
Ridgefield Public Schools

Acting I Curriculum at a Glance

Overview

Grade Level: 9-12

Acting I is a comprehensive course that equips students with valuable skills in performance, communication, and self-expression. Students will explore the foundational elements of acting, including voice and movement, character development, improvisation, and script analysis. Through individual and ensemble work, students will engage in various performance exercises and scene studies designed to build confidence, creativity, and a deeper understanding of dramatic storytelling. The course encourages active participation, constructive critique, and an appreciation for the craft of acting, while fostering a supportive and collaborative classroom environment. By the end of the course, students will have developed the tools necessary to approach roles with authenticity and presence, preparing them for further study in theater or related disciplines.

Enduring Understandings:

- Theatre artists rely on intuition, curiosity, and critical inquiry.
- Theatre artists work to discover different ways of communicating meaning
- Theatre artists refine their work and practice their craft through rehearsal.
- Theatre artists make strong choices to effectively convey meaning.
- Theatre artists share and present stories, ideas, and envisioned worlds to explore the human experience.
- Theatre artists reflect to understand the impact of drama processes and theatre experience

Essential Questions:

- What skills are necessary to create a believable and engaging character?
- How can physicality and voice be used to express emotion and intent?
- How does collaboration influence the creative process in theater?
- How can reflection and critique improve performance?



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- What happens when theatre artists use their imaginations and/or learned theatre skills while engaging in creative exploration and inquiry?
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National Core Arts Standards for Theatre: Creating and Performing Anchors

TH:Cr1.1.1.c. Use script analysis to generate ideas about a character that is believable and authentic in a drama/theatre work.

TH:Cr2-1.b. Investigate the collaborative nature of the actor, director, playwright, and designers and explore their interdependent roles in a drama/theatre work.

TH:Cr3.1.1.a. Practice and revise a devised or scripted drama/theatre work using theatrical staging conventions.

TH:Cr3.1.1.b. b. Explore physical, vocal and physiological choices to develop a performance that is believable, authentic, and relevant to a drama/theatre work.

TH:Pr4.1.1.a. Examine how character relationships assist in telling the story of a drama/theatre work.

TH:Pr4.1.1.b. Shape character choices using given circumstances in a drama/theatre work.

TH:Pr5.1.1.a. Practice various acting techniques to expand skills in a rehearsal or drama/theatre performance.

TH:Pr6.1.1.a. Perform a scripted drama/theatre work for a specific audience.

TH: Re7.1.1.a. Respond to what is seen, felt, and heard in a drama/theatre work to develop criteria for artistic choices.



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Target Skills:

- Collaboration & Ensemble Building
- Voice and Movement Control
- Character Analysis and Development
- Improvisational Thinking
- Performance Preparation & Rehearsal
- Critical Reflection and Constructive Feedback

Units of Study:

1. Introduction to Acting & Ensemble Building

Activities: Icebreakers, comfort building, exercises, group games

Concepts: Collaboration, focus, presence

2. Improvisation

Activities: Theatre games, scene creation, spontaneous storytelling

Concepts: Mindfulness, listening, risk-taking, endowment, say “yes”

3. Voice and Movement for the Actor

Activities: Breath control, articulation drills, body awareness exercises, rhythm and basic choreo

Concepts: Physical expression, vocal clarity, alter ego

4. Intro to Technique

Activities: Emotional recall, imagination

Concepts: Stanislavski, Meisner, Laban

5. Character Development

Activities: Character profiles, monologue work, sensory/emotional memory

Concepts: Objectives, obstacles, stakes, tactics

6. Script Analysis & Scene Study

Activities: monologue, Partner scenes, blocking, script breakdown

Concepts: Beats, tactics, relationship dynamics

7. Final Performance and Reflection

Activities: Final scene performance, peer feedback, self-assessment

Concepts: Polished performance, critique, growth mindset



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Key Assessments:

Formative:	Summative:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participation in daily warm-ups and exercises• In-class improvisation performances• Actor's journal• Self and peer evaluations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written script analysis• Partnered or group scene performance• Final monologue or scene performance

