

# Theatre Arts

## Course Description: Introduction to Theatre Arts

In this course, students will learn the fundamental concepts and skills in the performing arts world through creativity and critical thinking. Students will develop their vocal and physical abilities through acting exercises, improvisation, scene analysis, ensemble work, and so much more. Students will learn the basics of stage presence, character development, and performance techniques. Through collaboration with peers, an emphasis will be placed on building confidence, communication skills and furthering the goals of the classroom as a whole and individual goals. By the end of the course, students will have a foundational understanding of theater as an art form and a storytelling tool. Students will be prepared for studying advanced theater courses or performances.

## Instructional Philosophy:

I believe that mistakes are **MANDATORY** to learning. This means that in my classroom, mistakes are necessary and welcomed. Every student will have a chance to make mistakes and succeed using them. John Powell says it the best, ""The only real mistake is the one from which we learn nothing." Students will be expected to design individual projects and collaborate with their peers. Students are celebrated for their individuality and are encouraged to take risks to build the classrooms' level of learning through modeling, guided practice, and individual practice. I believe that every student deserves a safe and supported environment to learn, make mistakes, and be successful. Theatre is a sacred space where students can unite and learn the importance of imagination, honesty, and build a unique connection between each other, actors, and audiences.

## Major Course Goals:

The skills that you will master throughout this course include the following standards prescribed by the Virginia Department of Education :

### Standards

- TI.1 The student will create and write a monologue and/or scene.
- TI.2 The student will apply a creative process for theatre.
- TI.3 The student will analyze, interpret, and evaluate theatre.
- TI.4 The student will examine, formulate, and justify personal responses to theatre.
- TI.5 The student will apply communication and collaboration skills for theatre experiences.
- TI.6 The student will explore historical and cultural aspects of theatrical works.
- TI.7 The student will identify ways to engage the school community in school theatre performances and activities.
- TI.8 The student will identify and apply digital citizenship as it relates to research, performance, and production of theatrical works.
- TI.9 The student will analyze and discuss professional pathways for theatre careers.
- TI.10 The student will identify and explore technological developments and contemporary media in theatre performance and production.
- TI.11 The student will analyze how music, visual art, and dance arts enhance performances.
- TI.12 The student will refine physical and vocal techniques for theatre performance.
- TI.13 The student will demonstrate techniques for actor preparation.
- TI.14 The student will demonstrate theatrical direction, including blocking and staging a scene.
- TI.15 The student will understand roles and relationships for theatre production.
- TI.16 The student will apply principles of technical theatre.

## Major Course Projects, Topics, and Activities:

Puppetry, Set Model Box, Scenic Designer Portfolio, Sewing Pillows, Directing Scenes, Written Show Reviews

## Course Assessment Plan:

Puppetry/ Children's Theatre Script (BRONZE)

Set Model Box (SILVER)

Scenic Designer Portfolio (GOLD)

Sewing Pillows (BRONZE)

Directing (SILVER)

Written Show Reviews (GOLD)

Midterm (SILVER)

Final Exam (GOLD)

## Grading Scale:

Your grades in this course fall into the following categories:

- **Gold Category = 40%**
  - Tests, research project, final essays
- **Silver Category = 35%**
  - Friday quizzes, middle level projects or essays
- **Bronze Category = 25%**
  - Smaller daily assignments

Grade Scale: We use a ten point scale, which is as follows:

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = 59 and below

## Class Rules and Expectations

- Be Respectful – of yourself, teacher, classmates, and *all* performers.
- Be on Time and Prepared with materials when the bell rings.
- Take Care of Our Space- clean any mess you make.
- No Chewing Gum in the classroom or auditorium.
- Use Our Technology Responsibly.
- Raise Your Hand at All Times.
- Ask For Help When You Need It - be honest when you don't understand something.
- Speak With Purpose -be kind and respectful with your words. Words are important.
- Bring the Drama (The Good Kind)- positive attitudes, bold choices, and keep an open mind.

## Supplies Needed:

1 composition notebook

1 pack of pencils

1 pack of highlighters

1 pack of red or blue pens

## Homework Policy:

When you have homework, it will likely be in the form of studying, independent reading, or completing a project that was started in class. When you have reading homework, you should expect to have a reading quiz (bronze level) the following day in class. These quizzes cannot be made-up since we will go over the answers in class; make sure to read when it is assigned. If you are absent, check with me to find out what your homework is. Other missed homework assignments may be made up with a 10 point per day penalty up to three days late.

## Make-up Work Policy:

It is my goal for each of my students to grow and learn, so of course missed work may be made up. However, make-up assignments must be completed and turned in within **three** days. If you are absent, you should schedule a time to meet with me. It is usually not possible to make up missed lectures, notes, or guided work during a regular class period, so you should expect to spend time with me before or after school if you have been absent.

## Extra Help:

I am available most days after school if you are in need of tutoring or extra guidance with any of the topics we cover in class. I stay after school most of the week for rehearsals. Please schedule these times with me in advance so that I can be sure to be available for you. However, during Tech Week of a show (the week before a show opens), I am not available after school.

## Contact Information:

Email: [gsimmons1@mail.dps.k12.va.us](mailto:gsimmons1@mail.dps.k12.va.us)

Remind: <https://www.remind.com/join/d342k28>