Penn Griffin Playmakers

Theatre Arts Teacher Biography

Ms. Austin Graduated from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Theatre Education. She holds a North Carolina Standard Professional I teaching license in Drama K-12. She started teaching at Penn Griffin School of the Arts in the fall of 2026. She specializes in directing, devised theatre, ensemble building, and playwriting. Over the years she has directed pieces from plays like John by Annie Baker, Three Romances for the Unwell and Otherwise by Elena Freck, and About Michael by Peter Anthony Fields. Her most recent acting credit was in ReformED by Peter Duffy playing Drie. Ms. Austin is so excited to be teaching at Penn Griffin and is so excited to watch the program blossom!

2026-27 HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE ARTS PROGRAM

Penn-Griffin School for the Arts offers a comprehensive Theatre Arts focused program for grades 9-12. We welcome rising 9th -12th graders to audition for the 2027-28 school year who are passionate about training in the theatre arts and want to collaborate with others to obtain artistic growth throughout their high school experience.

In this program, students are guided towards pursuing higher education in the arts, entering the creative workforce, or utilizing their skills taken from this focus in other educational programs and career paths. It is a year-long course, with daily classes being 80 minutes long, with after-school rehearsals occurring throughout the school year. Units throughout the year focus on monologues, scene studies, devised theatre, Shakespeare, musical theatre, improvisation, playwriting, technical design (scenic/costume/lighting/sound), dramaturgy, theatre history, and more. Mainstage productions and showcases of student work provide students the opportunity to work on their craft and build their portfolio. Theatre students are encouraged to grow not only in their craft but also as responsible and respectful global citizens, learning about theatre from other cultures, participating in and engaging with performances and scripts that tackle prominent issues, and analyzing the connections between theatre and societies from over time.
In addition to class time and rehearsals for mainstage productions, students also invest time in their artistic growth through PGSA's Drama Club, as well as field trips to venues like the Steven Tanger Center for the Performing Arts. PGSA Theatre Arts majors will strengthen their skills as leaders and collaborators as well as skills in problem-solving, oral communication, commitment and time budgeting, and so many more. Students will explore their artistic identity, and graduate as stronger citizens and better artists. The academic curriculum at PGSA is at the Honors and Advanced Placement levels. Therefore, applicants must be academically ready for this curriculum. We invite you to complete an online application and submit it by December 4, 2026. You must reside in Guilford County to apply and live within one of the designated school attendance zones.
The application will be available on the school's website beginning Friday, October 9. The deadline to submit is Friday, December 4. You will also be invited to complete your in-person audition on Saturday, January 9th, 2027.

If you have any questions, please contact Kim Spell, Choice Coordinator, at spellk2@gcsnc.com or Ms. Austin at austine2@gcsnc.com.

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