



Introduction to Theater Syllabus

Mrs. Sherratt- B140

madeleine_sherratt@chino.k12.ca.us



Welcome to Intro to Theater! First and foremost, I'm so happy to have you in my class this year. I look forward to getting to know you and watching you grow as a performer and individual.

Course Description: This introductory course is designed to help students establish a foundation in drama. Students will learn and develop acting techniques—such as voice control, timing, characterization, blocking, and movement— as they read and study dramatic literature, explore musical theater, and learn various theatrical elements. More than anything, the course is designed to enhance theater appreciation and provide students an outlet for self-expression and creativity.

This is a hands-on class, and students ***WILL*** perform ***DURING*** the class period. As beginners, students may be anxious or nervous about performing in front of their peers. Anyone who has ever acted (myself included) remembers those initial anxieties and insecurities well. Learning to combat and conquer those anxieties is as important a skill to learn as any other skill or technique I can teach. In the words of Spanish novelist Miguel de Cervantes, “To be prepared is half the victory.” Before performing, students will have ample time to rehearse and will have participated in learning activities related to the performance. By the end of the year, my goal is for each student to have increased their knowledge and appreciation of theater, as well as their confidence as an individual.

Materials:

- Any necessary prop or costume pieces (per project, recommended).
- A Theater Notebook (any single subject notebook will work) for performance notes & feedback.
- All scripts, handouts, and videos will be provided.

Grade Breakdown: Grades in theater are assigned through rubrics that assess/measure the understanding and implementation of skills and knowledge. Talent level will hopefully rise as technique is learned, however, talent will never be a qualifier for a higher grade.

Performances/Projects - 50%

Tests/Quizzes – 10%

Live Performance Review - 15%

Classwork/Participation – 25%

Grade Scale:

A: 100 - 90 %

B: 80 – 89 %

C: 70 – 79 %

D: 60 – 69 %

F: 59 % or Below

Live Performance Review: All students are required to see a live play or musical during the course of each semester and write a critique. It can be a virtual performance, live performance, or prerecorded live performance. Students are encouraged to attend Ayala Theater performances, but may also attend a play

of their own choosing elsewhere in the community. Students will submit a written review of the play, which will count toward their semester grade.

Media Permission: Per district regulations, parents will need to give permission for students to watch videos, recorded plays, and all other recorded visual media. By signing this syllabus, parents/guardians agree to allow their children to watch the following media presentations as part of our *Introduction to Theater* curriculum, acknowledging that they may withdraw consent at anytime, and for any reason:

- Broadway: The American Musical, Episodes 1-5
- Into The Woods
- Phantom of The Opera
- Les Miserables

If any other media permissions are required, a permission slip will be sent in the form of a Google Form before each unit. Parents and guardians will only need to supply their email address and name on this form; filling out this form will be considered permission for the student to watch the designated media unless otherwise designated on the form.

Respect: The most important and foundational expectation in my class is that all students are treated with and treat others with respect. Theater is the ultimate collaborative effort: it requires a high level of communication and cooperation from everyone involved, from the director, to the stage manager, to the actors, all the way to the ticket takers. Everyone involved in this class plays a vital role. I will do my best to assume the best intentions in all students, and I will encourage students to do the same; however, language and behavior that is mean-spirited and disrespectful has no place in our classroom. Our class is a community that is dependent on the respect, participation, and enthusiasm of each member for the success of the whole.

Responsibility: Take responsibility for your work and your actions. Be on time to class and ready to work, with all required materials. Students are required to maintain journals. Homework assignments are due at the beginning of class when the bell rings.

Effort: This class requires you to work both inside and outside of class to complete assignments. Accept assignments without complaints and do your best on all work. In this class, you will get out what you put in. Keep all electronic devices out of the classroom unless otherwise directed.

Restroom and Food Policy: Please use passing periods to take care of restroom and water fountain needs. In the case of an emergency, students must ask permission to use the restroom and take the appropriate pass. No food or drinks are allowed in the classroom unless I give express permission (water is the exception).

Cell Phone and Technology Policy: NO CELL PHONES ALLOWED. There is no reason for you to have your cell phone out in my class. If I see it, you will be given ONE verbal warning. If I see it again, I will confiscate it, and it will be sent to the vice principal's office. NO VIDEO RECORDING OR PHOTOS of anyone in the classroom, student or teacher, unless you have been given explicit permission from myself and all those being recorded/photographed. Recording or photographing someone without their permission, regardless of intent, is an egregious violation of privacy and will be treated as bullying.

Please sign this syllabus, have a parent/guardian sign, and return to me for homework credit.

Student Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____

Weekly Schedule: Introduction to Theater

Schedule Subject to Change and Modification as Necessary

Week 1 August 5-9	Welcome to Introduction to Theater! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course and Syllabus Introduction • Live Performance Review Breakdown • Activities & Ice Breakers
Week 2 August 12-16	Unit 1: The Importance of Theater <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Theater • Theater Research and History • Theater Impact
Week 3 August 19-23	Unit 1: The Importance of Theater <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More Review • Socratic Seminar
Week 4 August 26-30	Unit 2: The Basics of Stage & Theater <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theater Terminology • Tour of the MPR • Blocking • Quiz on Stage & Theater Terminology
Week 5 September 2-6 (No School Monday)	Unit 2: The Basics of Stage & Theater <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Research of Theater Topic • Slides Presentation on the history, significance, and value of different theatrical elements.
Week 6 September 9-13 (End of 6 Week Grading Period)	Unit 2: The Basics of Stage & Theater <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to Give Performance Feedback • How to Rehearse • Tips and Tricks for Memorization
Week 7 September 16-20	Unit 3: Pantomime <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Pantomime • Rehearsal for Pantomime Performance
Week 8 September 23-27	Unit 3: Pantomime <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehearsal for Pantomime
Week 9 September 30- October 4	Unit 3: Pantomime <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performances for Pantomime • Feedback Forms for Pantomime

Week 10 October 7-11	Unit 4 Transformation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voice and Accents • Studying Your Character • The Art of Becoming...Someone Else
Week 11 October 14-18	Unit 4: Transformation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Art of Costuming and Costume Design • Costume Design Vision Board
Week 12 October 21-25 (End of the 12 Week Grading Period)	Unit 4: Transformation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special FX Make-up Workshop • Stage Make-up Scenes From a Hat Project
Week 13 October 28-November 1 (Halloween Thursday, No School Friday)	Unit 4: Transformation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putting It All Together for Halloween • Halloween Catwalk Competition- Costume, Make-up, and 1-Minute Performance
Week 14 November 4-8 (Week of the Fall Play)	Unit 5: Monologues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Monologues • Choosing a Monologue • Rehearsal
Week 15 November 11-15 (No School Monday)	Unit 5: Monologues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehearsal
Week 16 November 18-22	Unit 5: Monologues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehearsals
Week 17 November 28-29 (Thanksgiving Break)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanksgiving Break: Enjoy Your Break!
Week 18 December 2-6	Unit 5: Monologues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performances • Feedback Forms for Monologues
Week 19 December 9-13	Live Performance Review Workshop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch/Write
Week 20 December 16-20	Finals Week: Live Performance Review Final Draft Due on Finals Day By End of Period

Finals Week	
Week 21- Week 22 December 23-27 December 30- January 3 (Winter Break)	Winter Break: Enjoy Your Break!
Week 23 January 6-10	Unit 6: Scene Work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading the Scenes Together • Examining the Context • Selecting A Scene
Week 24 January 13-17	Unit 6: Scene Work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehearsals
Week 25 January 20-24 (No School Monday)	Unit 6: Scene Work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehearsals
Week 26 January 27-31	Unit 6: Scene Work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehearsals
Week 27 February 3-7	Unit 6: Scene Work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish Rehearsals • Begin Performances
Week 28 February 10-14 (No School Monday)	Unit 6: Scene Work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish Performances • Feedback Forms for Scenes
Week 29 February 17-21 (No School Monday)	Unit 7: Musical Theater <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Broadway: The American Musical” Episodes 1-5 • “Broadway: The American Musical” Study Guide
Week 30 February 24-28	Unit 7: Musical Theater <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch <i>Into The Woods</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Direction ◦ Costumes • Costume Design Mini-Project
Week 31 March 3-7	Unit 7: Musical Theater <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch <i>Phantom of The Opera</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lighting and Sound Design ○ Movement and Expression ● Light Design Mini-Projects
Week 32 March 10-14	Unit 7: Musical Theater <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Watch <i>Les Miserables</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Acting ○ Set Design ● Begin “Mini-Musical” Project
Week 33 March 17-21	Unit 7: Musical Theater <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mini-Musical Project: ● Work on Mini-Musical Project in groups this week
Week 34 March 24-28 (Spring Break)	<p style="text-align: center;">Spring Break: Enjoy Your Break!</p>
Week 35 March 31-April 4 (Week of The Musical)	Unit 7: Musical Theater <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Work on Mini-Musical Project in groups this week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Due Friday (March 22) at 11:59 PM
Week 36 April 7-11	Unit 8: The Crucible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduction to Critical Analysis in Theater ● Introduction to Arthur Miller, The Witch Trials, and McCarthyism ● Read “Why I Wrote The Crucible” by Arthur Miller
Week 37 April 14-18 (No School Friday)	Unit 8: The Crucible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read <i>The Crucible</i> ● Daily Responses
Week 38 April 21-25	Unit 8: The Crucible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Finish <i>The Crucible</i> ● Daily Responses ● Analyze the Play
Week 39 April 28-May 2	Unit 8: The Crucible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Writing Your Modern Crucible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Brainstorm Script Ideas ○ Outline the Script ○ Write Dialogue ○ Incorporate Conflict
Week 40 May 5-9 (Auditions For Advanced/P&P)	Unit 8: The Crucible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Writing Your Modern Crucible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Draft and Revise Scripts ○ Perform Readings

Week 41 May 12-16	Live Performance Review Workshop: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Watch/Write
Week 42 May 19-23 (Finals Week)	Finals Week: Live Performance Review Final Draft Due on Finals Day By End of Period