

ADVANCED THEATRE ARTS
Herndon Middle School – 2016/2017
(Prerequisite – Theatre Appreciation)
Mr. Pafumi - Theatre Director
YEARLONG – 4th PD – 8th grade

Drama Room

<http://www.hmsdrama.org/>

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This elective course is designed to continue the studies that were introduced in the Theatre Appreciation course. Throughout this course, students will experience a more intense and in-depth study of the craft of theatre. They will continue to learn more vocabulary, more theatrical design concepts, and more approaches to different styles of acting and creative movement. The caliber of work and expectation will be far greater than that which was asked for in any intro theatre course. It is expected that students of this second year course will be more actively involved in the extracurricular productions and activities that occur throughout the school year. Overall, this course is for the aspiring theatre student who is willing to take their personal commitment and appreciation of the performing arts several steps further into the journey of process to product.

UNITS OF STUDY

Semester 1

First Quarter: August 29 to November 3

- *Audition Workshop and One Act.* As an extension of the advanced theatre curriculum, students of this course will hone their techniques in auditioning and preparing for a full scale extracurricular production. The culminating project of the class ensemble this quarter will be an original and devised One Act Play. The play's genesis will be a reflection of this year's department theme of "Rites of Passage" and will be performed as a fully produced Music & Movement piece of theatre.
- *Theatre Ethics, Vocabulary, & Quotes* will continue to be an integral part of the learning throughout the whole of this course, introducing new concepts each week for discussion.

Second Quarter: November 8 to January 25

- *Theatre Sports and Long Form Improv.* The class will be divided into teams of 4-5, looking for cross gender and character types, choosing captains and team identities. Teams will compete against each other through a variety of different improvisational games, using variables suggested from the audience. Scoring and peer assessment of the work will be emphasized and honed during this unit. Long form improv scenes will also be studied and practiced in the latter half of the unit.

Semester 2

Third Quarter: January 30 to April 13

- *Shakespearean Duet Acting Scenes.* Emphasis will be on the history of the Bard and his plays, while partners choose a short scene from the cannon of his works. These scenes (5 to 10 minutes in length) will be utilized for study and performance then critiqued by the class ensemble and instructor. Special interest will be given as to how to make Shakespearean language and situations accessible to modern audiences.

Fourth Quarter: April 17 – June 15

- *Commedia dell' Arte.* This classical genre of slapstick comedy will be taught to broaden the students understanding of stereotype characters and plot situations through highly stylized movement and poetic language. Scripts will be written and developed using classic scenarios that have been passed down in theatre history. Students will ultimately form casts within the class ensemble to produce fully scripted one-acts to be performed for the class audience. *Mask use* will also be included in this unit of study.

RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

- **No gum chewing, food, candy, or drinks allowed in the Drama Room or Auditorium.** Consistent disregard to this rule will result in disciplinary measures. (*Bottled water is allowed*)
- **No cell phones or personal music listening devices** are allowed during class time, and may be confiscated after fair warning. *Special exceptions under Acceptable Use Policy.*
- **Flip-flops are strongly discouraged** as this is a movement based class. Proper footwear should be worn so as to not distract or inhibit the work of an actor.
- **Arrive to class on time.** After (2) tardies, students will be assigned after school detentions, and with each subsequent tardy after two, longer detentions will follow.
- **Active Participation is required.** As second year Theatre students, consistent and enthusiastic participation is expected.
- **Follow all Theatre Ethics.** A detailed list of general theatre ethics within the professional world of the performing arts will be handed out at the beginning of this course. Each ethic is to be followed at all times within the practices of this program.
- **Extracurricular involvement** is *strongly* encouraged. The more each individual student gets involved in the after school theatre programs, the higher the caliber of work will be in the classroom, while helping to influence a student's individual grade and assessment.
- **All other school rules and guidelines mentioned in the HMS Student Handbook,** as well as Fairfax County's expectations published within the *Students Rights and Responsibilities*, are to be strictly followed and obeyed at all times within the Theatre Arts learning environment.

EVALUATION (4.0 Scale)

For each of the 4 Quarters, every student will be given a *Weekly Grades* based on:

Skills Assessment, **Demonstration of Content**, and the use of **Theatre Ethics**.

Daily project work is averaged into weekly grades. 8 weekly grades will be averaged along with the grade for each Unit's final presentation, within that grading Quarter.

- Students who **earn below a 70%** on any project or test **may retake** outside of class time, wherein the best new score will be no greater than an 80%.
- All **late work and incompletes** must be turned in within **two weeks** after deadline. If not, the score for that project or test will be entered as a 50%.
- A Theatre Arts **Notebook** will be continued from the prerequisite Theatre Appreciation course. All previous material is expected to be a part of this text. This theatre notebook is to be maintained daily, and to be used as a study tool for the tests. An open notebook test may be given each Nine Weeks, worth 10% of that Quarter grade.
- **Homework** will include script readings, memorization, and possible out of class scene rehearsals. The more time spent on these skills and practices will improve final presentations and performance grades.
- **Two Critiques**, (minimum of 2-typed pages) of a theatrical production will be expected, with one due by the end of each semester (January & June). These review/critiques must be of a middle school production or above (including community/collegiate/professional theatre). Each one is worth 10% of the quarter grade.
- **Quarter Tests** may be administered at the end of each grading quarter. These will be worth 10% of the final quarter grade, and will be cumulative of all theatre info taught.
- **Final Exam**, which will be worth 10% of the final grade. This will consist of a FINAL REFLECTION ESSAY based on all theatre events and classroom units of study from the past year. Minimum page requirement is (3) pages, double spaced, typed, 12 point font.

MATERIALS

- A three ring binder, 1 inch, hard cover, with pockets, and loose leaf paper & pen/pencils.
- Comfortable clothing for creative movement days (no flip-flops, please)
- A box of tissues to be donated for the good of all.