

Beginning Drama

Instructor: Mr. DeMeritt
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Room: #10
Book a meeting with Mr. DeMeritt at:
<https://dramateacher.youcanbook.me/>

Introduction:

Beginning Drama is an elective course designed to introduce the learner to the amazing art of dramatic performance. In this course, you will explore and experience the art, technique, and history of theatre. Each unit will culminate in a practical performance or project. It is my hope that students taking this course will not only learn to perform to the best of their abilities but also grow in their understanding of themselves and the human condition.

Course Objectives:

By the completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Understand and successfully apply the fundamentals of theatrical performance. This will include:
 - a. Vocal performance (spoken and sung).
 - b. Physical performance (stage directions, body positions, pantomime, etc)
 - c. An introduction to characterization techniques
2. Analyze, memorize, rehearse, and perform a given monologue.
3. Analyze, memorize, rehearse, and perform a given theatrical scene.
4. Evaluate and analyze the history of theatre.
5. Safely and correctly execute multiple types of Stage Combat.
6. Work effectively on a group assignment.
7. Effectively communicate about any area of theatre using specific vocabulary.

Performances

Each unit we study will have a performance project associated with it. Essentially, this is the same as a unit test in one of your academic classes. Study for them by memorizing your performance piece, rehearsing adequately, and giving your performance your best effort. The goal in a performance should never be to “Do it Right”, but rather, to push yourself to give the most honest, real interpretation of the story, scene, monologue, etc. Take risks, be creative, have fun, and you will be successful!

Class Expectations

The expectations for my class can be summed up in two easy to remember points: **Be Respectful** and **Be Responsible**. In theatre, as in life, we should be respectful toward everyone at all times. Mockery, disrespect, unkindness, prejudice, and gossip of any kind have no place in this class. Diversity in its many forms will be respected, explored, and celebrated. You can expect to be treated with respect and courtesy; please extend the same kindness to others. In the arts, we are often members of an ensemble, be that a cast, a production team, or a crew. As a member of this ensemble, you have a responsibility to support your fellow actors. Learn your lines. Be fully present and engaged in rehearsals. Don't touch other's props or personal items. Always leave a space cleaner than you found it. As the year goes by, we will work together to develop an understanding of the importance of being a part of an ensemble of performers!

Failure to comply with any of the above and school standards will result in the following:

1. Verbal warning
2. Teacher-Student conference
3. Parent/Teacher Conference
4. Disciplinary Referral

Distance Learning Protocol

All class meetings will be held via Google Meet. The link to our meeting room is provided in the Google Classroom site for our class. All students should log in on time to each class period to ensure a quick and easy start up for the day. I will take roll, outline the day's expectations, and then jump into the day's activities. During Distance Learning, all students are expected to stay logged into the Google Meet session unless given specific permission to log out of the meeting.

At the start of each class meeting, I ask that all students log in with their microphones muted and their cameras are turned on.

All students should keep comments and questions on topic and should refrain from using the chat feature unless directed to do so as part of the lesson or activity.

A reminder that attendance is mandatory at all class meetings and that missed class meetings will result in school intervention. Please let me know in advance via email if there is a reason you need to miss class.

Grading:

I have a unique perspective on grading. First of all, I believe all students can and should be able to earn an A in this course. To do this, however, you must complete all assignments. Please note that, as long as you turn something in, you will never receive lower than a 50% on a given assignment. This "grading floor" is designed to ensure that you never get stuck with an unrecoverable grade - even if you really struggle with something. I hope this encourages you to take risks, be creative, and have fun!!

Grading Scale	Grading Category Weights
A - 90-100	Process Work/Collaboration 10%
B - 80-89	Formative Assessments 30%
C - 70-79	Summative Assessments 60%
D - 60-69	
F - 50-59	
I - Incomplete	

Make-ups:

All performances and assignments may be redone to achieve a better performance (and higher grade if you are concerned about that). I do not recommend missing class sessions, especially on the day you are supposed to perform, however, I understand that extenuating circumstances may arise. If you find that you are going to miss a class period, call/text/email your scene partner (if applicable) and myself.

Office Hours/Teacher Contact:

Any student who needs additional assistance can always email me at mdemeritt@mjusd.k12.ca.us. I check my email regularly and usually respond within the same day (except over the weekends.) If you need to have a conversation or need additional support you can always book a meeting with me online using <https://dramateacher.youcanbook.me/>

Syllabus Acknowledgement

I expect that all students will review this syllabus in detail to be aware of all expectations in this course. Students are also expected to share the class expectations with their parents. Students and parents should acknowledge receipt of this syllabus and their commitment to the course requirements and expectations by [completing the Google Form linked here](#). Completion of the Syllabus Acknowledgement form will be worth 10 points in the gradebook.