



What is this class?

Theatre I is a semester-long course for seventh and eighth-grade students in which we build up a foundation of knowledge of the theatrical arts, including acting, technical theatre, and theatre history and expand to answer the question “Where does theatre fit in our modern world?” We have a mix of individual and group collaborative performances and projects. **This class requires you to participate in activities and perform in front of others. If this is not something you are willing to try or put forth some effort, another class may be a better fit for you.**

LISD Middle School Theatre Philosophy:

Students in LISD Middle School Theatre Arts will...

- Acquire knowledge of and participate in the art of theatre
- Develop a sense of self and personal artistic vision
- Understand theatre’s role in culture and society throughout history
- Appreciate the art of theatre and its collaborative nature with all art forms

Program Objectives:

The students will...

- Work & Perform individually and in groups as a means to develop public speaking, live performance, and collaboration skills
- Develop skills in vocal and physical expression, imagination, improvisation, and critical thinking/analysis and apply those skills in performance
- Consider how different elements of theatrical design help create the world of a story
- Connect skills developed in theatre to real-world applications
- Give and receive feedback and reflect on work and revise work based on personal reflection and constructive criticism
- Express and develop their own artistic voice and sense of creative expression while bringing their own interests and prior experiences to the work
- Develop an understanding of the different roles within a theatre production and the skills required for each of those roles as well as take on those roles to produce pieces
- Analyze and interpret theatrical texts/stories and apply that analysis to their work in performance, direction, and design
- Explore the creation of theatrical content and understand the different steps necessary to develop an original script/performance piece
- Consider the different forms theatre can take

Big Ideas Explored in Theatre Arts 7/8 may include:

- Ensemble Building
- Technical Theatre
- Creating Characters
- Script Writing
- Careers in Theatre
- Puppetry
- World Theatre
- Theatre History

Grading Policy:

Grades will be taken for individual assignments, but will show on the report card as pass/fail.

Rehearsal and Audience Etiquette (15%) – Participation is a VERY important part of a theatre class. Participation Grades will be taken weekly. For each day that you choose not to participate in class, twenty points will be deducted from that week's participation grade. You should be prepared and put forth your best effort.

Written Work/Daily, Performances, Quizzes (85%) - On occasion, students will be given written work during theatre. Written work can include but is not limited to: theatre journal, vocabulary, worksheets, quizzes, and written summaries. At the end of each unit of study, students may present a performance, project, or complete a test to show understanding of the unit learned.

Make-up and Retake/Late Work

Late Work - Late work is considered late when it is presented at a time later than the due date by students who were present when the assignment was due. Work will be accepted late for two class period days immediately following the due date. Ten points per day will be deducted for each class period day past the original due date. After two class periods have passed, late work will NOT be accepted. Students who were absent on the due date are expected to turn in their assignment the class period that they return to school.

Written Work - Students will have the opportunity to retake or redo any written assignment that they receive a 70 or less on (excluding performances/group projects). The corrected work must be turned in no later than two class periods past the original assignment date. The highest grade a student may receive on a retake is an 80.

Performances - Students will be required to perform from time to time for a grade. If you are uncomfortable performing in front of others, you may be allowed to record a video submission for your grade. An alternate assignment may be given at the director's discretion.

Inappropriate Content Clause

If a student or group of students presents a piece of theatre or project violating the student code of conduct, i.e. containing gratuitous violence, slurs, or profanity, **the assignment will need to be redone.** The theatre classroom is NOT the place for that type of work. The Director reserves the right to stop a performance or presentation at any time. The Director reserves the right to give an alternate assignment if a piece is removed from an event or project due to content. The student(s) may be asked to redo the assignment inside or outside of class time, given an alternate assignment and/or may undergo disciplinary action within the framework of HMS and LISD. If there is a question prior to the performance in regards to appropriate content - **PLEASE ASK THE DIRECTOR!** If you are unsure, please err on the side of caution.

In short, there is a no-tolerance policy for inappropriate work. This includes music, costumes, set, stage and hand properties, and content.

Student Expectations:

Students are expected to follow the Leander ISD 10 Ethical Principles. In theatre class, we follow DRAMA rules:

- Demonstrate control over your body - keep your hands and body to yourself and in control.
- Respect yourself, others, your teacher and the space. Please don't touch without permission.
- Audience Etiquette: Watch, listen, learn. Be respectful, non-judgemental and open minded.
- Maintain focus: On your task and on your teacher.
- Aspire to be the best version of yourself - put forth effort in everything.

Failure to follow these rules may result in a verbal warning, a phone call or email to parents, detention or an office referral. If you BREAK a piece of equipment because you are careless, playing or using it inappropriately, you will be held financially responsible.

Office Hours:

Conference Periods:

12:40 - 1:30

Contact Information:

Lorri G Boyd
(512) 570-3400 ext. 43417
Lorri.Boyd@leanderisd.org

Websites:

For class and production information, visit my website at:

<https://sites.google.com/leanderisd.org/henrymstheatre/home>



Student Behavior Contract and Information Sheet

Please return to Mrs. Boyd by the second week of the semester or complete the online agreement.

**Lorri Boyd
lorri.boyd@leanderisd.org
512-570-3400 ext. 43417**

I have read and understand the 2024-25 Henry Middle School Theatre Arts class syllabus. I will abide by these rules and understand that if I do not, the consequences stated in the syllabus will be applied to me (including financial compensation for non-accidental damage to school owned equipment).

Student Name Printed

Signature

Class Period

I have read and understand the 2024-25 Henry Middle School Theatre Arts class syllabus and have reviewed it with my student. I will support my student through this theatre course and hold them accountable to the course expectations.

Parent Name Printed

Signature

Date

My student DOES DOES NOT have permission to apply stage makeup in class.

List any allergies relevant to stage makeup (ex. latex) below, or write “none known”:

