Introduction to Drama Syllabus

Instructor: Mrs. Nitschke  
Course: Intro to Drama  
Grades: 9-12  
Website: www.bphsthespians.weebly.com  
E-mail: jnnitschke839@bpusd.net  

**Use this website to access the class Calendar! **

**Course Objective:**

This course exposes students to the basics of acting. Topics of study include improvisation, story theatre, mime, scene work, monologues, and directing. Students will learn what it takes to focus their mind and body in order to become another person on stage. We may do some things that seem strange, but they all help to hone techniques, which create great actors.

Introduction to Drama is designed as a general class that provides all students with the opportunity to experience the different aspects of the theater. The primary focus is to encourage the student to develop confidence whether they are making a speech, performing on stage, or applying for a job.

**Homework** for this class includes learning lines from published plays, writing scripts, researching for different acting projects, studying for exams, and performing.

**Production Requirement:** You must attend a live play or musical each semester and write a one page critique. You may attend a BPHS production, or a professional production. This is a large part of your grade.

**Course Outline**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Subject</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>Introduction to Theater</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Movement</td>
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<td>October</td>
<td>Voice</td>
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<td>November</td>
<td>Radio Drama</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>Monologues (Final)</td>
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<td>January</td>
<td>Scene Work</td>
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<td>February</td>
<td>Theater History</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>One Acts</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>One Acts</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Audition Monologues (Final)</td>
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Keep in mind that the outline can change anytime! Things can move around, be taken out, and be added!

**MATERIALS:**

You are required to have with you every day:

1. A pen and pencil
2. A Spiral Notebook
3. Xeroxed scripts when in a scene
4. Highlighters
5. A binder or hard book to write on

**Drama Notebook:**

Every student is expected to have a notebook that is used only for Drama. The notebook needs to have a pocket on the front and back covers. This is where you will keep all scripts and handouts. Your notebook will be checked at the end of each semester.

**Extra Credit:**

Students in good standing will be eligible for extra credit. Along with various assignments, performing in and or working Drama Productions, and completing a Play Analysis are the other ways to attain extra Credit for this class. Sign-ups for productions will be available periodically. See Mrs. Nitschke for a Play Analysis.
Expectation: I have one.

1. **RESPECT**
   a. **Respect yourself.**
      i. You will need to work outside of your comfort zone in this class, and by taking a chance, you are showing yourself that you can accomplish anything.
      ii. At the same time, be safe and avoid pushing your physical self too far.

   b. **Respect your classmates.** Both on and off stage.
      i. Every single person in this class will get up on stage and perform. While performing, you will respect the audience by trying your best and taking chances. Treat your time on stage as your chance to show the class your skills. (Plus, it will be part of your grade)
      ii. As audience members, you will be expected to watch, listen, and learn. While others are on stage, there is no talking, moving around, getting up to go to the bathroom, asking questions, looking at your phone, working on stuff for another class, reading, etc. Literally, don’t do anything but pay attention to the performers. (You can lose points on an assignment if you are disrespectful during a performance)
      iii. Almost every assignment in this class will be with at least one other person. You will need to respect those in your group in order to produce the best possible performances. That means being present in class and actively participating.
      iv. Leave things that do not belong to you alone.

   c. **Respect the Teacher.**
      i. I love my job. I love teaching you guys how to act, and everything about the theater. I put a lot of time and energy into what I teach as well as what we do outside of class. I offer a lot of materials and items in the room, which you are welcome to use. I ask that you respect me, along with the things in the room. In return, I will respect you. Having this mutual respect will make for a great year in Drama!
         1. Respect my time – Be in your seat when the bell rings, stay focused and on task, pause conversations when I am speaking. Rewards will be given for respecting my time.
         2. Respect my space – There is absolutely no gum allowed in the Classroom. Please put all food, drinks, and phones away (in a bag) before entering the classroom. If you have any drinks that cannot be put away, place them on my desk at the beginning of class, and pick them up at the end of class. (If I catch you eating or drinking in class, I will confiscate the item and you can pick it up after school before 3pm. I throw away gum.)

**Behavior Consequences:** I hate having to discipline, but it’s necessary, so just be respectful.
You’re in high school, and by now you know what constitutes appropriate behavior in class. If you choose to behave inappropriately, you will be assigned consequences until you choose to change your behavior.

- **Step 1:** Warning
- **Step 2:** Student conference
- **Step 3:** Detention (your last chance to solve this problem on your own)
- **Step 4:** Parent contact/Conference
- **Step 5:** Referral

I may skip steps if behavior is particularly severe.
Syllabus Assignment (20 points):
Please sign and return this page to me by ____________
Attach Syllabus into Drama Notebook

I, ____________________________ , in Period _____ Drama have read, discussed, and understand the information presented in this class syllabus. I assume responsibility for my actions, my work, and my grade in Drama Class. I agree to keep an open line of communication with the teacher.

__________________________  ____________________________
Print Parent/Guardian Name  Print Student Name

__________________________  ____________________________
Parent/Guardian Signature  Student Signature

**Parent/Guardian Contact Information:**

Name of Parent/Guardian to be contacted: _____________________________________________

__________________________  ____________________________  ____________________________
Home Phone  Work Phone  Cell Phone

____ a.m.  ____ p.m.
Best time to reach you?

__________________________
Parent/Guardian Email Address

Best form of communication:

_______ Phone  _______ Email

**We Need Parent/Guardian Help!**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Please check if you are willing to help with:</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volunteering Creatively (Set Construction, Costumes, Advertising, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Providing Concessions for Productions</td>
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<td>Driving/Chaperoning Field Trips</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
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***Parent/Guardian Help is not required, however it is greatly appreciated!***