

Theatre Arts 1

Welcome to the Theatre Arts Class. By signing up for this class you are making a statement that you are interested in performing on stage. The goal of this class is to introduce you to acting in front of a group of people and to realize the dozens of jobs in and around the theatre. You will be responsible for a play project, a patchwork performance, attending one of each of the A.T.O.R.T. performances, and a performance of the one act plays. If you miss any of these obligations you may automatically fail this class. The class will be held in two places during the semester, my classroom (the Green Room) 142, and the theatre itself. Please feel free to contact me via e-mail with any questions that you have at jball@muhs.com. I am also available during lunch and after school as well, but be sure to let me know ahead of times so I can make sure to be there. My phone number is 928-634-7531 x1142.

What do we do?

In Theatre Arts 1 we focus on the essentials of acting as well as introducing the student to the various aspects of technical theatre available in most places and some within our theatre itself. By the end of the course a student should be able to do the following:

- Follow various stage directions
- Memorize lines
- Follow and create blocking
- Develop characterizations and mannerisms different than their normal practices
- Understand the positions available within a theatre
- “what it takes” to actually put on and produce a show
- Self confidence
- Creating a community with the other actors in the class

Here is a list of some projects/scenes that will be completed throughout the semester:

- Monologues
- Improvisation Scene
- 2 person scene
- 3 person scene
- Public service skit
- Original composed scenes
- 10 Minute Plays
- Play summery/characterizations
- One Act Plays

Participation/Attendance

You will start of the year with 10 points in every week and a 100% in participation. Each day you receive two points. If you are participating or doing your work on a particular day, you will lose your points. If you are absent you will obviously not be participating, so you will lose your point as well. If you are tardy then I am just annoyed and you will still lose your points. A couple of times will not matter, but over time it can easily affect your grade. You will only retain your full points if you turn in a participation log at the end of each week. Failure to turn in a log will result in a 0 for the week. You may turn it in on Monday afterwards for **full credit**, but **half credit** will be received if returned on Tuesday. After that, logs will not be accepted for that week. You will be reminded, but YOU must stay on top of it!

Grades

Credit for this class will be earned through performances, both within the class and outside as well. You will also be graded on your play project, writing assignments, tests, and participation. There will be 4 categories of grades for the semester:

- Performances – 30 % of your grade
- Participation – 25% of your grade
- Homework/Classwork – 25% of your grade
- Tests – 20% of your grade

Rules

1. No GUM! I don't like it and it inhibits your speech.
2. No Food or Drink but Water...really...no food....
3. Be on time. A tardy means the loss of your daily points!
4. Don't make excuses and if you do, make it an adventurous one.
5. Respect each other, the Auditorium, myself, actors, techies...we are all working towards the same goal – improvement of the theatre program
6. Ask before you go to the bathroom so I know where you are.
7. Ignore all distractions around you. Do not talk to people that are not in the theatre class. I don't care if they are walking in the hallway around the theatre and you haven't seen them for 24 hours...it can wait! If Zac Efron himself walked in I would still yell at you for talking to someone outside of the class and I'm sure he would agree.
8. Support others with compliments and help them with constructive criticisms ONLY when asked to do so by the teacher.
9. Do not touch the curtains! It will eventually ruin them!
10. Under no reason should you ascend the spiral staircase or be on the catwalks. Automatic ALC will follow if I find out you did.

11. NEVER put your feet or knees on the auditorium seats. Please tell your friends around the school also. We want to keep the place looking nice! If I catch you...you will see me get mad...
12. You must wear shoes on stage. NO EXCEPTIONS!
13. Unless instructed to do so, do not touch any electronic equipment or lighting fixtures

Patchwork

Patchwork is an auditioned variety show put on by this class in conjunction with Theatre 2, and A.T.O.R.T. You are required to prepare something for auditions will be held during class the Monday the week before the show. Please plan on preparing a scene, monologue, song, skit, or dance for this audition and if chosen, you will perform it for the patchwork variety show and must attend the dress rehearsal.

Even if you are not chosen, you are still required to come and support your fellow class members for one performance. Additionally, you and a partner will be required decorate a table. Please bring a table cloth from home along with place settings for 6 peoples (real cups, plates, napkins, utensils (forks, knives, and spoons). You are not required to spend any extra money on this project. In the past, people have put together really amazing tables from things they have in their house. This event takes place on February 17th and 18th at 6pm, and tables must be set up by 4:30pm in the cafeteria.

One Acts

The One Act plays are essentially your final for this class. They will take place on Friday, May 11th at 7pm and Saturday, May 12th at 7pm. These productions are directed by 2 students of the Theatre 1 class and are put on entirely within the theatre classroom. Failure to attend either the dress rehearsal (if a director calls for one) or the performances may result in failure of the final. Again, the easiest way to fail this class is to not show up, or leaving early from an event. There will be a sing out sheet at the end of each night. Please do not go home until you have signed this sheet! Failure to do so will result in a lower grade for the One Acts. I do not want to have to pick up everyone's junk at the end of the show and clean the stage!

Performances

Being in the theatre class should mean that you want theatre to be a part of your life. We have a couple of performances that are mandatory. Should you miss a performance you may notice a large drop in your grade. This is the easiest and quickest way to fail and many students have failed in previous semesters. See the separate handout for all important dates. If you have work, please ask for it off now as it is not an excuse. If you need a ride, please let me know as I can set one up for you. If you cannot pay, I have complimentary tickets if you just ask. If you can't make one of the mainstage performances, there are some rehearsals I can let you see for full credit.

Afterschool Dates for Theatre Classes

The Mousetrap (Fall Play, must see ONE performance only)

Friday, October 20th at 7pm
Saturday, October 21st at 7pm
Friday, October 27th at 7pm
Saturday, October 28th at 7pm
Sunday, October 29th at 3pm

Passport to Broadway (Musical Review, must see ONE performance only)

Saturday, January 20th 7pm
Sunday, January 21st at 3pm
Friday, January 26th at 7pm
Saturday, January 27th at 7pm
Sunday, January 28th at 3pm

Patchwork – Dinner theatre show! (Must be at ONE performance only)

Saturday, February 17th 6pm
Sunday, February 18th 6pm

Crazy for You (Spring Musical, must see ONE performance only)

Saturday, April 21st 7pm
Sunday, April 22nd 3pm
Friday, April 27th 7pm
Saturday, April 28th 7pm
Sunday, April 29th 3pm

One Act Play Festival (This is your final for the class. **You must attend both nights!**)

Friday, May 11th at 7pm
Saturday, May 12th at 7pm