Instructional Plan for Theatre I

Course Overview

Theatre I is an engaging introduction to the world of drama and performance. Students will explore elements of theatre arts, including acting, improvisation, script reading/writing, stage directions, character development, voice and movement, and theatre history. Instruction is based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), with an emphasis on creative expression, understanding of dramatic literature, and analysis of performance. Students will participate in activities designed to promote teamwork, communication, and self-expression.

Throughout the year, students will:

- Act It Out: Engage in performance-based activities using monologues, dialogues, and short scenes
- Play Theatre Games: Build ensemble skills and develop vocal and physical expression
- Write & Reflect: Create original skits, analyze scripts, and maintain a theatre journal
- Learn Stagecraft: Explore basic set design, props, costuming, and backstage responsibilities
- Work Together: Collaborate in small groups for class performances and projects
- Reflect & Respond: Evaluate peer performances and provide constructive feedback

Learning Objectives

By the end of the first semester, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of basic stage directions and performance terms
- Perform in scripted and improvised scenes
- Collaborate with peers to rehearse and produce short performances
- Understand the roles of actor, director, and designer
- Analyze simple dramatic texts and respond to performances

Course Resources

- Journal (proved by student)
- Scripts (provided in class)
- Props and costumes (provided as needed)

Contact Information

- Teacher Name: Mrs. Johnston
- Email: lauren.johnston@midlandisd.net
- Phone: 432-240-2722

Classroom Expectations and Procedures

Our classroom is a safe, creative space that encourages risk-taking, collaboration, and personal growth. All students will be respectful, supportive, and responsible as we build a strong theatre community.

Expectation 1: Come Prepared

- Manage time wisely, not just in class but between classes as well
- Bring all materials and supplies (journals, script, pencil)

Expectation 2: Participate Fully

- Engage in warm-ups, games, rehearsals, and performances
- Encourage peers and take creative risks

Expectation 3: Be Safe and Respectful

- Follow directions during activities and performances in and out of classroom setting
- Follow all campus/classroom
- Use equipment and props appropriately
- Be kind, inclusive, and positive

Classroom Procedures

- Enter the classroom calmly and quietly.
- Gather materials on your way to your desk.
- The bell ringer will be posted on the Clevertouch Board at the front of the room with instructions. Start Bell ringer.
- Pay attention during lessons.
- Pick up any and all “trash” at the end of class.

If expectations/procedures are not met, the teacher will reteach the expectation/procedures. Continued issues may lead to redirection, parent contact, and/or an office referral if necessary.

Attendance Policy

Theatre is a highly collaborative subject where daily participation is key. Frequent absences may impact performance assignments, rehearsals, and projects. Please inform the teacher or school if your child will be absent so arrangements can be made for missed work or performance preparation. **When a student is absent, they are responsible for getting their work**. For each day a student is absent, they are given one school day to complete the work. For example: if a student is absent 3 days, the student has 3 school days to complete the work. If it is not completed by that time, the late work policy will be followed.

Grading Policies (Types of Grades)

Types of Grades

Classwork- Classwork assigned and completed in class.
Homework- Work that is assigned in class but NOT COMPLETED is to be completed at HOME.
Minor Grades- Worth 40% of a student's nine weeks average.
Examples: participation, classwork/homework
Major Grades- Worth 60% of a student's nine weeks average.
Examples: projects, performances, and script writing

Late Work

Late work is an assignment not completed by a designated due date.
Maximum penalties:

- 1 school day – maximum grade of 90
- 2 school days – maximum grade of 80
- 3 to 5 school days – a maximum grade of 70
- After 5 school days - work does not have to be accepted and a grade of ZERO will be assigned.

No Pass, No Play

To participate in extracurricular activities, students must remain eligible. This means that all averages for all classes are 70 or above. You can lose eligibility by failing a class (below 70) for the 9 week period. You can regain eligibility by having an average of 70 (for every class) at the 3 week progress check.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Please fill out the portion below and return this to your Mrs. Johnston no later than Friday, August 21, 2026.

We acknowledge that we have read and that we understand the expectations in 7th Grade Theatre. We agree to contact the teacher should we have any questions or concerns regarding this instructional plan. **Please indicate your preferred method of contact.**

Parent Name: _____

Student Name: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

E-Mail: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____