

Middle School Drama Class Syllabus

Instructor: Mr. Dennis Foreman

Class: Middle School Theater Arts

Course Philosophy: A practical introduction to the world of theater through improvisation and mounting a production.

Course Requirements: Enrollment in this elective is through the audition process. Students wishing to participate must prepare a 1-2 minute monolog of their choosing. This audition will occur during the first trimester. Students must purchase a copy of *Sixty-Minute Shakespeare: Twelfth Night* by Cass Foster, available in the school bookstore. Students are required to participate in the production of this play scheduled for February 19-20, 2010.

Grading Procedure: Projection	20%
Enunciation	20%
Physicality/Movement	20%
Taking Direction	15%
Final Performance	25%

Grading Scale:	A+ 97-100
	A 93-96
	A- 90-92
	B+ 87-89
	B 83-86
	B- 80-82
	C+ 77-79
	C 73-76
	C- 70-72
	D+ 67-69
	D 63-66
	D- 60-62
	F 0-59

Students will be critiqued on a daily and weekly basis.

Homework Policies: This is a studio class. Students will be required to memorize their lines and stage directions within the framework of class deadlines.

Classroom Policies:

1. Being part of a cast means you are part of a team. You must be in class.
2. IF a student misses a class/rehearsal, she is responsible for any material covered during her absence.
3. Excessive absences will likely result in losing a role.
4. Daily critiques will be given. Inappropriate or disrespectful comments are unacceptable.
5. English only!

6. Creativity is encouraged. Have fun!

Middle School Theater Arts Class Schedule and Structure:

The structure of this class is centered around the production of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. Students will be introduced to many aspects of the theater and the craft of acting.

Students will gain insight into the world of auditions, including how to select an audition piece. They will gain valuable experience as they are critiqued on their daily work. Our emphasis will be on developing confidence when before an audience. We stress the need for projection and clarity of speech.

Because our class project is the mounting of a play, our actual daily class will serve as the rehearsal process. Subjects covered during these sessions will include:

1. Blocking/Stage Geography
2. Stage Movement
3. Creating a Character
4. The Actor's Voice
5. Following Directions
6. Teamwork

We anticipate that our students will gain a new appreciation of the works of William Shakespeare as they perform a condensed version of his work, using the original language.

A full rehearsal/class schedule for the second trimester will be given at the start of this class. Early weeks will include improvisation, as well as blocking/stage directions for our production of *Twelfth Night*. This production will be held on Friday and Saturday, February 19-20.