

FOLSOM CORDOVA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**COURSE OUTLINE
EXPLORATORY DRAMA**

Date: March 2006

Subject Area: Elective

Proposed Grade Level(s): 6-8

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Grading: A-F

Prerequisites: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Drama is a course that allows students to explore the theatre arts at a very introductory level. Drama will enhance their speech and communication skills, as well as teach them appropriate listening skills. This class is designed to expose them to the fundamental components of stage performance, vocal expression, and improvisation. During the twelve week course they will develop skills that will enhance their overall comfort level for performing and/or speaking in front of an audience. They will be active participants in the audience as well.

GENERAL GOALS/PURPOSES:

Students will:

- Experiment with imitative and interpretive movement
- Use pantomime
- Develop vocal expression
- Use improvisation
- Practice storytelling
- Develop basic acting techniques
- Explore readers' theatre and scene production
- Be encouraged to develop an appreciation of theatre
- Attend one live performance
- Learn and practice audience etiquette

STUDENT READING COMPONENT:

Students will:

- Evaluate performances of classmates to identify strengths and weaknesses
- Critique aspects of their own performances
- Be required to read and understand supplementary material reading as it applies to this class
- Be required to read scripts and/or dialogues as pertaining to performances

STUDENT WRITING COMPONENT:

Students will:

- Write short monologues/dialogues
- Apply grammar, vocabulary, and punctuation
- Write, edit, and create performance pieces
- Perform dialogues, pantomimes, and short performances as dictated by instructions

STUDENT ORAL COMPONENT:

Students will:

- Perform monologues, dialogues, and short performances in front of the class
- Work cooperatively in group performances

DETAILED UNITS OF INSTRUCTION:

1. Experiment with imitative and interpretive movement: Students will study movement; they will identify and learn to imitate movement, and interpret meaning of movement and body language, as it relates to performances.
2. Use pantomime: Students will study and demonstrate knowledge of performances using body movements only. Students will be exposed to silent film and pantomime performances.
3. Develop vocal expression: Students will learn intonation, practice delivery through speeches, dialogue, and plays. Students will understand and demonstrate how vocal expression can affect communication.
4. Use improvisation: Students will practice impromptu dialogue. Students will learn to work with one another without prompts or scripts to create dialogue.
5. Practice storytelling: Students will write and share their stories with the class.
6. Develop basic acting techniques: Acting techniques will be discussed, practiced in groups and individually, and demonstrated to class for assessment.
7. Explore readers' theatre and scene production.
8. Attend one live performance: Students will be required to attend, critique, and review a live performance.
9. Learn and practice audience etiquette: Students will understand value of audience participation and reaction. Students will work on appropriate audience etiquette during class.

THIS COURSE WILL PREPARE STUDENTS FOR THE CAHSEE AND/OR THE FCUSD EXIT EXAMS:

Reading, Writing, and Language Arts

SUBJECT AREA CONTENT STANDARDS TO BE ADDRESSED:

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| (6) Standard 1.0 | Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions appropriate to grade level. |
| (6) Standard 1.7 | Students will use effective rate, volume, pitch, and tone to sustain audience interest and attention. |
| (6) Standard 3.5 | Students will identify the speaker and recognize the difference between first and third person narration. |

- (6) Standard 3.6 Students will identify and analyze features of themes conveyed through characters, actions, and images.
- (6) Standard 3.8 Students will critique the credibility of characterization and the degree to which a plot is contrived or realistic.
- (6-8) Standard 2.0 Students read and understand grade-level-appropriate material.
- (8) Standard 3.4 Students will analyze the relevance of the setting to the mood, tone, and meaning of the content of the material.

DISTRICT ESLRs TO BE ADDRESSED:

Students will:

- **Self-Directed Learners:** Take initiative, participate, and learn how to use assessment to improve performance.
- **Effective Communicators:** Be speaking to a variety of sources throughout the year and working in small groups. They will understand what it is to be effective communicators, develop the necessary skills to enhance their ability to communicate effectively, and regularly practice those skills.
- **Quality Producers:** Read, write, and perform as they learn how to apply different skills throughout the class.
- **Constructive Thinkers:** Be required to select the appropriate resources to gather information. They will then need to creatively express themselves and share what they have learned in short performances, speeches, and dialogues.
- **Collaborative Workers:** Through the study of group dynamics, students will learn how to implement what they have learned in a functional group and in group projects.
- **Responsible Citizens:** Through the course work and units of study, students will develop a better understanding of themselves and the world around them.

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