

Fundamentals of Acting

Mrs. Braibish (Miz B)- CHS theatre teacher

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Ms. Wyatt- CSD theatre manager

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Course Description

This course will be an introduction to the experience of acting. It will also be an introduction to the experience of performing, self-presentation, and thinking/operating like an artist in a broader sense. We will be moving our bodies, exploring our voices, telling stories, improvising, performing scenes in pairs, performing monologues, watching theatre, reading theatre, learning to analyze a scene to perform it, learning to analyze theatre to critique it, writing about our experiences, learning to see the world around you, learning to work together as an ensemble, all while growing more confident and grounded as individuals and more supportive as a community.

Course Objectives

- To gain an awareness of a range of theatre works through the process of watching, reading, analyzing, rehearsing, performing and critiquing performance.
- To understand the works being studied as expressions of individual or broader human values within an historical, cultural and/or social context.
- To articulate an informed critical response to the works being studied.
- To gain a greater sense of comfort standing, speaking, moving, and being in front of others
- To gain a greater sense of command over your body and voice as instruments of performance
- To create a working definition of acting and performance within the medium of theatre as well as how it pertains to you in your individual interests.
- To develop the skills and vocabulary to articulate informed critical responses to the works being studied and art/performance in general

Outside-Class Activities, Journal Entries, Handouts

- All relevant class materials including syllabus, course calendar, class handouts, assignment due dates, etc can be found online at mizb.net.
- You need to plan for scene rehearsals outside of class time. While some class time will be given to rehearse scenes, in all likelihood it will not be enough. Scenes that are under-rehearsed or under-prepared will receive substantially lower scores.

Grading/ Assessment

- Due to the participatory nature of a theatre class, **if you don't come, you won't pass.**
- This class will operate on production protocol. If you are going to be absent you must inform instructor right away. Unexcused absences may result in your being removed from class or class work.
- Make-up work will only be allowed for *excused* absences, this applies to performances as well.
- Participation and attendance points (given daily) make up approx. half of the overall points for the class.

A= 90-100%

B=80-89%

C=70-79%

D=60-69%

F=59% or below

Credit Denial Policy

Credit denial in this course may occur when a student has accumulated 5 unexcused absences and their grade has fallen below a 50%. Students and their parents/guardians will be informed in writing of the *possibility* of credit denial when a student has accumulated 3 unexcused absences and/or their grade has fallen below a 70%. Credit denial decisions will not be based on absences due to religious reasons, a student's disability, or an excused absence, as determined by district policy. Students who are failing a class at the time of credit denial will have an "F" entered on their transcript. No credit will be awarded for the course.

Late Work Policy

Deadlines in the theatre are some of the most absolute there are, so we need to observe them closely. Work is due at the beginning of the period on the day due. Work which is late because of an *excused* absence is due on your return to class or at an agreed upon date. Excused absences are only those for illness, emergencies, school-related absences, medical appointments or pre-arranged absences cleared with the attendance office. Work which is late due to *unexcused* absence will receive an automatic reduction of 1 letter grade. In special circumstances, a modified due date can be arranged so long as Miz B and/or Ms. Wyatt are notified in ADVANCE of an absence.

Participation & Work Ethic

Participation and work ethic points are earned by being an active contributor and an active listener. We will assess your participation and understanding in part by observing you individually and in groups. Participation grades also reflect your respect of the theatre process as we discuss the material and questions that come up in class, the respect you show others in the group- including the teacher- and your active presence in class. You CAN'T participate if you are not in class, therefore unexcused absences and tardies will seriously affect your grade. For each unexcused absence (1 block or 2 split blocks) you will lose 10% of your grade and be required to pull a red theatre task card (see below). Tardies will add to this total at the rate of 1 unexcused (split block) for each 3 tardies. In addition, each time you are tardy you will be required to pull a theatre task card and complete the required duty on your time (at lunch or after school).

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| 1 st offense- | yellow theatre task card (5 minutes) |
| 2 nd offense- | blue theatre task card (10-15 minutes) |
| 3 rd offense- | red theatre task card (20-30 minutes) and 1 unexcused absence demerit |
| 4 th tardy- | Parents called/ credit warning |

Class Rules & Expectations

- There is **NO GUM**, no food, and no drink (besides water) allowed in class at any time.
- **NO** flip flops
- **NO** short skirts or other revealing clothing. Wear clothes in which you can sit on the ground and get dirty. You may keep a change of clothes in the dressing room, but all clothing changes must be done **BEFORE** class starts.

Materials Needed

The following items need to be brought to **every** class:

- Pencil (NO PENS)
- Script or project you are working on at the time
- Yellow two pocket folder

Career Related Learning Standards Addressed in this Course

- **Personal Management** – Exhibit appropriate work ethic and behaviors in school, community, and workplace.
- **Problem Solving** – Apply decision-making and problem solving techniques in school, community, and the workplace.
- **Communication** – Demonstrate effective communication skills to give and receive information in school, community, and workplace.
- **Teamwork** – Demonstrate effective teamwork in school, community, and workplace.