

DOBBS FERRY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522

COURSE OUTLINE

SUBJECT: Backstage Theater Arts

GRADE: 8

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Backstage Theatre Arts offers 8th grade students the opportunity to explore theatre history and vocabulary, view and analyze live performances, and develop skills across multiple areas of technical theatre, including stage management, stagecraft, lighting and sound, publicity, and design. Students will also receive an introduction to acting while gaining a comprehensive understanding of how all elements work together to support a successful production.

Throughout the course, students will learn and practice skills in class that they will apply directly to a student-run 8th grade theatre production. Working within committees, students will use class time to complete tasks from a shared “to-do” list, requiring strong self-motivation, collaboration, and time-management skills. Students who demonstrate initiative, responsibility, and a genuine commitment to theatre will have opportunities to take on leadership roles within their committees. Students who wish to be stage managers must exhibit leadership abilities, self-motivation, care for others, and overall performance in the class.

As an MYP Arts course, all students will create and maintain an online process journal to document their growth and achievement in Theatre Arts. Assessment will be based on Criterion A: Investigating, Criterion B: Developing, Criterion C: Creating/Performing, and Criterion D: Evaluating. All students are expected to participate backstage in the 8th Grade Theatre Arts Play, showcasing their skills, teamwork, and growth throughout the year.

I. GRADING PROCEDURE FOR THEATER ARTS

A. *Grades*

1. Grades are based upon a number of accumulated points.

90-100%= A 80-89%= B 70-79%= C 65-69%= D Below 65%= Failing

Sources for accumulating points are:

- a. Written Quizzes and Exams
- b. Theater Committees Participation
- c. Written work including character research and analysis, playwriting, etc
- d. Journals/ Reflections/ Peer Assessment
- e. Daily Participation (including being on time)
- f. Attendance at rehearsals outside of scheduled class time
- g. Online PROCESS JOURNAL

II. **PERFORMANCES:**

- *A Theatre Arts Performance is the culmination of student work and is therefore crucial for the class. Performance attendance is mandatory and dates are given out in plenty of time to rearrange other responsibilities.*
 1. In order to have the highest quality performances, Theatre Arts students are required to attend ONE Saturday rehearsal and ALL Tech Week rehearsals.
 2. These rehearsals are considered mandatory and students are ONLY allowed to miss a rehearsal “excused” (with a note or parent email).
 3. Students will be required to work backstage during the matinee performance for the 5th graders as well as the one evening performance.
- Students will be required to work backstage at the:
 - + 8th Grade Theatre Arts Spring Play- **March 2027**
 - + This includes “tech week” rehearsals the week before the play
 - Matinee performance for Springhurst T.B.A. (during the school day)