

## Theatre Arts Syllabus

Dr. Joshua P Johnston: jpjohnston@LenoirCitySchools.net

Welcome to Theater Arts! I am excited to be teaching this class, and I look forward to helping you grow in your performance abilities and appreciation for the stage. The class will consist of a number of exercises and in-class performances that will help you improve your ability to develop and portray characters, construct effective stage pictures, and affect an audience.

Above all, I want this class to be enjoyable for you, and that will only occur if you feel safe in this environment. The nature of this class will require you to take some risks in front of others, a process that can be scary, so I expect all students to be supportive of their peers. There will be no patience shown for those who abuse, mock, or otherwise bully members of this class. That rule applies in and out of this room. No one should talk about activities from this class with the intention of embarrassing others. If you are not telling someone how cool something that a classmate did, keep it to yourself. If you have something awesome to say about someone, feel free to tell him/her to her face.

### Performance and Exercises

Theater is about being in front of people. If that thought makes you nervous, I still want you in class, but only if you are prepared to work through your nerves. You will be required to perform, solo, in front of the class.

### Performance Commitment

This is a performance class. As such, there will be at least two required performances: one in school and one in the evening. The after-school performance will be Thursday, December 12th and the in-school performance will be Friday, December 13th. These performances count as the final exam for this class

### Materials

Each day you should bring your Chromebook, the current text we are working with, a pen or pencil, binder with paper, and any other items you have been told in advance that you will need. Please do not expect to borrow materials on a daily basis.

\*\*\*Please complete, detach, and return the bottom of this document. **Keep the top for your records.**\*\*\*

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I have read and understood the course expectations sheet for Dr. Johnston's class.

### Guardian

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone Number or Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Student

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### Grading

Assignments will be given a variety of point values. Students can determine their average for the class by dividing their points earned by the total points available in the class. This information is available on Skyward, the online grading program adopted by Lenoir City Schools. The grading scale is as follows:

**A: 100-90 B: 89-80 C: 79-70 D: 69-60 F: 59 or below**

### **Participation**

Each day we have class, students are expected to participate fully and enthusiastically. 1-5 daily participation points will be awarded. Students will be awarded 4 points, but they can raise that to 5 points by demonstrating involvement and discipline in the day's activities. Students will lose points if they are off task, distracting others, or ignoring feedback.

### **Attendance**

According to the student handbook, students have five days to complete any missed work. It is the student's responsibility to ask for his or her work after returning. Students should talk to me about missed work during the passing period and not once the class has begun.

### **Late Work**

All late work will be reduced by **10% per school day** (or portion of a day), beginning the moment the assignment is collected and continuing until assignments are worth 50% of the possible points. **If you are called on to perform and are not ready, you will be required to perform at the start of the following class period. You may not perform a piece late after the last day of scheduled performances. If you have not performed by then, you will receive a zero.**

If you have difficulties with an exercise, please let me know. I am happy to work with you individually. However, the time to tell me you are struggling **is not** the day it is due.

### **Taking this Course Multiple Times**

According to the LCHS Program of Studies, Fine Arts classes may be repeated for additional elective credits based on the teacher's discretion. That means that in order to take this course more than twice, students must act in a way that earns a recommendation from Dr. J. To do so, you must take an active role each day, participate fully in every exercise, and contribute positively to the production. In short, you should strive to be a leader in the class. Sitting in a corner talking or playing on your phone will not cut it.

Students who are taking this class for the 3rd or 4th time must be prepared to be leaders in the class and must recognize that, as an experienced student, more is expected from them. They should be prepared to facilitate exercises, provide quality feedback to peers, brainstorm ideas with the instructor, and display a dedication to the discipline beyond that of more junior students.

## **Significant Segments of the Course**

**Team Building** ( T.Cr2.C and B)

**Fundamentals of the Stage** ( T.Cr2.B and C / T.Cr3.A)

**Characterization Techniques** (T.P1.B / T.P2.A / T.Cr1.A / T.R2.A)

**Improvisation** (T.P1.A / T.Cr1.A)

**Creating Scenes** (T.P1.A and B / T.P2.A / T.Cr1.A and C / T.Cr2.B / T.Cr3.B)

**Auditioning**

**Rehearsal and Artistic Creation** (T.P1.A and B / T.P2.A and B / T.P3.B / T.Cr1.A and B /  
T.Cr3.B and C / T.R2.B/ T.Cn1.A)

## **Major Assessments:**

**Student Tableaus** ( T.Cr2.C and B / T.Cr3.A and B / T.R1.A and B / T.R2.C)

**Poetry Performances and Emotions** (T.P1.B / T.P2.A / T.Cr1.A / T.R1.A and B / T.R2.A  
and C)

**Performance of a Scene** (T.P1.A and B / T.P2.A / T.Cr1.A and C / T.R1.A and B / T.R2.C)

**Final Performance** ( T.P1.A and B / T.P2.A and B / T.Cr1.A and B / T.Cr3.C)