Theatre I-IV

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**Dear Parents and Students:**

**WELCOME!** We will be exploring theatre and gaining an appreciation for actors, technicians, technological advances in theatre, literature, film and the production concept. The main OBJECTIVE is to learn how to communicate effectively, work as a team, appreciate the story in each time period, the story in each of us and how to share that with an audience by learning theatrical techniques.

**0CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS AND PROCEDURES**: ***RESPECT!*** Everything falls under this category, including but not exclusive to other people, equipment and yourself. Examples of disrespect: continuous talking, improper gestures or language, writing on furniture and refusing a request from a teacher. The expectations also apply to each student when the auditorium is being used as our learning space. **TARDY POLICY**: Each student is expected to be in their assigned seat when the bell rings and working on their warm-up.  Tardies will be recorded at the late bell. The teacher will say " you are late". This is your warning. Three 'unexcused' tardies will require detention. Further tardies will result in WHS policy to be assigned to ISS\OSS\ Saturday work detail.

**DISCIPLINE:** This classroom adheres to all UCPS and WHS policies and will take action accordingly. No food or drink is a UCPS policy. Water is permissible and encouraged to have at all times.

**CELL PHONE\ COMPUTER POLICY**: Cell phones may not be taken out in class unless directed by the teacher. Reasons for using a cell phone in class would be using music for a piece, research for a project that cannot be found on the chrome book or taking a picture of set pieces, etc. Reasons that a cell phone will not be used in class would be instagram, shopping or recording other peers’ performances. A warning will be given for the first time. After this, the cell phone will be given to the front office. Chronic users are being disrespectful and will be handled with a referral and labeled insubordinate. Chrome books will ONLY be out when advised by the teacher.

**AUDITORIUM**: The auditorium is a learning space for all theatre courses and is used by many other classes and outside groups. It is not anyone's classroom on a daily basis. It will be treated as if it is a borrowed space. Trash will be taken out daily and cleaned weekly. Performing with gum is an automatic -5 points from your grade.

**MATERIALS**: You will need a small spiral notebook and a folder for handouts. Pen or Pencil and a highlighter. There is not an assigned book for class but you will be given scenes on paper or a play book. Loss of a playbook will result in a fee. THIS is your textbook. You may need inexpensive household items for scenes . Appropriate dress is necessary for class. You will be moving around a lot and this will count in your participation grade.

**GRADING**: There are four major grades that will be your six weeks grade:

*Performance*: 30% There is a rubric for each performance and YOU are expected to improve each time you perform. Techniques will be practiced. Informal skits are generally 100,95,90 etc..Formal performances are always weighted more than any other performance.

*Participation*: 30% Includes warm ups, discussions, improvs, production company duties and good audience etiquette. Points are deducted if you are talking during performances.

*Projects:* 20% Includes papers, set designs, costume designs, sound design and other.

*Quizzes and other written work*: 20% several low quiz grades will lower your grade.

**REHEARSALS:** Understand this class is designed to have students work in groups. If you are not in your group, you are not rehearsing and therefore will ­not receive a grade for the day. Each group will be a given a specific space to work when the stage is not available. You must be in that space or be at risk for a referral. The technical crew in the class must take notes on the rehearsals so they can successfully perform ­their duties on the light board, stage managing etc..Group work is essential in order for the individual and the class to be successful.

**EXAMS:** This class has a teacher made exam which consists of both a written and performance component. Exams are 25% of your final grade.

**MAKE - UP WORK**: It is your responsibility to make a time with me to get your work made -up. Performances and projects are due the DAY you return. Performances can be assigned up to four weeks in advance. Therefore if you are not here, you will perform the day you return. If you are not back by the second day in a group performance, we will perform without you and you will have a written assignment. Performances in front of an audience CAN NOT be made up. Circumstances do come up such as a family illness. If this is the case, every effort should be made to contact the teacher as well as submit a letter signed by a parent.  The teacher has the right to replace an actor or the play in a formal performance if they have been absent for an extended period of time. You must understand the absence affects everyone in the group. An extra critique paper will be given in place of the missing performance grade or another comparable assignment.

**HOMEWORK**: STUDY YOUR LINES! This is your homework. Practice is done at home; rehearsal is here, with the class. Everyone is expected to be off-book on the assigned day. At least three major grades will be given for an off-book grade. Memorizing lines should be treated as a tutoring session with the teacher if you need assistance. Tutoring will be available Thursday and Friday mornings. Tutoring will be required for any student that does not have at least 75% of their lines memorized by the due date.

**IN CLASS PLAYS**: All students will participate in *an in- class play* to be performed during school. Dates will be given for the performances within the first week of school. Roles for in class plays will be determined by the teacher by auditioning in previous assignments. Only students that are serious about actually working will be given a part. There are many students that are interested in the technical side of theatre as well. These students will also have to show they are competent and \ or willing to learn the technical side of a production. If the student does not show an interest in either side of the performance, an alternate assignment, such as research on a playwright will be given. EVERYONE is responsible for something on the day of the plays.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** : All students will be required to see a live performance and write a one page critique. The paper must be turned in within three weeks of the event. Letting the teacher know you need to use the restroom is a safety issue and this MUST be known. There is a restroom right outside of the classroom and the theatre and a bathroom log with be used. NO ONE will be out the first and last 10 minutes of class. Any written work to be turned in should go in the tray specific to your class period. Do NOT set them on my desk or leave them on a table.

**HONOR STUDENTS**: This is for the serious drama student only! Please make note that honor students (Theatre III and IV) are receiving an *EXTRA QUALITY* *POINT* for the work in this class. The student will experience many of the lessons offered in previous classes but on a more intense level. The students are given heavier workloads that require outside work such as research. They are expected to be done by the due date and will receive 10 points off for each **day** received late. Students at this level of theatre should take this class very seriously and understand that they are expected to leave this class with a deeper knowledge of theatre and be able to compete at a college level. This includes performance as well as knowledge of things such as theatre history, playwrights and styles of theatre methods. It should be noted that this is intended to be an ensemble class with a focus on individual growth and intended to prepare students for college level theatre. This class is not for those individuals that feel they can not work in groups. Please examine this aspect of the class closely. The format of this class has changed quite a bit from the traditional sequence. We will be doing more outreach than in the past. Rehearsal will not occur all day every day, at least until production week. Lessons will be given and assignments will be given on non rehearsal days. Audiences will be smaller and the material will be published or fully written out material. We are looking for quality work ONLY!

**PLEASE NOTE:** The teacher has the final say on anything written, said or performed on stage in front of an audience. All scenes, one acts etc..written for a class assignment will become the property of the theatre department and can be edited at the teachers discretion for performance in the present and in the future.

**CANVAS SITE**: Each teacher here at WHS and the county have a canvas website. Assignments are posted up weekly, Drama Club information is found on this site AND each and every document that is given to theatre students can be found on this site except for their scene work. I will give out documents once; it is then up to the student to find the information on canvas and print it out themselves. This is completely accessible at school and at home if you have internet access. PLAN accordingly if you need to use the computers at school to access the information. I will walk the class through the site once. Google docs is also used very often to write shared material in class.

**OTHER INFO**: On the white board, there will always be future assignments and due dates listed at times, a month in advance. The Agenda, daily objectives, warm up and date are all on the white board.

The smartboard is used probably once a week and other forms of technology we use on at least a weekly basis are the light and sound boards and your school issued computer. There are also three bulletin boards in the hallway. This has information about Drama Club, ITS and upcoming productions.

**INDEPENDENT STUDIES**: Many theatre classes will have at least one independent study student who I use in a directors capacity in class as well as to fulfill their independent study in their particular interest. They are experienced theatre students and many have a desire to pursue theatre as a career. This is a good experience for the student and certainly gives each student in class a more one to one instruction. They have never been allowed to look at other students grades, access a teacher’s email or anything of that sort. They are a student and although should be respected as anyone in class should be respected, do not hold the same authority over their peers or be able to access information that a student teacher would hold. This is not to infer that they are not ‘in charge’ of a group of students for a one act play. If they are directing a piece or trying to help less experienced students, then they are ‘in charge’ of a group and those students are expected to respect the student director.

**GOOGLE DOCS**: Anything that is allowed to be turned in to Google docs must have the student’s legal name, ( not student number) and the name of the assignment when sharing. We will make **a FOLDER** that will be shared with the teacher the first week of school. All of your work will go in that folder. Full length plays may be turned in through Google docs BUT, a copy will need to be printed by the student once final edits have been made. No assignments may be emailed to the teacher. As a reminder, every student has a google docs account through school. Even if you do not have a school chrome book. Things CANNOT be lost if turned in electronically.

**ABOUT ME:** I have been teaching high school for 20 years and have been at WHS for most of that time. I live 7 minutes from the school and use most of my gas going up and down Hwy 84! I have two sons, a 7th and 9th grader, a dog and a cat. My husband teaches and is the division director at CPCC. I am a member of a book club and actually read the assigned books. I love all the arts and although I made good grades in school, I did not really start learning until I applied my band, chorus, dance and theatre classes to my everyday life. I hope I can get everyone to appreciate the arts, especially theatre and what theatre can do for you as a whole person. You may not become a famous actor or director, but I can help you with problem solving, public speaking , collaboration and creative thinking. Learning through PLAYing!!

I am looking forward to a fun and Dramatic Semester!

Thank you,

Maria Moore

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