character history, motivation and relationships using materials from a variety of genres and styles. Students advance their understanding of theatrical design by designing costumes, lights, and/or sets for a show. This is a semester-long course.

### 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.