

THEATRE ARTS Beginning, Intermediate, Proficient, Advanced

Course Syllabus

High Point Central High School

Ms. Matthews

Room 219

Spring 2020

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

"I'm not planning to be an actor when I graduate. So why is participating in theatre important?"

Theatre education is so important. It teaches skills that can be used in all areas of life, not just for actors. Drama teaches: creativity, confidence, problem solving, perseverance, focus, nonverbal communication, how to give and receive constructive criticism, collaboration, dedication, and accountability.

"I'm shy. Do I have to perform in front of people?"

Yes, but not at first. We will build on that slowly, starting with ensemble building exercises and taking time to get comfortable with one another. Remember: everyone is just as shy as you are about performing in front of others. But in drama class, you'll find that we are a family, and we support one another.

"What if I'm not good at acting?"

All that I ask is that you do your best. That's all. You are graded on your effort in my class. As long as you participate and I can see that you are working very hard and trying your best, then you will be okay.

"Is taking theatre an easy A?"

No. Far from it in fact. Drama takes a lot of focus, patience, and practice. There are also written assignments, quizzes, tests, projects, and notes, as well as acting and technical theatre assignments. Like I said above, as long as you try and do your very best, you'll be fine. The only way you can fail the class is if you refuse to try, refuse to participate, refuse to perform, and refuse to turn in your work.

Theatre Arts Syllabus

Contact Information:

Please feel free to contact me as needed.

Ms. Matthews' Email: matthem@gcsnc.com

Ms. Matthews' Phone: 819-2825 ext. 1605

Ms. Matthews' Schedule:

First Block	8:50 – 10:20	Beginning Theater
Second Block	10:27 – 11:57	IB Theater
Third Block	12:04 – 12:51	Intermediate Theater
	12:51 – 1:19	LUNCH
	1:23 – 2:06	Intermediate Theater
Fourth Block	2:13 – 3:45	Planning

Supplies:

The following supplies need to be brought to every class:

- *pencils and erasers
- *Highlighter
- *Assigned scripts – provided by the teacher
- *Spiral Notebook or Composition notebook - for daily journal writing
- *Creativity
- *An open mind

Clothing:

For theatre class you will need to wear or bring clothing with you that is loose fitting and does not constrict movement. You will be docked participation points if you cannot participate in warm ups or rehearsals due to restrictive clothing. You will also need to bring paint clothes with you (clothes that you don't mind getting paint on) for days when we are painting. I will give you at least 24 hours notice of paint days.

Make Up Work/Late Work:

Late work must be made up within 5 calendar days. Up to 10% will be docked daily for late work. Performance grades are crucial and students must be present for a graded performance. If you know that you are going to miss class, talk to me prior to that date. You are more than welcome to arrange a time with me to make up work. Remember that missing a performance does not only affect you, but also your scene partner(s). It is your responsibility as a student to ask, receive, and complete missing assignments, not mine.

Grading Breakdown:

Performances (In-Class)	25%
Participation	25%
Journals/Critiques	20%
Tests/Quizzes	10%
Drama Projects	20%

Performances Breakdown - Throughout the year students will be required to perform pieces of their choosing from memory. Since we spend days and sometimes weeks on these rehearsals, each performance will count as a weighted grade based on how long we have been rehearsing.

Participation Breakdown - Students are graded based on their adherence to the nine Classroom Community Standards. The nine standards fall under three categories, which are Collaboration, Communication and Conduct. Students can earn a total of 30 points per week (6 points each day/2 points per category), but will lose points when they do not follow the standards. The standards are as follows:

Collaboration

Focus on the task at hand – in groups or as an individual

Add to your group, do your part

Communication

Only speak when called on during lessons and class discussion

Respect others with your words

Listen to and follow instructions

Conduct

Be in class on time and prepared

Put away cell phones unless instructed

Remain seated unless instructed

Take care of classroom resources

Journals/Critiques Breakdown – Students will be given daily writing prompts that correspond to the lesson or project that we are preparing to study. For critiques breakdown, please see the attached “Critique Rubric.”

Tests/Quizzes Breakdown - Students will have occasional quizzes or test that will consist of various question formats. Random script checks will go in as a quiz grade.

Drama Projects - You must do a series of drama projects in order to earn a total of points each quarter. This project is worth 20% of your final grade.

*Beginning Theatre students must earn 200 points for each semester

*All other students (Intermediate, Proficient, Advanced) must earn 300 points for each semester

First points due: TBA

Second points due: TBA

Projects are encouraged to be turned in early to help students keep track of their points

*Dates are subject to change depending on the calendar. If changes must be made to the due dates, students will receive ample notice. Due to the amount of time given to work on these projects, late projects will NOT be accepted.

To earn these points you must do a series of projects that help you to learn about various concepts of drama that encourage imagination and creativity. Each project will be worth a different amount of points (listed below). The number(s) beside each idea is an approximate amount of points that students can earn.

Ideas:

Perform a 1-2 minute monologue (100)

Perform a 1-2 minute scene (50-75)

Perform in a 1-2 minute Improvisational skit (15-25)

Mime Performance 1-2 minutes (15-45)

Write a skit or a play (25-100)

Create your own character and perform as that character (50-100)

Greek Theatre Masks (15-25)

Models (100-200)

Posters (25-50)

Playbills/Programs (20-25)

Collages (25-50)

Box/container projects (100)

Reports (50-100)

Power Points/Slide Rocket (7-10 per slide)

Create a scrapbook (25-50)

Make a movie trailer, movie, or commercial (100-200)

See a live theatre performance and review the show (100-150)

Painting (25-100) Sculpture (50-100)

Design (set, costumes, makeup/hair, lights, sound) (50-100)

Sewing (25-100)

Create a drama lesson plan (25-50)

Write a poem (25-50)

Sing a song from a musical (25-75)

Any other ideas are welcome! Find something that you like to do and apply it to drama. Please discuss your ideas with me before you start working on anything. Have specifics in mind ready for me. All projects must be related to drama.

Grading Scale:

100 - 90 = A

89 - 80 = B

79 - 70 = C

69 - 60 = D

59- below = F

Class Expectations:

All of the school rules that are in your student handbook are in effect. In addition, here is my NUMBER ONE class rule: RESPECT. Respect for ourselves, our classmates, our teacher, and our school.

In addition:

- *No cell phones allowed in class.
- *No gum in warm ups, rehearsals, or performances.
- *Please clean up after yourself.
- *Be a supportive, respectful audience for each other and for me.

THINGS YOU WILL DO IN CLASS:

Read. Create. Imagine. Collaborate. Communicate. Cooperate.

THINGS YOU WILL NOT DO IN CLASS:

Sleep. Disengage. Stifle. Ignore. Disrespect. Complain.

Homework:

Traditional homework will not be assigned in this class, however, students will need to work on memorization, characterization and scene work at home as needed. The drama project and live theatre performance assignment (See "Drama Project") are to be done at home as well.

Live Theatre Performances:

Each student is required to see one live theatre performance outside of school. This cannot be a show that a student is either acting in or doing tech. Since we want students to experience plays from professional theatre companies, church plays will not count towards this assignment, nor will viewing recorded performances. Students must turn in a program or ticket stub from the production with a 1-2 page critique (see rubric).

I am not looking for a summary of the production. See me if you have any questions. If a student has financial issues obtaining money to see a production, see Ms. Matthews ASAP.

PLAY REQUIREMENT:

What is this? Every theatre student is expected to see a theatrical performance during the semester of his/her class.

Why? Ideally, we are helping to mold life-long habits and attitudes toward the arts. In addition to hopefully inspiring life-long theatre attendance, this assignment fulfills three of the essential standards for theatre arts in the curriculum:

B.A.1.2 Analyze informal or formal theatre productions in terms of the emotions or thoughts they evoke, characters, settings, and events.

B.AE.1.2 Explain how the major technical elements, such as sound, lights, set, and costumes, are used to enhance formal or informal productions.

B.CU.2.1 Illustrate appropriate theatre etiquette as a member of an audience, as a performer, and as a technician.

My class promotes 21st century skills:

- *Critical Thinking
- *Creative Thinking
- *Communication
- *Collaboration

The act of being in a play promotes all of these skills.

Critical Thinking: *We apply close reading to the script *We analyze our characters and make inferences
*We ask and answer questions based on the script

Creativity: *We interpret the script *We develop choices for our characters *We design the costumes, sets, and props based on the script

Communication: *We construct a vision both visual and thematic *We offer feedback and suggestions during the rehearsal process *We receive and process feedback from the audience

Collaboration: *We work together onstage and off *We develop a community *We problem solve

Finally, theatre is about "doing," not talking about doing. With that being said, this is a performance based class. Students will be expected to participate in warm ups and rehearsals, perform, give and receive constructive criticism, collaborate, and think creatively. Students in this course will study theatre history, acting, directing, playwriting, and technical theatre. We will also use elements from English language arts and social studies in our exploration of theatre. Please note: theatre is fluid. Changes may need to be made to assignments, units, and projects. Students will have reading and writing assignments, work on theatre vocabulary, participate in warm-up activities, rehearse and perform short scenes, and take quizzes and tests.

UNITS to Cover:

Beginning Theatre Arts students: theatre history, beginning acting, beginning playwriting, beginning directing, beginning technical theatre, audience etiquette, giving and receiving constructive criticism

Intermediate Theatre Arts students: mime performance, intermediate acting (modern scene work and monologues), intermediate directing (10 minute play), intermediate technical theatre (stage management and design), intermediate playwriting.

Proficient (Honors) Theatre Arts students: American theatre, proficient acting (classical scenes and monologues), playwriting (3, 5, and 10 minute plays), proficient technical theatre (portfolio design work), proficient directing (one act play), research paper (modern American playwright).

Advanced (Honors) Theatre Arts students: Musical theatre, advanced acting (multiple characters), playwriting (one-act plays), advanced technical theatre (advanced designs), advanced directing (children's theatre, theatre in the round), playscript analysis.