THEATRE 1: INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE
Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Unit of Credit: One Semester (Elective)

Prerequisite: None

Course Overview:
In Theatre I: Introduction to Theatre, students become acquainted with various areas of theatre: acting, basic technology, theatre etiquette, movement, vocalization, and basic theatre history. Students gain a general knowledge of basic theatre arts and an appreciation of theatre arts as an enjoyable activity. In-class performance and active class participation will be implemented. Students are assessed through in-class performances in terms of both end product and in-process preparation, and through critiques of out-of-class theatre performances. Students will be assessed at the following levels: proficient, accomplished, and advanced.

Units of Study/Vocabulary:
- Theatre terminology
- Theatre history
- Ensemble
- Performance
- Theatrical literacy
- Theatre etiquette and responsibility
- Aesthetics

CREATING
Anchor Standard 1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.
- **Enduring Understanding:** Theatre artists rely on intuition, curiosity, and critical inquiry.
- **Essential Question(s):** What happens when theatre artists use their imaginations and/or learned theatre skills while engaging in creative exploration and inquiry?

TH:Cr.1.1.I
a. Apply basic research to construct ideas about the visual composition of a drama/theatre work.
b. Explore the impact of technology on design choices in a drama/theatre work.
c. Use script analysis to generate ideas about a character that is believable and authentic in a drama/theatre work.
  - I can improvise a basic scene.
  - I can improvise a variety of characters.
  - I can create a variety of characters using scripted monologues/scenes.
  - I can work within an ensemble.
  - I can demonstrate an understanding of the physicality of a character during blocking.
  - I can demonstrate an understanding of appropriate stage vocalization and projection.
  - I can select and utilize appropriate technical elements in a theatrical work.
  - I can demonstrate an understanding of writing for a theatrical work.

Anchor Standard 2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

- **Enduring Understanding:** Theatre artists work to discover different ways of communicating meaning.
- **Essential Question:** How, when, and why do theatre artists' choices change?

TH:Cr2.1.I

a. Explore the function of history and culture in the development of a dramatic concept through a critical analysis of original ideas in a drama/theatre work.
b. Investigate the collaborative nature of the actor, director, playwright, and designers and explore their interdependent roles in a drama/theatre work.

- I can justify my choices during the rehearsal process.
- I can clearly communicate my ideas to the audience.
- I can develop criteria to justify personal viewpoints, becoming receptive to alternative aesthetic and artistic choices.
- I can constructively critique my own work and the work of my classmates.

Anchor Standard 3: Refine and complete artistic work.

- **Enduring Understanding:** Theatre artists refine their work and practice their craft through rehearsal.
- **Essential Question:** How do theatre artists transform and edit their initial ideas?

TH:Cr3.1.I

a. Practice and revise a devised or scripted d work using drama/theatre staging conventions.
b. Explore physical, vocal, and physiological choices to develop a performance that is believable, authentic, and relevant to a drama/theatre work.
c. Refine technical design choices to support the story and emotional impact of a devised or scripted drama/theatre work.

- I can demonstrate the ability to organize rehearsals for improvised and scripted scenes.
- I can collaborate through the rehearsal and performance process.
- I can demonstrate a basic understanding of the elements of technical theatre/design as they apply to rehearsal and performance.
- I can recognize the technical needs for various styles of production.
- I can develop a basic design for various texts used in class.
- I can execute my basic design in a safe and functional manner.

PERFORMING

Anchor Standard 4: Select, analyze, and interpret artistic work for presentation.

- **Enduring Understanding:** Theatre artists make strong choices to effectively convey meaning.
- **Essential Question:** Why are strong choices essential to interpreting a theatre piece?

TH:Pr4.1.I

a. Examine how character relationships assist in telling the story of a drama/theatre work.
b. Shape character choices using given circumstances in a drama/theatre work.

- I can apply research skills to make artistic choices.
- I can understand and apply the use of other artistic forms to theatrical works.

- I can express my own cultural perspective on my theatrical work.

Anchor Standard 5: Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation.

- **Enduring Understanding:** Theatre artists develop personal processes and skills for a performance or design.
- **Essential Question:** What can I do to fully prepare a performance or technical design?

TH:Pr5.1.I

a. Practice various acting techniques to expand skills in a rehearsal or drama/theatre performance.
b. Use researched technical elements to increase the impact of design for a drama/theatre production.

- I can appropriately modify my voice to convey meaning through articulation, projection, and tone.
- I can choose appropriate physical characteristics of face and body for performance.
- I understand how appropriate technical/design elements enhance my performance through use of costumes, props, scenery, lighting, sound, and makeup.

Anchor Standard 6: Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.

- **Enduring Understanding:** Theatre artists share and present stories, ideas, and envisioned worlds to explore the human experience.
- **Essential Question:** What happens when theatre artists and audiences share a creative experience?

TH:Pr6.1.I

a. Perform a scripted drama/theatre work for a specific audience.

- I can demonstrate an understanding that theatrical performances represent universal concepts.
- I can convey the ideas of my performance to appropriate audiences.
- I can accurately memorize and perform a variety of texts.

RESPONDING

Anchor Standard 7: Perceive and analyze artistic work.

- **Enduring Understanding:** Theatre artists reflect to understand the impact of drams processes and theatre experiences.
- **Essential Question:** How do theatre artists comprehend the essence of drama processes and theatre experiences?

TH:Re7.1.I

a. Respond to what is seen, felt, and heard in a drama/theatre work to develop criteria for artistic choices.

- I can choose a piece of theatre outside of class to critique.
- I can analyze and critique performances outside of class.
- I can appropriately respond to my classmates' in-class performances.
- I can identify the elements of theatre (idea/theme, plot, character, language, music, spectacle) in a variety of performances.

Anchor Standard 8: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.

- **Enduring Understanding:** Theatre artists' interpretations of drama/theatre work are influenced by personal experiences and aesthetics.
- **Essential Question:** How can the same work of art communicate different messages to different people?

TH:Re8.1.I
a. Analyze and compare artistic choices developed from personal experiences in multiple drama/theatre works.
b. Identify and compare cultural perspectives and contexts that may influence the evaluation of a drama/theatre work.
c. Justify personal aesthetics, preferences, and beliefs through participation in and observation of a drama/theatre work.

- I can relate and connect my personal experiences to theatrical works.
- I can recognize cultural sources of theatrical works, including American and musical theatre.

Anchor Standard 9: Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.

- **Enduring Understanding:** Theatre artists apply criteria to investigate, explore, and assess drama/theatre work.
- **Essential Question:** How are the theatre artist's processes and the audience's perspectives impacted by analysis and synthesis?

TH:Re9.1.I
a. Examine a drama/theatre work using supporting evidence and criteria, while considering art forms, history, culture, and other disciplines.
b. Consider the aesthetics of the production elements in a drama/theatre work.
c. Formulate a deeper understanding and appreciation of a drama/theatre work by considering its specific purpose or intended audience.

- I can understand and apply theatrical vocabulary used in class to evaluate performances/texts.
- I can analyze and evaluate the choices made by a variety of production teams.
- I can articulate my understanding of the impact of a theatrical work on an audience.

CONNECTING
Anchor Standard 10: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.

- **Enduring Understanding:** Theatre artists allow awareness of interrelationships between self and others to influence and inform their work.
- **Essential Question:** What happens when theatre artists foster understanding between self and others through critical awareness, social responsibility, and the exploration of empathy?

TH:Cn10.1.I
a. Investigate how cultural perspectives, community ideas, and personal beliefs impact a drama/theatre work.

- I can understand and articulate perspectives outside my worldview.
- I can demonstrate an understanding of theatrical traditions, including theatre etiquette.

Anchor Standard 11: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.

- **Enduring Understanding:** Theatre artists understand and can communicate their creative process as they analyze the way the world may be understood.
- **Essential Question:** What happens when theatre artists allow an understanding of themselves and the world to inform perceptions about theatre and the purpose of their work?

TH:Cn11.1.I

a. Explore how cultural, global, and historic belief systems affect creative choices in a drama/theatre work.

  - I can articulate how different cultural, global, and historic belief systems affect creative choices in a theatrical work.

- **Enduring Understanding:** Theatre artists critically inquire into the ways others have thought about and created drama processes and productions to inform their own work.
- **Essential Question:** In what ways can research into theatre histories, theories, literature, and performances alter the way a drama process or production is understood?

TH:Cn11.2.I

a. Research how other theatre artists apply creative processes to tell stories in a devised or scripted drama/theatre work, using theatre research methods.

b. Use basic theatre research methods to better understand the social and cultural background of a drama/theatre work.

  - I can demonstrate an understanding of theatrical traditions from particular cultures.
  - I can research styles of theatre.