



Trafalgar Middle School

Theatre Syllabus

2020-2021

Director:

Timothy Kiernan

239-283-2001

TimothyLK@leeschools.net

SUPPLY LIST

The following list of supplies will be mandatory for all classes throughout the year:

- 1) Pencil and eraser (no pens!)
- 2) Folder with pockets and binder
- 3) Writing Journal
- 4) Working Ear Buds / Headphones

THEATRE SYLLABUS 2020-2021

PURPOSE

The Trafalgar Middle School Musical Theater ensembles are designed to help you realize the tremendous beauty of musical theater through the appreciation and the participation in a successful dramatic experience. In these groups, you will be challenged to broaden your musical scope by learning and performing repertoire representative of different periods and styles. Through the experiences of musical expression and interpretation of these works, you will develop a higher sense of self-worth, discipline, musicianship, and pride in your school.

More than any other class at this school, the choices you make in regards to participation, behavior, attendance, and commitment have a direct impact on the other members of these ensembles. As a result, your careful attention to the policies that embrace these issues is most important and will not only benefit you, but the group's performance as a whole. You are always encouraged to put forth your best in every part of the rehearsal process!

DAILY PARTICIPATION (also known as THE RULES)

Students are expected to be in their assigned seat with their music, folder and pencil by the time the bell rings. Students are expected to stand and sit with the group whenever instructed during the rehearsal and should actively take part in all stretching and warming up to the best of their ability. Students will not leave the room during rehearsals, as your participation is critical to your classmates and time is precious. Permission will only be given in the case of an emergency.

A positive attitude is a must. Chewing gum or consuming food or drink is prohibited. Talking during rehearsal is not permitted.

Active participation includes listening, learning, rehearsing, and eventually mastering proper group vocal techniques through music...not talking with friends or neighbors. Students should recognize the importance of every element of the rehearsal. Complete attention should be given to the director and his instructions. If sick and cannot sing, please bring in a note from home informing the director; however, this does not mean students have a free period. Students are still expected to participate in whatever ways they can.

Students who have a hard time following the rules will have their crew cards signed. If the student still chooses to not follow the rules set forth, referrals will be written. Major repeated discipline issues may result in a student being removed from the music program.

COMMITMENT

Each student makes up an important part of the ensemble, and because all of these parts are so intertwined in ensemble music making, their commitment reflects a responsibility to the group. Commitment includes timely arrival to class, concentration on the music and the director's instructions, *mature* behavior during rehearsal, a positive and helpful attitude towards the other students, and a full understanding that this is a year-long class. Just as you will be held accountable for any disruptions, you will also benefit greatly from active participation in band.

PERFORMANCES

All students are expected to attend and perform in all concerts both at the school, and at local venues. They will be notified well in advance of performances and any mandatory after-school or extra rehearsals so arrangements with schedules and/or transportation can be made. Daily classroom rules apply to concerts and after school rehearsals.

Along with the rules, students have four responsibilities for a performance:

- 1) They must be in their appropriate place for warm-ups by the call time given.
- 2) They must bring their music, pencil and folder.
- 3) They must be dressed in the appropriate concert attire. Failure will result in the student not being permitted to perform and having performance grade eliminated.
- 4) They must remain for the duration of the concert.

*Exceptions will only be made on an EMERGENCY basis.

Missing a performance is not permitted. If there is a major conflict, a note must be handed to the director at least *ten days* in advance of the performance. To replace the grade of the performance, a student will be required to submit a **3** page paper. The paper will not be equal to the grade the student would have received if he or she were in attendance at the performance. Missing a performance without notifying the director (also known as skipping) will result in writing a **5** page paper which will not be equal to the grade which would have been given had the student been at the performance. **Any paper assigned will be due within one week of the performance.** Remember, this is a performance based class!

Two performance dates that are very important are the Winter Concert and the Spring Concert. Both of these concerts have been scheduled to take place at Trafalgar Middle. Be sure to mark your calendars for December and May. Both concerts will begin at 6:00pm; however, students need to report to the school by 5:00pm.

Once announced, please write these dates onto your calendar as soon as they are sent home. For your convenience, all information will be updated on our classroom page, so please be sure to check it regularly.

CONCERT ATTIRE:

Solid black dress pants, black belt, black dress shoes and assigned ensemble polo shirt provided by TMS. (Please DO NOT wear polo shirt to school. It should be saved for performances.)

- All pants and shirts should be washed and pressed.
- Hair should be pulled back using solid black hair products.
- If a performance polo shirt is lost or damaged, the cost is \$20 for replacement.

GRADING POLICY

Grading for the choirs is based on the following criteria:

1. Homework – practice sheets and playing assignments (25%)
2. Participation – classroom participation, engaging in all learning activities, working individually and in group settings (25%)
3. Performances - Attendance, Concert Knowledge, Attire (25%)
4. Preparation - music, instrument, pencil, and playing materials (25%)

The following rubrics will be used in grading:

Theatre Weekly Participation

CATEGORY	25 points	20 points	15 points	10 points
Punctuality	Always on time for class.	Usually on Time.	Occasionally on time.	Usually late.

Rehearsal Preparation	Always has pencil and music	Usually has materials, occasionally forgets pencil.	Often forgets music or pencil.	Rarely brings pencil and other necessary materials.
Effort / Behavior	Maintains strong focus and leads others in participation.	Usually focused and models good behavior for others most of the time.	Gives some effort, but lacks the commitment to rehearsal that the music requires.	Often off task and occasionally disruptive.
Respect	Always respectful of teacher and others.	An occasional incident of disrespect, but usually very polite and courteous.	Not reliably respectful, makes some poor choices.	Often rude or disrespectful toward teachers or others.

Music Performance – Individual Singing Test

<u>GORY</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
	ntly focused, clear, and hout the range of the e has professional quality.	, clear and centered mal playing range of the emes in range se tone to be less quality typically does the performance.	cused, clear and centered, but one is uncontrolled in the normal Extremes in range are usually ccasionally the tone quality erall performance.	n not focused, clear or less of the range being ntly detracting from the nce.

	ure and the rhythms are style of music being	ure and the rhythms are . There are a few but these do not detract performance.	ewhat erratic. Some rhythms are ent or repeated duration errors. s occasionally detract from the nce.	ally erratic and rhythms urate detracting n the overall
	Markings (staccato, legato, c.) are executed accurately he score and/or the	ally secure, though there ated error. Markings are ately as directed by the e conductor.	ly secure, but markings are often ately as directed by the score uctor.	cks. Markings are cuted accurately.
	stently accurate.	haccurate note is played, tract from overall	e notes are played, detracting the overall performance.	nsistently detract from e.

Practice	Student's performance indicates regular and sustained practice outside of class.	Student's performance indicates some practice outside of class.	Student's performance indicates very little practice outside of class.	Student's performance indicates little or no practice outside of class.
Dynamics	Dynamic levels are obvious, consistent, and an accurate interpretation of the style of music being played.	Dynamic levels are mostly accurate and consistent.	Dynamic level does not change.	Attention to dynamic levels is not heard at all - needs to sing louder