

Holly Springs High School Theatre Arts I Syllabus

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Fall 2011 Office Hours: 2:30-3:30 Tuesdays

Textbook: The Stage and the School

Course Description

Theatre Arts I is an introductory study of theatre. Students will be studying theatre appreciation with topics to include: structure of drama, evaluations of drama and playwrights, play production, improvisation, pantomime, acting and technical design.

Course Work

In this class, students will:

1. Demonstrate self-confidence by projecting a desired image in both social and performance settings.
2. Practice performance techniques, including movement, voice projection, diction, facial expression, and gesture.
3. Analyze a variety of different play styles and research a specific playwright.
4. Discuss the values of theatre arts and explain their place in contemporary American society.
5. Discuss major developments in theatre history from Greek to modern times.

Major Instructional Goals

The student will have the opportunity to develop strategies and knowledge to:

1. Understand the performing arts and appreciate them through his newfound knowledge.
2. Discuss the origins and values of theatre arts and their place in contemporary American society.
3. Develop stage presence and voice projection through participation in performance activities.
4. Understand the technical aspects of theatrical production.
5. Understand and demonstrate knowledge of the play production process.

Course Outline

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|----------------------|----------------------|
| A. Elements of Drama | F. Play Production |
| B. Improvisation | G. Technical Theater |
| C. Pantomime | H. Play Review |
| D. Voice Improvement | I. Theatre History |
| E. Acting | |

Requirements

Students will be required to do both performance and written work in this course.

A. PLAY READING REPORTS: Students will be required to read one full-length play PER QUARTER. Plays are available either in the classroom or the library. Mr. Buttner must approve the play prior to completion of the report. Once a play has been approved and read, then a report must be completed and turned in for credit to be awarded.

B. LIVE PERFORMANCE CRITIQUES: Students will be required to observe both HSTC productions this semester and give a written response/critique of the performance. This semester’s production season includes:

Fall Play. November 3, 4, & 5 @ 7:00 PM. \$7.00

Fall Student Directed Play. January 5, 6, & 7 @ 7:00 PM. \$5.00

C. IN-CLASS PERFORMANCE: Specific in-class performances will be necessary for a portion of the student’s grade. In Theatre Arts I, students will perform in front of an audience either alone or with other actors. Students are expected to perform on the date assigned to them. If a student is absent the day of performance, then they will be expected to make-up that performance the day of their return. There will be no exceptions unless authorized by Mr. Buttner. (**If a student, for various reasons, chooses not to perform a specific unit, then an alternate written assignment **MUST** be completed for credit. You will only be allowed **one** alternative assignment. Mr. Buttner must approve this IN ADVANCE.) Parents are invited to all formal in-class performances and will receive at least two weeks notice via mail and email to make arrangements to attend.

D. Evaluations

A final evaluative assignment will be given for each unit of study. This evaluation may be a written examination or a performance, depending on the unit of study. The final examination for this course will be cumulative over the entire semester’s work. This final exam will be worth at 20% of the course grade, consisting of a written and performance assessment. The final grade will be made up of the following areas:

Weekly Participation (Assessed by Student and Teacher)	25%
Daily Classwork	10%
Homework	10%
Formal Performances / Projects	35%
Tests / Quizzes	20%
Total	100%

Progress Reports will be given at the midpoint of the quarter. Parents may also use the option of looking at their students’ grades online through SPAN, found through the HSHS Website.

During each performance unit you will be given several sessions of rehearsal time and you will be awarded participation points for each session. These points will be used as 25% of your final performance unit grade. Time not used for rehearsal during the rehearsal time allotted will not only lower your grade, but may force shorter rehearsal time for that specific assignment.

Extra Credit

Extra credit is available. Students may see additional performances of productions in the area. To receive this credit, you must complete an additional critique with proof of attendance to the performance. The critique must be turned in within two weeks of the performance date on the ticket stub or program.

Participation & Attendance

The opportunity to learn about Theatre can only be truly successful when active participation is present. Participation in this class is of the highest priority. Everyone in this class must be open and willing to attempt every activity. To participate fully in this class, you must be in attendance every day. You cannot perform, participate and learn if you are not here. It will be difficult to pass this course if you are not here on a daily basis.

Make-Up Work for Absent Students

Make-up work for written assignments is permitted and will be graded for full credit provided that it is turned in within two (2) days after a student returns to school. Performance work that is missed must be made up the day the student returns to class. It is the student's responsibility to request work missed and to turn in or perform within the above guidelines. Missed tests must be made up either before or after school.

Late Work

Late work is permitted at HSHS, however 8 points are deducted each day your assignment is late. It is the student's responsibility to turn in missed/late work.

Food, Gum & Beverage

Food, beverages, and gum are NOT PERMITTED in the auditorium or other performance spaces. If in the commons area, DO NOT ask Mr. Buttner to retrieve something from the vending machines. Water is permitted, however all other food and beverages are prohibited. Chewing gum will result in a lower participation grade and, if continues, you will be assigned HOT Lunch detention.

Auditorium Facility – Freedoms & Restrictions

Some of the work, in this class, will not be done in the auditorium. On certain occasions, we will be rehearsing or performing in the commons area, band room, chorus room, and dance room. You will be required to stay with the class AT ALL TIMES. You must have permission from Mr. Buttner enter the prop closets, backstage area, and costume closet. If you are not in a designated area at a given time, you will be given a disciplinary referral and your parents will be contacted.

Classroom Rules

- A. Be on time. The door will be closed after the second bell and you will be sent to the "Swoop" area to process a tardy.
- B. Be respectful to both the teacher and students at all times.
- C. Students must enter the auditorium through the Band/Chorus Side. Place all personal belongings in the designated space. Any lost/stolen item is not Mr. Buttner's responsibility. Please keep all valuables in your locker, car, or at home.
- D. ABSOLUTELY NO NEGATIVE COMMENTS about other students' performances will be allowed. This is a cardinal sin during this class. It is hard enough to perform in front of your peers, much less be concerned about your appearance. **I will not tolerate negative comments.**
- E. Always know your part. A large majority of your performance projects will be group projects and the other members of your group are counting on you to complete the project to the best of your ability, as it affects the final outcome of the performance.
- F. All projects/performances must be approved by Mr. Buttner prior to performance. No exceptions will be made to this rule. If they are not approved you will not receive a grade for that unit.
- G. Talking while others are performing is inconsiderate and is not to be done.
- H. Do not give a performance with candy or gum in your mouth. Points will be deducted from a performance when a speaker has gum or candy in his/her mouth.
- I. All electronic devices, such as cellular phone, pagers, PDAs and headphones, may be in the student's possession as long as they are not used or visible during the school day. If they are out in class or being used, I will confiscate them and turn them in to the office.
- J. Adhere to all rules set aside in the WCPSS handbook.

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is expected in all classes at HSHS. Cheating will not be tolerated. Violations of academic honesty include, but are not limited to, copying, allowing someone to copy your paper, using cheat sheets, using technology to transmit or receive information with the intent to commit academic dishonesty, not grading correctly, plagiarizing, and self-plagiarizing. Plagiarism is the theft of ideas, writings, or words of another person and passing this information off as one's own. Self-plagiarism is completing an original paper for one class assignment, then turning in that same paper to another teacher for another class assignment without permission. Papers may be checked by the teacher using plagiarism detection software. Any student cheating will be subject to academic and/or disciplinary penalties. Consequences may include: reduction in grade on assignment, repeat assignment, no grade (zero) on assignment or others as deemed appropriate. Academic dishonesty will be reported to a school counselor and a parent will be notified.

Are there costs involved with Theatre Arts I?

YES! Each student will learn theatrical make-up practices and therefore requires their personal make-up kit. For obvious reasons, make-up kits are not shared with other students. Each make-up kit is \$17.00 and can be used with future Theatre Arts courses. **Support is available for those who need financial assistance and should be addressed to Mr. Buttner before payment is due.**

Each make-up kit contains the following items:

- 2 skin-tone make-up base colors
- 3 versatile highlights/shadows
- Blush or lip colors
- Full size pencil liner
- Full size professional make-up brush
- 2 latex applicator sponges
- Stipple sponge
- Color-set translucent setting powder
- Powder puff
- Step-by-step illustrated instructions

Payment for the "Student Make-Up Kit" is due **September 19th**. Checks need to be made out to "**HSHS Fine Arts Boosters**".

Summary

This will be a busy semester for you in this class. All I ask is that you be open to all activities and not be afraid to show your abilities. All people have the ability to do something in all areas of theatre. This course is designed to help you decide in what area you are most suited to participate. Remember that this is an elective course and that you chose to take this class. Participation is the key to success in this course. If you participate in all activities and give to the best of your abilities, then you will not have trouble passing this course.

Please feel free to become a part of the Holly Springs Theatre Company's Student Directed Production. Auditions are open to all students and provide a great opportunity to meet new people while expanding your acting experience. There will be two major productions for you to audition for or for you to be involved in from behind-the-scenes. These are great opportunities to become involved with a variety of students and to explore many talents you may not realize you have.

Student / Parent Agreements

The success of our fine arts programs depends on student AND parent involvement! There are many ways to become involved. Please check all areas that you would be available to assist with if needed.

_____ **Hospitality** –responsibilities include helping to gather food donations from parents and local businesses for such events as cast parties, National Thespian Honor Society induction ceremony, our Fall and Spring productions, and the end-of-the-year Theatre Arts Banquet.

_____ **Publicity** – responsibilities include the promotion of our performances in local papers, poster distribution to local businesses and website advertisements.

_____ **Ads** – responsibilities include gathering ads from local businesses and parent “good luck” wishes for our programs. Additional area of help would be to assist with scanning/layout.

_____ **Concession sales** – parents see our full productions but help prior to the show and during intermission to sell items to our audiences.

_____ **Sewing** – responsibilities mostly include tailoring of costumes but in some instances may involve the complete making of a costume.

_____ **Set Construction** – responsibilities include providing transportation of materials from lumber yard, use of shop tools and machinery, painting, and construction.

_____ **Other** – if you have a unique talent that you feel could be of service, please specify.

_____ **Not available for assistance at this time.**

Agreement: After reviewing the Theatre Arts Handbook, please print and sign your name to verify that you understand and accept Mr. Buttner’s expectations. Also, parents, please include your email address.

Parent’s Name (Printed) _____

Parent’s Signature _____

Student’s Name (Printed) _____

Student’s Signature _____

PLEASE WRITE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CLEARLY AND SLOWLY!

Parent email _____

Parent phone _____

All email addresses will be shared with our fine arts boosters. Even if you are not able to volunteer at this time it is important that the booster organization has a way to keep you informed. The boosters will blind cc the membership so your address will remain private from others.

_____ Please include me in all booster mailings/updates.

_____ Please do not share my email with the fine arts boosters.