



Dublin City Schools

Theatre 8: Introduction to Theatre

Graded Course of Study

2026

Dublin City Schools
Middle School Electives Graded Course of Study

THEATRE 8: INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE

Course Goals

Students are introduced to the fundamentals of theatre through performance, production, and design. Emphasizing storytelling and collaboration, the course guides students in developing skills in stage geography, actor movement, script interpretation, and stagecraft. Through creative exercises and performance projects, students will explore how voice, posture, and movement bring characters to life. Discussions about lighting, set design, and costuming reveal how technical elements combine to support a cohesive and engaging performance.

Introduction to Theatre & Ensemble Work	
Essential Questions: • What makes a strong ensemble? • How do actors use voice, body, and imagination to tell a story? • How do we collaborate respectfully in creative spaces? Key Vocabulary: Ensemble, Improvisation, Blocking, Stage Directions, Focus, Collaboration	
Artistic Processes	Standard
Creating	8.1CR Write two or more scenes that include stage direction prompts and provide exposition, consistent point of view, and dialogue.
	8.2CR Refine a scripted or unscripted character's voice and movement in response to outside feedback in collaboration with other theatre artists.

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	8.6CR Engage in complex ensemble-building activities to develop character goals and tactics.
Performing	8.1PE Develop scripted or improvised characters using appropriate voice, posture, movement, or language to reveal a conflict and develop a resolution.
	8.2PE Perform a rehearsed, staged work for an audience
Responding	8.1RE Use theatre vocabulary to evaluate the opinions of several professional critics about a theatrical work.
	8.4RE Use constructive feedback from self and peers to refine and improve the portrayal of a character.
Connecting	8.1CO Identify and use artifacts from a time period and place to develop performance and design choices in a dramatic or theatrical work.

Scriptwriting & Character Development	
Essential Questions: • What elements make a compelling script? • How does a playwright reveal character and conflict through dialogue? Key Vocabulary: Script, Dialogue, Exposition, Conflict, Resolution, Motivation	
Artistic Processes	Standard

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Creating	8.1CR Write two or more scenes that include stage direction prompts and provide exposition, consistent point of view, and dialogue.
	8.4CR Examine a given text and create design choices based on content and context of the script, time period, and themes of the text.
	8.5CR Adopt theatrical vocabulary, including elements and principles, when creating theatrical works.
Performing	8.1PE Develop scripted or improvised characters using appropriate voice, posture, movement, or language to reveal a conflict and develop a resolution.
Connecting	8.2CO Examine a community issue through multiple perspectives in a dramatic or theatrical work.

Performance Techniques & Rehearsal Process	
Essential Questions: • How do actors use their voices and bodies to create believable characters? • What is the purpose of rehearsal? Key Vocabulary: Projection, Diction, Gesture, Stage Picture, Subtext, Cue	
Artistic Processes	Standard

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Creating	8.2CR Refine a scripted or unscripted character's voice and movement in response to outside feedback in collaboration with other theatre artists.
Performing	8.2PE Perform a rehearsed, staged work for an audience.
	8.3PE Identify and safely apply the appropriate use of tools and technology in selected areas of technical emphasis.
Responding	8.3RE Explain how different artistic choices could alter the presentation of a theatrical work.
	8.5RE Identify ways actors and designers adjust aspects of performance to adapt to different settings, audiences, and contemporary social influences.
Connecting	8.3CO Integrate other academic disciplines into a dramatic presentation.
	8.4CO Investigate the elements, principles, and creative process of theatrical works from specific time periods and explain how these aspects work together.

Genre, Style & Historical Context

Essential Questions:

- How has theatre evolved through history?

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- How do genre and style influence acting and design?

Key Vocabulary: Tragedy, Comedy, Melodrama, Farce, Period Piece, Style

Artistic Processes	Standard
Creating	8.3CR Apply genres of performance in terms of which is most appropriate to a selected story
	8.4CR Examine a given text and create design choices based on content and context of the script, time period, and themes of the text.
Responding	8.2RE Determine a playwright's style by describing two or more works.
Connecting	8.1CO Identify and use artifacts from a time period and place to develop performance and design choices in a dramatic or theatrical work.
	8.6CO Use different theatrical forms to examine contemporary social, cultural, or global topics.

Technical Theatre & Design

Essential Questions:

- How do designers support storytelling?
- What safety and collaboration skills are needed backstage?

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Key Vocabulary: Set Design, Lighting, Sound, Props, Costumes, Cue Sheet

Artistic Processes	Standard
Creating	8.4CR Examine a given text and create design choices based on content and context of the script, time period, and themes of the text.
Performing	8.3PE Identify and safely apply the appropriate use of tools and technology in selected areas of technical emphasis.
Responding	8.3RE Explain how different artistic choices could alter the presentation of a theatrical work.
Connecting	8.5CO Explore a specific career opportunity in theatre and define the impact in the professional process.
	8.6CO Use different theatrical forms to examine contemporary social, cultural, or global topics.

Theatre for Social Change

Essential Questions:

- How can theatre spark social awareness?
- What issues matter to my school or generation?
- How can theatre reflect and preserve local stories?
- What makes our community unique?

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Key Vocabulary: Devised Theatre, Empathy, Activism, Message

Artistic Processes	Standard
Creating	8.1CR Write two or more scenes that include stage direction prompts and provide exposition, consistent point of view, and dialogue.
	8.2CR Refine a scripted or unscripted character's voice and movement in response to outside feedback in collaboration with other theatre artists.
	8.4CR Examine a given text and create design choices based on content and context of the script, time period, and themes of the text.
Performing	8.1PE Develop scripted or improvised characters using appropriate voice, posture, movement, or language to reveal a conflict and develop a resolution.
	8.2PE Perform a rehearsed, staged work for an audience.
Connecting	8.1CO Identify and use artifacts from a time period and place to develop performance and design choices in a dramatic or theatrical work.
	8.2CO Examine a community issue through multiple perspectives in a dramatic or theatrical work.

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	8.3CO Integrate other academic disciplines into a dramatic presentation.
	8.6CO Use different theatrical forms to examine contemporary social, cultural, or global topics.

Theatre Production: From Concept to Performance	
Essential Questions: • What steps are needed to bring a production to life? • How do cast and crew collaborate effectively? Key Vocabulary: Director, Cast, Crew, Tech Week, Performance	
Artistic Processes	Standard
Performing	8.2PE Perform a rehearsed, staged work for an audience.
	8.3PE Identify and safely apply the appropriate use of tools and technology in selected areas of technical emphasis.
Responding	8.1RE Use theatre vocabulary to evaluate the opinions of several professional critics about a theatrical work.
	8.5RE Identify ways actors and designers adjust aspects of performance to adapt to different settings, audiences, and contemporary social influences.

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Connecting	8.5CO Explore a specific career opportunity in theatre and define the impact in the professional process.
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Reflection, Critique & Portfolio Development	
Essential Questions: - How do I reflect on my growth as a theatre artist? - How can feedback improve performance? Key Vocabulary: Critique, Reflection, Portfolio, Feedback, Growth	
Artistic Processes	Standard
Responding	8.1RE Use theatre vocabulary to evaluate the opinions of several professional critics about a theatrical work.
	8.2RE Determine a playwright's style by describing two or more works.
	8.4RE Use constructive feedback from self and peers to refine and improve the portrayal of a character.
Connecting	8.5CO Explore a specific career opportunity in theatre and define the impact in the professional process.
	8.7CO Investigate opportunities for further theatrical or dramatic arts involvement and instruction in the community.