

BEGINNING THEATRE

[Theatre Arts I]

Spring 2020 on M-F from 11:40 - 1:35 P.M. (3rd Period) in MHS Auditorium

Instructor: Mr. Krystopher Paschen

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Office: Auditorium

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

First off, welcome to my theatre class! Beginning Theatre is an introductory level theatre course that has **no prerequisite**. Students will learn about the basics of theatre in this course, with a heavier focus on acting skills, performance, and playwriting. Students will spend eighteen weeks learning everything from acting, to playwriting, to improvisation, to etiquette, and more. The Beginning High School Theatre Arts course is designed for students with no or limited K-8 progression in Theatre Arts.

TEXTBOOKS REQUIRED:

****There are readings that will be assigned throughout the semester that will be posted electronically through our Canvas page. More details to follow in class as encountered****

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course is designed to provide the student with an introduction to the basics of many aspects of the theatre. The following goals and objectives will be achieved:

- Introduce the students to the process of acting and performance.
- Familiarize students with the important basics and origins of the theatre.
- Students will learn practical life skills such as collaboration, creativity, public speaking, global and cultural awareness, among others that will prep the students for everyday life.

Along with the following **NCSCOS Essential Standards:**

- B.C.1 Use movement, voice, and writing to communicate ideas and feelings.
- B.C.2 Use performance to communicate ideas and feelings.
- B.A.1 Analyze literary texts and performances.
- B.AE.1 Understand how to design technical theatre components, such as costumes, sets, props, makeup, lighting, and sound.
- B.CU.1 Analyze theatre in terms of the social, historical, and cultural contexts in which it was created.
- B.CU.2 Understand the traditions, roles, and conventions of theatre as an art form.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:

- Week One: Introduction and Stage Movement

- Week Two: Theatre Etiquette
- Week Three & Four: Improv
- Week Five: Script Analysis
- Week Six through Eight: Playwrighting
- Week Nine: Play Analysis
- Week Ten: Non-Verbal Expression & Mime
- Week Eleven through Fourteen: Voice and Movement
- Week Fifteen through Seventeen: Duo Scenes
- Week Eighteen: Final Exam Week

ATTENDANCE POLICY AND TARDIES:

Parents are encouraged to schedule students' medical and personal appointments for after regular school hours. Parents should also ensure that their student arrives on time each day.

All students and parents are responsible for being familiar with Union County Public Schools High School attendance policies as outlined in the UCPS High School Student Handbook. **Monroe DOES take DAILY attendance in each class.** Attendance records are maintained based on the attendance taken each day in each period/class. A student who *misses more than 25 minutes* of a class will be considered **absent** for that class. Class work missed as a result of an excused absence may be made up for credit within two days of returning from the absence (or four days if returning from a two days absence...). Parents are responsible for monitoring their student's absences and should request a meeting with the attendance counselor if their student has five unexcused absences in a class. **Seven or more absences in a class may result in failure of that class.**

A student is considered tardy if they are **not in class when the bell rings** at the beginning of a period.

Students who are late for school because the school bus was late will be given a late bus pass by an administrator when they arrive and will not be counted as tardy. Students who arrive late to school will check-in on the Indent-a-kid machines now located in the front office and the new lobby.

Students who miss 25 minutes or more of any part of a class will be written an office referral in Educator's Handbook for **cutting class**. The teacher will not change the attendance, it will be handled by your administrator in tandem with the attendance counselor.

Every fourth tardy, before the twenty-five minute mark, you be written an office referral.

No student will be released from class for any reason, except an emergency, during the first or last fifteen minutes of class. Students who have a reason to leave class will have a pass that communicates to all adults in the building why they are moving through the building. Bathroom passes will be color-coded according to building area.

Last, but perhaps most important, **students who miss more than FIFTEEN class periods will NOT be able to recover time for that class.**

TECHNOLOGY POLICY:

The instructor recognizes the need for students to be technologically capable in the 21st century. As such, students will be allowed to use their laptops in class for note-taking and research, but if the privilege is abused, by using laptops for recreational use, students will only be allowed to take notes by hand; unless physically unable. Additionally, when instructions are being given, laptops should be closed. As such, cellular devices are **strictly prohibited** in the classroom, and should be put up—out of sight, out of mind. When the bell rings, **your earbuds must be taken out of your ears** and must stay that way, unless given permission to listen to music while working.

CLASS MATERIALS:

Bring the following materials EVERY day to class:

- ❖ LAPTOP
- ❖ NOTEBOOK (only if you prefer to handwrite your notes)
- ❖ PAPER
- ❖ PENS/PENCILS
- ❖ FOLDER/BINDER

GRADING POLICY:

Each assignment, test or project will be graded using a percent scale as follows:

Final Project and Tests – 25%

Quizzes – 10%

Projects and Performances – 30%

Participation, Attendance, and Worksheets – 20%

Journals, First Five, Critiques – 15%

TOTAL = 100%

You can tell what your grade is in the class by comparing the percentage to the letter grade on the chart to the side. Alternatively, and much easier for those who want to do as little math as possible, you can check PowerSchool and see grades updated weekly.

****Descriptions of assignments found on Canvas and PowerSchool page.**

You will be required to see **one** of the performances held here at MHS as part of your classroom experience. If this is a financial problem for you, don't let that hold you back. We'll figure something out that works for you.

LATE WORK

Late work is accepted according the following terms:

One day late: Minus 10%

Up to one week late: Minus 20%

Grade Chart %=

Grade 93-100=A

90-92=A-

87-89=B+

83-86=B

80-82=B-

77-79=C+

73-76=C

70-72=C-

67-69=D+

63-66=D

60-62=D-

Below 60=F

“The Gold Standard”

One+ weeks late: Minus 50%

More than four weeks late: No credit given

CLASSROOM RULES and PROCEDURES:

- You are to be in the room when the bell rings. Otherwise you will be counted tardy per school policy. No exceptions!
- If you are absent, check Canvas and/or the weekly schedule to retrieve your missed work.
- If you need to leave the room for any reason, you must ask and *receive* permission.
- Unless given permission, you are to remain in your assigned seat at all times during the class period.
- Unless given permission, do not go into my office **for any reason** without permission.
- Stay inside the classroom, seated and engaged, until the bell rings.
- Recycle all paper. Please do not just throw paper away.
- I am here to help you. If you need extra assistance or clarification please see me before or after class and we can arrange a time to meet.

CLASSROOM GUIDELINES:

- Come to class on time, ready to learn and with your course materials, including your laptop.
- **No cell phones allowed in class!**
- Laptops are to remain closed during class unless otherwise instructed.
- Participate in class activities and discussions.
- Complete work assigned to you, stay on task, and do what is asked of you.
- **BE RESPECTFUL** of the opinions, ideas, personal property and space of others.
- If you wish to be treated as an adult, you must *act* like one.
- Refrain from speaking while others are speaking.
- There is no **bigoted, intolerant, sexist, racist, or ableist** language in my classroom. That kind of speak is not tolerated in my classroom and will result in extreme consequence. We speak in positives and aim to encourage each other.
- Put your best effort forth in **everything** you do.
- Follow school rules. Failure to do so will result in the appropriate consequences. Including, not limited to: staying after class, teacher conference, parent/guardian contact, as well as administrative discipline.

Responsibility
Effort
Support
Perseverance
Empathy
Collaboration
Tolerance

YOU ARE TO RESPECT:

Your Peers
Yourself
Mr. Paschen
The Theatre Space

**FAILURE TO MEET EXPECTATIONS WILL RESULT IN THE
APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINARY ACTION!**

THEATRE POLICIES:

Backstage:

- Only touch items/props/etc that specifically belong to you.
- **Put everything back where it belongs!** If unsure where something goes, ask.
- Do not climb on any set pieces or play with props or costumes.
- Always leave spaces **CLEANER** than when you arrived.
- **BE RESPECTFUL** of the wonderful facilities you have the privilege of using.
- **BE RESPECTFUL** of the people around you.
- Shoes must be worn at all times.
- **No gum allowed on the stage or backstage!**

Auditorium (all of the above, plus):

- **NO FOOD OR DRINK IN THE AUDITORIUM!**
- Do not touch the main drape or any of the curtains unless you have prior permission.
- Do not touch the lighting or sound equipment without advance permission.

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS:

In the theatre while working with set construction, lights, etc., we will be at a higher risk of injury from working with raw materials and the physical nature of the theatre. It is important that students follow all the guidelines regarding theatre safety.

DISCLAIMER STATEMENT:

As is the way of theatre, the world around us is constantly changing. As such, the specific course content may vary from this outline to meet the needs of each particular class.

In the above section, Safety Considerations, students acknowledge that any injury to a student while in the theatre means the instructor is not liable for the injuries or the cost from said injuries.

DISABILITY STATEMENT:

Union County is committed to making reasonable accommodations for individuals with documented qualifying disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Those seeking accommodations based on a substantially limiting disability must contact the county office and/or the school to discuss necessary accommodations. As such, in my classroom I will make any accommodations that are necessary for the betterment of the students and their success in my classroom. Please notify me if you need any special accommodations while in my classroom.

A Note to Parents/Guardians:

Hi there! Please look over the attached course syllabus and please let me know if you have any questions. Two areas of particular interest to you may be the “material covered” and “course materials” sections. Also, please note the grading breakdown and late work policies. I am excited to begin the new semester with your student and I hope this course offers each student not only an environment in which they can freely express themselves, but also assists in the development of creative, collaborative, and cognitive skills. As this course is an elective, student participation is crucial, and—as long as assignments/projects are completed and done properly—students should perform well. I will do my best to keep you informed of your student’s progress, but please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. I will update grades on PowerSchool at least once a week, so please be sure to check grades online regularly. I check my email multiple times daily and I am available by phone as well. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions regarding their grades/progress, or lack thereof. Parental involvement is a major contributor to student success, and I look forward to not only working with your student, but with you as well!

Sincerely,

Mr. Krystopher Paschen

Theatre Director

Monroe High School

krystopher.paschen@ucps.k12.nc.us

(704) 296 - 3130 ext. 6348

Please sign and date below if you have read, understood, and accept all the terms of the syllabus.

X

Student

X

Parent