

Wallenpaupack Area School District

Planned Course Curriculum Guide

High School Fine Arts Department: Theatre

Name of Course: Directing I

Course Description:

Directing requires a keen, artistic eye and a love for performing arts. In this course, students will learn the skills needed to direct theatrical scenes on stage and bring their creative visions to life. Through step-by-step research and analysis of professional works, students will learn to critique and evaluate performances. Scene study, script analysis, and a broad knowledge of technical theatre will give student directors the expertise needed to successfully direct live theatrical scenes.

Initial Creation Date (if applicable) and Revision Dates: 6/3/26

Wallenpaupack Area School District Curriculum	
COURSE: Directing I	GRADE/S: 9-12
UNIT 1: Analysis of Directing	TIMEFRAME: 1 week (5 blocks)

PA COMMON CORE/NATIONAL STANDARDS: 9.1.1.12 A, B, C; 9.3.1.12 A-G

- UNIT OBJECTIVES (SWBATS):**
- Identify the rules of Directing
 - Read and analyze articles and books on directing a scene
 - Discuss appropriate techniques and necessary requirements for proper directing
 - Analyze award winning scenes and selections from plays
 - Observe Interviews with award winning directors on directing
 - Explore various directing styles

- INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES/ACTIVITIES:**
- Note Taking
 - Reading/Analyzing
 - Annotation
 - Discussion
 - Scene Exploration
 - Group Theorizing
 - Exploration/Experimentation of directing styles

- ASSESSMENTS (Diagnostic/Benchmark/Formative/Summative):**
- In-Class Discussions
 - In-Class Participation
 - Written Work

- DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION (Acceleration/Enrichment):**
- Further study on specific directing styles
 - Further exploration/experimentation with certain styles and techniques

RESOURCES (Technology Based Resources, Text Resources, etc.):

Notes on Directing By Frank Hauser and Russell Reich
The Director's Eye by John Ahart
A Director Prepares by Anne Bogart

KEY VOCABULARY: Given Circumstances, Essential Questions, Empathy, Re-description, Catharsis, Realism, Blocking, Staging

Wallenpaupack Area School District Curriculum	
COURSE: Directing I	GRADE/S: 9-12
UNIT 2: Researching the Play	TIMEFRAME: 2 weeks (10 blocks)

PA COMMON CORE/NATIONAL STANDARDS: 9.1.1.12 A, B, C
<p>UNIT OBJECTIVES (SWBATS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify basic plot points from a play • Analyze key plot points in the lens of “director” • Write/Create a pre-book of research • Display clear understanding of directorial choices through the play • Interpret the author's vision and make directorial choices that support that vision
<p>INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES/ACTIVITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read plays, choose 1 • Analyze unknowns throughout the reading process: vocabulary, character development, symbols, themes, setting, main objective, inciting incident, historical context, author connections, form, mode, directorial choices. • Find a 2-person scene to direct. • Make your own directorial choices on character portrayals, themes, and staging. • Create a binder of research and plans based on the above findings
<p>ASSESSMENTS (Diagnostic/Benchmark/Formative/Summative):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-class participation: reading and researching • In-class participation: writing pre-book • Directing Pre-Book Binder of Research
<p>DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION (Acceleration/Enrichment):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viewing a staged production of the full play • Viewing a filmed production of the full play • Critiquing a staged or filmed production of the full play • Creating a directing pre-book for the entire play instead of just one scene (or an Act)
<p>RESOURCES (Technology Based Resources, Text Resources, etc.):</p> <p><i>Notes on Directing</i> By Frank Hauser and Russell Reich <i>The Director’s Eye</i> by John Ahart <i>A Director Prepares</i> by Anne Bogart The Pre-Book Requirements Pages</p>

KEY VOCABULARY: director, pre-book, dialogue, exposition, moral stance, intention/goal, decorum, given circumstances, setting, environment, political environment, social environment, religious environment, previous action

Wallenpaupack Area School District Curriculum	
COURSE: Directing I	GRADE/S: 9-12
UNIT 3: Blocking/Staging a Scene	TIMEFRAME: 2 weeks (10 Blocks)

PA COMMON CORE/NATIONAL STANDARDS: 9.1.1.12 A, B, C, H

UNIT OBJECTIVES (SWBATS):

- Identify necessary set needs and blocking needs
- Through the lens of the director: create the setting and the blocking/staging
- Display clear understanding of what is needed vs. What is wanted
- Create an aesthetic for mood, atmosphere, realism, and dressing the stage
- Create written blocking with proper terminology in script

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES/ACTIVITIES:

- Make your own directorial choices on designs, technical plots, costume plots, character portrayals, themes, and staging.
- Create a binder of research and plans based on the above findings
- Rehearse the scene with cast, focusing on character development, staging, setting, theme

ASSESSMENTS (Diagnostic/Benchmark/Formative/Summative):

- Directing Pre-Book Binder of Research
- In-class participation: auditions, rehearsals

DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION (Acceleration/Enrichment):

- Viewing a staged production of the full play
- Viewing a filmed production of the full play
- Critiquing a staged or filmed production of the full play
- Creating a directing pre-book for the entire play instead of just one scene (or an Act)

RESOURCES (Technology Based Resources, Text Resources, etc.):

- Directing Project Requirements & Rubric
- Breakdown of each part of the pre-book
- A Director Prepares by Anne Bogart
- The Director's Eye by John Ahart
- Notes on Directing By Frank Hauser and Russell Reich
- Various play scripts (found in theatre classroom, library, or online)

KEY VOCABULARY: aesthetic, mood, atmosphere, realism, dressing the stage, blocking, staging, imagery, climate, given circumstances, environments, balance

Wallenpaupack Area School District Curriculum

COURSE: Directing I

GRADE/S: 9-12

UNIT 4: Rehearsal Process/Technical Elements

TIMEFRAME: 3 weeks (15 Blocks)

PA COMMON CORE/NATIONAL STANDARDS: 9.1.1.12 A, B, C, H, K

UNIT OBJECTIVES (SWBATS):

- Analyze key plot points in the lens of “director”
- Display clear understanding of directorial choices through play
- Create technical designs for 1 scene of the play
- Create a plan for auditions, rehearsals, and performance
- Audition members of the class, cast the scene, rehearse the scene

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES/ACTIVITIES:

- Make your own directorial choices on designs, technical plots, costume plots, character portrayals, themes, and staging.
- Create a binder of research and plans based on the above findings
- Rehearse the scene with cast, focusing on character development, staging, setting, theme

ASSESSMENTS (Diagnostic/Benchmark/Formative/Summative):

- Directing Pre-Book Binder of Research
- In-class participation: auditions, rehearsals

DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION (Acceleration/Enrichment):

- Viewing a staged production of the full play
- Viewing a filmed production of the full play
- Critiquing a staged or filmed production of the full play
- Creating a directing pre-book for the entire play instead of just one scene (or an Act)

RESOURCES (Technology Based Resources, Text Resources, etc.):

- Directing Project Requirements & Rubric
- Breakdown of each part of the pre-book requirements
- A Director Prepares by Anne Bogart
- The Director’s Eye by John Ahart
- Notes on Directing By Frank Hauser and Russell Reich
- Various play scripts (found in theatre classroom, library, or online)

KEY VOCABULARY: aesthetic, mood, atmosphere, realism, dressing the stage, blocking, staging, imagery, climate, given circumstances, environments, empathy, characterization, communication, projection, mannerisms, intention, believability

Wallenpaupack Area School District Curriculum	
COURSE: Directing I	GRADE/S: 9-12
UNIT 5: Performance & Critique	TIMEFRAME: 1 week (5 Blocks)

PA COMMON CORE/NATIONAL STANDARDS: 9.1.1.12 A, B, C, H, K; 9. 3.1.12 A-G
<p>UNIT OBJECTIVES (SWBATS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform the scene from the play for the class • Evaluate own performance as director • Critique one performance from another member of the class
<p>INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES/ACTIVITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform the scene for the class. • Evaluate own performance and 1 other student’s directing project.
<p>ASSESSMENTS (Diagnostic/Benchmark/Formative/Summative):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance of scene • Self-evaluation • Critique of another scene
<p>DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION (Acceleration/Enrichment):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viewing a staged production of this play • Viewing a filmed production of this play • Critiquing a staged or filmed production of this play • Doing further analysis on a major theme, specific, character, or historical context found within the reading of the play.
<p>RESOURCES (Technology Based Resources, Text Resources, etc.):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directing Project Requirements & Rubric • Breakdown of each part of the pre-book requirements • A Director Prepares by Anne Bogart • The Director’s Eye by John Ahart • Notes on Directing By Frank Hauser and Russell Reich • Various play scripts (found in theatre classroom, library, or online)

KEY VOCABULARY: aesthetic, mood, atmosphere, realism, dressing the stage, blocking, staging, imagery, climate, given circumstances, environments, empathy, characterization, communication, projection, mannerisms, intention, believability