

LFO Performing Arts Department

Drama Syllabus

Instructor: Claire Murrell

Email: cmurrell.lfo@catoosa.k12.ga.us

*"We must all do theatre, to find out who we are,
and to discover who we could become."
—Augusto Boal*



LFO Performing Arts Mission Statement:

At LFO Performing Arts, our mission is to celebrate the transformative power of the performing arts while cultivating a passionate and inclusive community grounded in kindness, respect, discipline, and unwavering dedication. We aim to inspire students to grow as artists and individuals, so that they can make a meaningful impact both on stage and beyond.

Lift.Foster.Overcome

Format of Class

While this is primarily a hands-on, on-your-feet class, please expect daily assignments, projects, papers, and both solo and group performances. Usually, you will have enough class time to complete assignments, but you will occasionally have homework or may need to meet with a partner/group outside of class.

Materials Needed

- Pen or Pencil
 - Drama Notebook (Binder with lined paper, composition notebook, or spiral notebook)
 - Chromebook
 - Script or Project Material (When Needed)
-

What You'll Learn in This Class

This is a semester-long, activity-oriented course designed to introduce students to the art of Theatre. Students will:

- Study theatre history
- Study acting theories / theorists and character development

- Review proper stage, technical, and rehearsal terms
 - Be introduced to the world of competitive performance
 - Learn about theatre etiquette, the audition process, and musical theatre
 - Study different elements of technical theatre such as directing, set design, prop design and more
 - Watch, review, and reflect on different Theatrical works such as plays, musical, movie musicals, etc
 - Participate in individual and group performances
-

Grades

You will receive two daily grades based on the following:

- **Preparedness (25 pts):** Students come to class with required materials (ex: scripts, drama notebooks, Chromebook, etc.)
- **Participation (25 pts):** Students are physically AND mentally present in class, participating in all discussions, activities, assignments, performances, projects, etc.

***These are daily grades worth 25% of your overall grade.** Please know that students will receive a 0 for their daily attendance participation grade unless absence is excused with a parent or Dr. note turned into the attendance office.

Throughout each 9 weeks, you will be graded on the following categories:

- **Performances (50%):** Students will perform pieces such as scenes or monologues, depending on the study focus. Performances count as weighted grades based on rehearsal time.
 - **Quizzes/Tests/Projects (15%):** Occasional quizzes/tests including script checks. Various technical theatre projects weighted by time required.
 - **Evaluations (10%):** Peer critiques aimed at constructive feedback; audience grades are included.
 - **Extra Credit:** Offered occasionally to the entire class. Five extra points added for volunteering to perform. Extra credit also available for attending or participating in other performing arts events (Band, Choir, Musical Theatre, Drama).
-

Classroom Expectations

Please remember to:

- **Be Respectful:** Treat everyone in our classroom with kindness and consideration, including your teachers, classmates, and the school environment. Respect means listening when others are speaking, valuing different perspectives, and supporting one another's creative expression, even if it's different from your own. In theatre, students are encouraged to be vulnerable, take risks, and step outside their comfort zones. To make that possible, we must all commit to creating a space where everyone feels safe, seen, and heard. Choose your words thoughtfully and always lead with empathy. We grow stronger as

artists and as people when we uplift each other.

- **Be Responsible:** Take initiative in your education by actively participating, staying organized, and being prepared. Recognize that learning is a partnership and that your teachers are here to guide and support you. Real growth happens when you are open to feedback, willing to put forth the effort, and committed to improving. Responsibility means showing up, asking questions, and allowing yourself to be taught, even when it's challenging or unfamiliar.
 - **Put in the Effort:** Show up each day ready to give your best whether you're working on a scene, participating in class discussions, or completing an assignment. Success in theatre doesn't come from talent alone. It comes from consistent effort, a willingness to try, and a commitment to improvement. Give yourself fully to the process, even when it feels difficult or unfamiliar. Your energy, focus, and attitude not only shape your own growth, but also impact the entire ensemble. Remember: the more you invest, the more you gain in confidence, skill, and the joy of performance.
-

Classroom Consequences

If rules are not followed:

1. Verbal Warning
2. Conference after class
3. Parent/Guardian Contact
4. Detention
5. Referral to your grade level administrator

Severe behavior may skip steps 1–4.

Classroom Policies

Assignment Policy:

- *Make-up Work:* Two days are allowed per missed day (up to one full week) to submit assignments after an excused absence. No extensions beyond that.
- *Late Work:* One written assignment may be turned in late for full credit if submitted by 4:00 pm on the due date. One day late results in 10-point deduction; accepted up to two days late. Performances cannot be submitted late. **Please note that if students are absent on the day of their scheduled in class performance, they will receive a 0 unless the absence is excused with a parent or Dr. note turned into the attendance office.**

Attendance Policy:

- You will be marked tardy if arriving after the bell by more than 5 minutes without a pass.
- You will be marked absent from class if you are more than 15 minutes late.

Bathroom Policy:

- Passes will be granted upon request. Please keep usage to 3 minutes. Repeated misuse in restroom passes may result in loss of this privilege.

Food and Drink Policy:

- Food/drink are allowed **only** with teacher permission. Water is only allowed in the drama room and LFO FAC. Trash must be disposed of daily or privileges will be revoked.

Seating Chart Policy:

- Students may choose seats but may be reassigned if rules are broken.
-

Classroom Procedures

Starting Class:

- Please enter quietly, take your seat, and begin the task on the whiteboard. Inform the teacher if you need to leave for the restroom.

Ending Class:

- Please be respectful of our space and clean your area. Do not line up at the door and wait for teacher dismissal before leaving.

Paper Headings:

- You will need to include your full name, date, and class period in the upper right corner on all assignments.
-

Use of Classroom Facilities

Classroom Library:

- My classroom library is available for performance research, script analysis, WIN time, or when finished early. Any books/plays may be checked out via Mrs. Murrell's Drama Library Checkout Log. Please see me if you wish to take something home!

Prop & Costume Closets:

- Please only use with teacher permission on specified days.

Computers:

- Chromebook use allowed for theatre research. Misuse leads to loss of privileges or disciplinary referral.

Supply Closet:

- Students must ask permission before using supplies. This is so that I am able to keep up with items that may need to be restocked. Unauthorized access results in loss of privileges.

“Take What You Need” Cart:

- This cart contains various hygiene items you might find yourself needing at school or at home. Each student will receive 3 tickets per month. Turn in one ticket to take an item. Please, please, please let me know if you need more :)
-

Classroom Codes:

Google Classroom: gvcbluqh

Contact Information

Claire Murrell – cmurrell.lfo@catoosa.k12.ga.us

*Please know that I am available at different times throughout the school day, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM. If you reach out outside of those hours, I'll get back to you as soon as I can the next school day! The best way to reach me is through email or Remind.

LFO Performing Arts Website

lfoperformingarts.weebly.com

Syllabus Signature Sheet

Students: Please read the course syllabus and share it with your parents/guardians. Then you and your adult(s) should sign below. Please return this sheet by the date specified by your student's teacher.

I have read the policies and expectations for the **LFO Drama** class and understand them fully. If I choose not to meet these expectations, I am willing to accept the consequences.

Student Printed Name:

Parent/Guardian Printed Name:

Student Signature:

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Date: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian: If you have an email address and/or phone number you would like the teacher to use to communicate with you about your child's progress, please include it here:

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Comments/Concerns: