

Milford High School

INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE ARTS

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Location: Milford High School, Room 704 / Little Theatre



Course Overview

In this one-semester (.5 credit) **Introduction to Theatre Arts** course, students will develop critical thinking and reading skills while studying the history and structure of dramatic literature. Students will be introduced to several aspects of the theatre: basic acting and directing, improvisation, auditioning, scene building, character development, and basic theatrical design areas. Students will be expected to perform in improvisation segments, memorized short scenes and do a full, memorized monologue. They will be required to view and critique others. Students will also be required to read and analyze dramatic literature. Memorization and analysis are highly emphasized in this course and a 9th/10th grade reading-level is highly recommended.

Special Features of Introduction to Theatre Arts

- Qualifies for .5 of the Visual Performing Applied Arts graduation requirement
- Work based learning opportunities through the Michigan Educational Theater Association (META) and the Internationals Thespian Society (ITS) will be provided to students, as well as mentorship through the United States Institute of Technical Theater
- Students are invited to participate in the Milford High School Thespian Club - a local after-school student organization of the International Thespian Society
- Students will be required to pass a laboratory safety test before they can participate in the shop/laboratory experience. This safety test is given to ensure that every student is aware of the safety rules and regulations in this classroom.
- Many CTE programs at Milford are covered by articulation arrangements with local colleges and universities. "Articulation" is the process allowing students to earn college credit for demonstrating skills and competencies in their Milford High School coursework. Currently, we are working with Davenport University for articulated credit for the Theater Arts program - see me for details!
- We are working to offer USITT (Association for Performing Arts & Entertainment Professionals) industry certifications through the eSET/Essential Skills for Entertainment Technicians exams in one or more of the following areas:
 - *Basic Terms & Safety, Rigging, Lighting & Electrics, Costuming and/or Wardrobe Technician*

Units of Study

Technical Theater Fundamentals
Societal Impact & Legal Issues
Professionalism & Leadership in Theater
Technical Operations

Facilities Management
Design & Technology
Costume Design

Resources & Supplies Needed

Students must supply:

- Notebook
- Pencil (NO PENS)
- 1 Latex wound, or application piece (needed on October 31st)

All other text, software, tools and other equipment will be provided by Milford High School. Opportunities to purchase personal tools will be available to interested students.

CLASSROOM RULES AND PROCEDURES

Policies and Procedures:

- RULE 1: Be On Time & Prepared for Class Everyday
RULE 2: Treat EVERYONE with Respect & Tolerance
RULE 3: No Airborne Objects

The following things are NOT allowed in class:

- Cell Phones
- I-Pods or other music playing devices
- Except when approved for and need by a project.
- Food & Drink – NOT ALLOWED in the Theatre!!!!
- Items will be put into the trash regardless of value.
- No Hats
- Disrespectful Behavior
- Consequences will depend on severity & will be at my discretion.
- You may not be backstage without teacher permission!!!!!!!
- Do NOT touch ANY of the theatre's equipment or materials (props, costumes, set pieces, etc.) without teacher permission!!!!!!!!!!!!

Tardies:

- The classroom door will close immediately after the bell. You are now Tardy!!!
- If you do NOT have a valid excused pass from a STAFF member:
 - Tardies 1-3 will result in a warning.
 - 4+ tardies will result in an after school detention.
 - Work/Quizzes/Tests that occurred (and handed in) while you were not in class will result in no credit & may not be made up. If a quiz/test is already in progress you will be able to take it but no extra time will be given.
- If you have a valid excused pass from an MHS Staff member (that can pass my investigation), any quiz/test missed must be made up directly after school on that day or no credit can be earned, and any assignment handed in will receive ½ credit. If a test has begun, you will be let in but you will not receive any extra time to complete it.
- **Being more than 25 minutes late will result in an UNEXCUSED absence!!!**

Late Work:

Simply put, late work is NOT accepted.

All performance dates will be announced in advance. Your grade is based almost completely on live performances so if you miss it, you cannot be graded. BE IN CLASS!

Absences:

You must get an absence excused within 24 hours or it will be considered UNEXCUSED.

- **EXCUSED ABSENCES** – if work was due, it is due upon your return. If you miss a performance date, accommodations (usually a monologue) will be made but the performance will go on without you.

Absences (continued):

- **UNEXCUSED ABSENCES** – a zero will be applied to all work completed or any performances done on that day. No make-up work or make-up performances will be allowed. Multiple offenses will result in administrative action (detention, suspension, etc.)

Excuses called in after 24 hours of the absence WILL NOT be considered valid in my class.

Your parent/guardian MUST notify attendance by 9:30 am the next day or before.

Performance days will be scheduled in advanced. Since much of what we do is done in groups, it is extremely important you are present on your designated performance day. An unexcused absence will result in a 0 for the performance. Excused absences will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

PLEASE REVIEW MHS ATTENDANCE POLICY REGARDING LOSS OF CREDIT!!!

Grading:

This course has a point-based grading system. Each assignment will be assigned a maximum point value. When applicable, rubrics breaking down the points will be available.

Point System:

Homework:	5-30 points	Performances:	100-200 points
Participation:	5-10 points	Extra Credit:	Rarely Offered
A	93.5-100	C	73.5-76.4
A-	89.5-93.4	C-	69.5-73.4
B+	86.5-89.4	D+	66.5-69.4
B	83.5-86.4	D	63.5-66.4
B-	79.5-83.4	D-	59.5-63.4
C+	76.5-79.4	E	0 - 59.4

There are only a few grades given per semester (all performance based) so be sure to do your best and be prepared.

MP1 Grades for:	History Skit, and Monologue, Improv Solo Test
MP2 Grades for:	Paired Scene Performances and Design Work
MP 3 Grades for:	Fairytale Production and Final Production (Group Portion)
Exam Grade:	Individual parts of Final Production

You MUST earn a B- or better to be eligible for the advanced class - Play Production!!!!

Cheating & Plagiarism:

Both are unacceptable. Passing someone else's work off as your own will result in a visit to an Assistant Principal the first time and a suspension on the second. We will discuss the multiple forms of plagiarism as it pertains to our study of drama.