Olympian High School
“Where Champions are Made”

2013-2014
Beginning Drama

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<tr>
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**Course Description:**
Beginning Drama is designed to give the student an appreciation of the world of theatre and an opportunity to discover the artist we each hold within. In this course, students will study the wide range of knowledge demanded by theatre and develop personally as they apply their new found knowledge in classroom activities. This course enriches student’s awareness, skills and self appreciation enabling them to build a foundation for future arts development. Beginning Drama provides for diverse learning styles and capabilities and allows students to experience the joy that comes from artistic communication.

Through the course students will examine the following areas of theatre:

The Stage and basic theatre terminology
Pantomime
Script Adaptaion
Audience and Character Analysis
Oral Interpretation Monologue
Evaluation of self-performance and those of fellow classmates
History of Drama (Shakespeare)
Evaluation of live theatre

**Texts and Materials:**
Theatre Arts: The Dynamics of Acting, 4th Edition
ISBN 0-8442-5165-8

One Subject SPIRAL notebook to be used for Drama only

**Student Expectations:**
Each student will:

Attend class daily and be prompt
Be prepared
Follow directions first time given
Ask questions!
Maintain Drama Journal
Work cooperatively in a group
Learn from other students as well as the teacher

**Contribute in a positive manner**

Complete Assignments on time
Strive to integrate the Habits of Mind
Demonstrate respect for classmates, the teacher and surroundings at all times
Demonstrate good taste in performances. **PROFANITY IS NOT ACCEPTABLE!**
Demonstrate proper ‘audience etiquette’, rude behavior will not be tolerated

**College Preparation ~ “Habits of Mind” and “College Readiness Literacy Skills”**

In conjunction with the Theatre Arts content of this course, an emphasis will be placed on developing college readiness. This will be accomplished by promoting the following “Habits of Mind” for success in college-level course work: 1) **building intellectual perseverance**, the persistent pursuit of knowledge, by promoting the value of a strong work ethic and cultivating sustained effort through repeated practice, 2) **developing metacognition**, by encouraging thinking about the quality of one’s own and others’ thought processes, practicing intellectual humility, and becoming comfortable with the discomfort of ambiguity, and 3) **creating intellectual curiosity** by fostering a desire to know and requiring inquiry, investigation, and rigorous engagement.

In order to be successful in college and post-secondary work, students must attain certain literacy skills. The “College Readiness Literacy Skills” that will be emphasized during this course will be: 1) **describing** using discipline-specific academic language, 2) **summarizing** by distinguishing the main idea from supporting detail, 3) **relating/applying** the appropriate tools/processes to new situations, 4) **comparing and contrasting** in order to support inferences and draw conclusions, 5) **combining ideas** in order to develop new insights, and 6) **justifying** according to a set of standards or criteria
## Course Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Course of Study</th>
<th>Summative Assessment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July-August</td>
<td>THE STAGE / Basic theatre terminology and theory</td>
<td>Written Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Pantomime</td>
<td>Written Exam / Pantomime Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>November-Dec</td>
<td>Audience and Character Analysis/ Script adaptation</td>
<td>Scene Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan-Feb</td>
<td>Oral Interpretation/ Scene Work</td>
<td>Written Exam / Play Analysis/ Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Monologue</td>
<td>2 minute Monologue Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>April-May-June</td>
<td>History of Drama (Shakespeare)/ Scene Work</td>
<td>Performance</td>
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### Grading Policy:

Citizenship will be based on the following:

- Attendance and timeliness
- Preparation for class (set aside time to rehearse at home)
- Completion of assignments
- Positive participation
- Ability to listen to others and work within a group

Scholarship grades will be based on the following:

- Performance Assessments 30%
- Formative Assessments (Homework, drama journal, classwork) 35%
- Summative Assessment 35%

### Drama Journal Requirements:

Every student is required to maintain a Drama Journal. Here they will record classnotes, performance evaluations, reflections and other written class activities. Drama journals will be periodically checked for completeness by classmates and teacher at least once per grading period.

### Analysis of live Theatre

Students are required to do an analysis of live theatre twice a semester. This requires a student to attend a
play and write a short critique of the performance. Students will be informed of affordable local community theatre opportunities that will fill the requirement for the assignment. Additionally, Olympian High School’s advanced drama students present two major productions a year, typically in the fall and spring. If it is not possible for a student to attend live theatre, there is a list of movies that they can choose from to substitute for a live performance when necessary. However, this should only be done as the exception.

Assessments:

**Formative:** Formative assessments are checkpoints that allow the teacher to track progress towards mastery of the standards. Formative assessments include quizzes, informal smaller performances and projects that prepare students for the upcoming summative assessment.

**Summative Assessments:** Summative assessments are the culmination of a unit’s work. They will include a formal writing reflection or response addressing the skills of the California Visual and performing Arts Standards. Summative assessments also include major projects and/or performances.

**Mastery Model:**

It is my goal as a teacher for your child to achieve mastery of the California State Standards for the Visual and Performing Arts. It is unacceptable to me, and all teachers at Olympian High School, for your son or daughter to fail a class. In an effort to inspire and promote Intellectual Perseverance, students will be allowed to retake assessments and/or re-submit writing assignments if an unacceptable grade was earned. This applies to all assessments EXCEPT performance. This must be done within one week of the original due date.
Olympian High School
Course Syllabus

Course Syllabus