

Name:

THEATRE ARTS I

MR. STAPLETON

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SIXTH PERIOD

ROOM 131 / THEATRE



“Work is what you do for others... art is what you do for yourself.” - Stephen Sondheim
- Mr. Stapleton, 2021

Welcome to Theatre Arts I, one of three available theatre courses at Northwest! In this class, you will learn various basic theatrical and life skills that will serve your development as both a theatre practitioner and member of society. Theatre is ultimately about community, and communities rely on cooperation and trust – for this reason, all students will be trusted (and expected) to put forth their best effort at all times, regardless of prior theatre experience. I am excited to watch this ensemble build and grow! We will learn about:

THEATRE BASICS - BLOCKING - PANTOMIME - FREEING THE VOICE - BREATH CONTROL - IMPROVISATION - FACIAL CONTROL - THEATRE’S INCEPTION - TERMINOLOGY AND ETIQUETTE - CONSTRUCTIVE REST - MONOLOGUING - ACTING WITH OBJECTIVES - ENSEMBLE-BUILDING

Though there will (of course) be tons to learn about, study, and discuss, this course is a “do”-heavy class. We will be *doing* a great deal in our time together, so it is imperative that students arrive to class each day well-rested, hydrated, and prepared to move, bend, twist, crawl, climb, and jump, as well as to read, write, listen, speak, and – most importantly – think.

The following materials should be brought to every class:

- **Notebook OR journal exclusively for use in this class**

For daily journal entries and specified writing assignments.

- **Pencil, sharpened and with eraser**

For annotating scripts, recording blocking, classwork, etc.

- **Pen (black or blue)**
- Highlighter (not required but good to have)

For marking lines in scripts.

- **Movement-appropriate clothing**

Clothing that does not restrict movement or unnecessarily expose the body.

- **Closed-toed shoes**
- Water bottle (not required, but always a good idea)

Students should expect to move their bodies each and every day in this class, as most of the concepts explored this year require utilization of the body, voice, and mind in tandem.

In addition, students will be reading plays from both within and outside the contemporary dramatic canon, and will have the opportunity to read and/or observe pieces from a diverse range of social, cultural, and historical perspectives. Students will engage critically with the texts *and* with the world around them, and emerge with a clearer understanding of dramatics, acting, writing, language, storytelling in general, or, simply, humanity and its nature.