



MUSICAL THEATRE

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to the fundamentals of Musical Theatre, including acting, singing, and dancing through exploration of various musicals and performance techniques. Students will look at the history and evolution of musical theatre from its early beginnings to contemporary trends as they explore productions from different time periods, develop characters, and gain insight into the behind-the-scenes aspects of stage production. Each unit will be tailored around a particular musical from the time period being studied, with a minimum of two performances per semester.

Grade Level: 7th & 8th Grade

Unit Scope and Sequence

Unit 1: Origins of Musical Theatre

Unit 2: Evolutions of Musical Theatre

Course Enduring Understandings:

- Musical Theatre is an art form that combines many disciplines.
- Musical theatre changes as people and the world change.

Course Essential Questions:

- Why do people sing in musicals?
- How is musical theater affected by the world around it, and how does it affect the world?
- What does it take to produce a musical?
- How has musical theatre changed since its emergence?

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UNIT 1: ORIGINS OF MUSICAL THEATRE

This unit will focus on the origins of musical theatre. Through literary and character analysis of a piece from this period, students will dig into the historical context about the story and the world at the time when the play was written. A focus will also be given to the behind the scenes work that allow for a successful production.

Unit Essential Learning Targets	
<i>Enduring Understandings</i>	<i>Essential Questions</i>
Musical theatre reflects and responds to the cultural and societal contexts in which it is created, evolving over time while preserving its fundamental elements.	- What historical, social, and cultural factors played a role in the emergence of musical theatre as an art form? - What does it take to produce a work of art from this time period?
<i>Students must know:</i>	<i>Students must be able to:</i>
- Rogers and Hammerstein - Dialogue - Cast Members - Plot - Scenery - Pit orchestration - Types of Musical numbers - Choreography - Parts of a stage and theater - Stage Directions	- Investigate origins of musical theatre. - Examine characters and understand why they do what they do. - Learn history through the lens of theatre. - Understand the main themes and messages conveyed through a musical. - Explain how different technical elements such as sets and costumes contribute to the overall performance of a musical. - Recognize key characteristics that separate musicals from other forms of drama or performance.

Missouri Learning Standards
Envision/Conceptualize: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work. - Imagine and explore multiple perspectives and solutions to staging problems in a drama/theatre work (TH:Cr1A.8.a). - Imagine and explore solutions to design challenges of a performance space in a drama/theatre work (TH:Cr1A.8.b). - Develop a scripted or improvised character by articulating the character's inner thoughts, objectives, and motivations in a drama/theatre work (TH:Cr1A.8.c). Develop: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work (TH:Cr2A.1). - Articulate and apply critical analysis, background knowledge, research, and historical and cultural context to the development of original ideas for a drama/theatre work (TH:Cr2A.8.a). - Share leadership and responsibilities to develop collaborative goals when preparing or devising drama/theatre work (TH:Cr2A.8.b). Rehearse: Refine and complete artistic work. - Use repetition and analysis in order to revise devised or scripted drama/theatre work (TH:Cr3A.8.a). - Refine effective physical, vocal, and physiological traits of characters in an improvised or

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UNIT 1: ORIGINS OF MUSICAL THEATRE

scripted drama/ theatre work (TH:Cr3A.8.b). Implement and refine a planned technical design using simple technology during the rehearsal process for devised or scripted drama/ theatre work (TH:Cr3A.8.c).
Perform: Select: Select, analyze, and interpret artistic work for presentation. - Explore different pacing to better communicate the story in a drama/theatre work (TH:Pr4A.8.a) - Use various character objectives and tactics in a drama/theatre work to overcome an obstacle (TH:Pr4A.8.b). Prepare: Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation. - Use a variety of acting techniques to increase skills in a rehearsal or drama/theatre performance (TH:Pr5A.8.a). - Use a variety of technical elements to create a design for a rehearsal or drama/theatre production (TH:Pr5A.8.b). - Demonstrate appropriate audience etiquette for the venue, purpose, and style (TH:Pr5A.8.c). - Practice various acting techniques to expand skills in a rehearsal or drama/theatre performance (TH:Pr5A.8.a). Share and present: Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work. - Perform a rehearsed drama/theatre work for an audience (TH:Pr6A.8.a).
Respond: Reflect: Perceive and analyze artistic work. - Apply criteria to the evaluation of artistic choices in a drama/theatre work (TH:P7A.8.a). Interpret: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work. - Recognize and share artistic choices when participating in or observing a drama/theatre work (TH:P8A.8.a). - Analyze how cultural perspectives influence the evaluation of a drama/theatre work (TH:P8A.8.b). - Apply personal aesthetics, preferences, and beliefs to evaluate a drama/theatre work (TH:P8A.8.c). Evaluate: Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work. - Respond to a drama/ theatre work using supporting evidence, personal aesthetics, and artistic criteria (TH:P9A.8.a). - Apply the production elements used in a drama/theatre work to assess aesthetic choices (TH:P9A.8.b). - Assess the impact of a drama/theatre work on a specific audience (TH:P9A.8.c).
Connect: Empathize: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art. - Examine a community issue through multiple perspectives in a drama/theatre work (TH:P10A.8.a). Interrelate: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding - Use different forms of drama/theatre work to examine contemporary social, cultural, or global issues (TH:P11B.8.a).. Research: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding - Research the story elements of a staged drama/theatre work and compare them to another production of the same work (TH:P11B.8.a). - Identify and use artifacts from a time period and place to develop performance and design choices in a drama/theatre work (TH:P11B.8.b).

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UNIT 2: EVOLUTION OF MUSICAL THEATRE

This unit will focus on how musical theatre has evolved since its emergence. Students will focus on literary and character analysis of a contemporary piece, while comparing and contrasting the characteristics of previous musical theatre with its modern version. A focus will also be given to the behind the scenes work that allow for a successful production.

Unit Essential Learning Targets	
Enduring Understandings	Essential Questions
- Musical theatre continues to evolve as society changes. - We can gain an insight into different perspectives and learn empathy through musical theatre.	- What are typical characteristics of modern musical theatre? - How is modern musical theatre different from before?
Students must know:	Students must be able to:
- Stephen Sondheim - Author's Purpose - The Production Team - Roles and responsibilities of Designers - Stage Management - Modern Orchestrations	- Identify similarities and differences between original and modern musical theatre. - Recognize how musical theatre has changed over time. - Understand the main themes and messages conveyed through a modern musical and relate them to their own lives. - Discuss the characters in modern musicals and how they connect to today's audiences. - Describe the behind-the-scenes work involved in creating a modern musical, including set design and lighting.

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UNIT 2: EVOLUTION OF MUSICAL THEATRE

drama/ theatre work (TH:Cr3A.8.b). Implement and refine a planned technical design using simple technology during the rehearsal process for devised or scripted drama/ theatre work (TH:Cr3A.8.c).
Perform: Select: Select, analyze, and interpret artistic work for presentation. - Explore different pacing to better communicate the story in a drama/theatre work (TH:Pr4A.8.a). - Use various character objectives and tactics in a drama/theatre work to overcome an obstacle (TH:Pr4A.8.b). Prepare: Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation. - Use a variety of acting techniques to increase skills in a rehearsal or drama/theatre performance (TH:Pr5A.8.a). - Use a variety of technical elements to create a design for a rehearsal or drama/theatre production (TH:Pr5A.8.b). - Demonstrate appropriate audience etiquette for the venue, purpose, and style (TH:Pr5A.8.c). - Practice various acting techniques to expand skills in a rehearsal or drama/theatre performance (TH:Pr5A.8.a). Share and present: Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work. - Perform a rehearsed drama/theatre work for an audience (TH:Pr6A.8.a).
Respond: Reflect: Perceive and analyze artistic work. - Apply criteria to the evaluation of artistic choices in a drama/theatre work (TH:P7A.8.a). Interpret: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work. - Recognize and share artistic choices when participating in or observing a drama/theatre work (TH:P8A.8.a). - Analyze how cultural perspectives influence the evaluation of a drama/theatre work (TH:P8A.8.b). - Apply personal aesthetics, preferences, and beliefs to evaluate a drama/theatre work (TH:P8A.8.c). Evaluate: Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work. - Respond to a drama/ theatre work using supporting evidence, personal aesthetics, and artistic criteria (TH:P9A.8.a). - Apply the production elements used in a drama/theatre work to assess aesthetic choices (TH:P9A.8.b). - Assess the impact of a drama/theatre work on a specific audience (TH:P9A.8.c).
Connect: Empathize: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art. - Examine a community issue through multiple perspectives in a drama/theatre work (TH:P10A.8.a). Interrelate/Research: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding - Use different forms of drama/theatre work to examine contemporary social, cultural, or global issues (TH:P11B.8.a). (TH:P11B.8) b. Identify and use artifacts from a time period and place to develop performance and design choices in a drama/theatre work (TH:P11B.8.b)