

Course Title:	Principles of Directing
Department:	English Language Arts
Grade Level:	9-12
Time Per Day/Week:	42 min/5 days
Length of Course:	Year

Course Overview:
This course continues to develop acting skills and techniques while investigating the art of directing. Students in this course are introduced to the basic principles of directing. They learn how to analyze and interpret a script from the director's point of view. Students are introduced to the creative power of concept directing, auditioning and casting, creating prompt books and staging a one-act production.

Primary Resources:
<i>Theatre: Art in Action</i>, National Textbook Company, 1999. <i>The Stage and the School</i>, Glencoe McGraw-Hill 1999.
Secondary Resources (District Approved):
Complete Works of William Shakespeare

Unit 1 Name:	Movement in Directing
Days in Unit:	5
Representative Learning Goals	
• Master group pantomime to create visually interesting sightlines • Determine movement by the script or the director, and/or a collaboration between actor and director • Stage combat techniques for stage and screen safe procedures for directors	

Unit 2 Name:	Method and Text Analysis Review: Connecting Acting Theories to Directing Process
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Days in Unit:	5
Representative Learning Goals	
• Apply Method and text analysis to a text and character creation • Directors create and determine the "germ" (Aristotle), the concept, and can determine the objective of each character	

Unit 3 Name:	Intro to Directing Process: Step 1: Script and Stage Selection
Days in Unit:	10
Representative Learning Goals	
• Apply Method and text analysis to a variety of perusal scripts • Research community and determine target audience for script selection process • Interact and collaborate with fellow directing students fully, imaginatively, and reflectively	

Unit 4 Name:	Leadership, Structure, and Concept of Directing
Days in Unit:	45
Representative Learning Goals	
• Research and consider various approaches to directing and determine the best fit through trial and error • Understand various directing styles. • Demonstrate an understanding of the organizational structure and components of a directing prompt book	

Unit 5 Name:	Concept, Stage Space, and Casting
Days in Unit:	10
Representative Learning Goals	
• Research various historical approaches to concept discovery and application • Demonstrate an understanding of the casting process • Differentiate between open-call casting and talent casting	

Unit 6 Name:	Intro to Directing Process: Script Preparation
Days in Unit:	10
Representative Learning Goals	
• Understand the history and identify the responsibility of the director in a theatre production • Analyze a script by identifying the story elements of a play (plot, character, setting, and theme), plot structure (exposition, inciting incident, rising action, climax, falling action, and denouement), genre (comedy, farce, tragedy, and drama), and style • Understand and apply the role of the director in determining the design concept and style of production	

Unit 7 Name:	Technical theatre: The Foundation
Days in Unit:	10
Representative Learning Goals	
• Research and prepare a set design based on script selection • Demonstrate an understanding and working knowledge of the basic design processes for scenery, props, costumes, makeup, lighting and sound through script analysis and planning, as well as by creating sketches, renderings, models, ground plans, charts, lists, and plots • Develop a basic understanding and working knowledge of the basic techniques of sound production	

Unit 8 Name:	Blocking and Creating Visual Interest
Days in Unit:	15
Representative Learning Goals	
• Demonstrate and develop an understanding of the use of level and directing the audience to the focal point in each scene • Demonstrate an understanding of choreography and blocking as a means to make sense of the character • Experience and create a variety of visual pictures with level	

Unit 9 Name:	Rehearsal process, production process, and problem solving
Days in Unit:	15

Representative Learning Goals

- Demonstrate an understanding of the criteria for script selection, suitability, and analysis.
- Demonstrate the basics of directing, blocking, rehearsing techniques

Unit 10 Name:	Reflection: Director's book and Actor's Journal
Days in Unit:	5
Representative Learning Goals	
• Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of individual performance as a director and actor • Reflect on the process in search of a best practice approach • Increase self-awareness by journaling	

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Unit 11 Name:	Theatre vs Film Directing/Acting
Days in Unit:	10
Representative Learning Goals	
• Differentiate the actor's choices in film versus stage • Understand the roles of directors and actors in film vs stage productions	

Representative Learning Goals

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- Understand the roles of directors and actors in film vs stage productions

Unit 12 Name:	Shakespeare
Days in Unit:	25
Representative Learning Goals	
• Develop an understanding of Shakespeare's craft • Identify and apply rhythm, iambic pentameter, character, and plot, to each role • Determine what is stated explicitly, implied, and left uncertain in the text about the character	

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Unit 13 Name:	Main stage mini performance
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Days in Unit:	20
Representative Learning Goals	
• Experience the script selection process and pitch the script to the script selection committee. • Determine a rehearsal schedule (student directors)for the production crew and actors. • Coordinate the technical aspects and create a cue book. • Create the schedule and design for costumes, makeup, and set. • Experience an actual tech rehearsal, dress rehearsal, and full-stage production.	

Assessments - Classroom-Based
Monologue
Shakespeare Contest
Directing Project
Showcase Project

Standards
Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Theater/Humanities & Fine & Performing Arts