**Syllabus 2016-2017✹ Drama**

**Mrs. McGolrick**

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*Course Description:*

Thepurpose of the first half of this course is to provide students with a basic knowledge of the development of theatre and dramatic performance throughout history and to provide students with an introductory experience in play production. The focus of study in the 2nd semester will be on the practical application of theatrical skills through performing and preparing a character in the class play and/or through participating in a technical capacity. Throughout the school year, students will be introduced to the basic skills needed to successfully perform in front of a group with specific emphasis on preparation, projection, rate-of-delivery, characterization and confidence in front of an audience. Each student will also be introduced to the various aspects of technical theater, with various opportunities for practical application.

*Supplies:* (to be brought to class each day)

* Pocket folder(or 3-ring binder) for handout collection
* spiral-bound notebook for classwork: acting or stage crew journal
* Your script (when applicable)
* A PENCIL (not a pen)
* Teachable spirit ☺

*1st Semester Assignments:*

* **In-class assignments** will include in readings, activities, and some written responses to class discussions. (Plan to have something to read & write every week.)
* **Homework: *Any classwork or preparation not completed in class must be completed at home.***
* **Stage Crew Participation:** Help with at least one aspect of stage crew for the Dinner Theatre and/or the Christmas Musicale. (All drama students who intend to act in the spring play must complete this assignment.)
* **Dinner Theater Performance Project:** Act or work on stage crew for the dinner theater class project
* **Go See a Play # 1** (See attached assignment sheet.)

*2nd Semester Assignments:*

* **In-class assignments:** This will primarily involve preparing for the Spring Play. Occasional readings, activities and writing assignments may be assigned to help further this goal.
* **Acting or Crew Journal:** You will be responsible for keeping a journal, one entry a week, documenting your progress on the Spring Play. This may be done in class or at home. (Further instructions will be given after Christmas Break)
* **Homework: *Any work or preparation not completed in class must be completed at home.***
* **Spring Play Performance Project:** Prepare and perform as an actor in the spring play.

***-OR-***

* **Spring Play Stage Crew Project:** Take on the responsibility for one aspect of theatrical design or production.

*Activities may include:* building & painting the set, designing costume and/or makeup plots, sewing/collecting costumes, designing lighting, designing sound, prop design & collection, & designing/printing programs, tickets, and posters for advertising.

* **Go See a Play # 2** (See attached assignment sheet.)

*Grading:* 25% Homework & Classwork

30% Quizzes & Projects

45% Class Participation

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Letter Grade | Numerical Equivalent | Grade points |
| A | 92-100 | 4 |
| B | 84-91 | 3 |
| C | 76-83 | 2 |
| D | 70-75 | 1 |
| F | Below 70 | 0 |

**Your grade will be based mainly on class participation**, so participate!! It is crucial for success in this class. Failure to participate can result in a failing grade. Be aware of this and don’t let it happen. Ask and answer questions, do the readings and class assignments, follow the rules & play games! It will be worth it. ☺

**Homework** will be rare, but I reserve the right to assign it on occasion. Don’t be surprised when you have some.

**Assessments and testing** will be conducted through practical application of skills. This means that you will need to participate in a minimum of 2 dramatic productions, one in the fall and one in the spring. This requirement will be met either through a stage crew assignment or an acting assignment.

*This class will require some after school commitments as a part of your grade especially in the Spring. Be aware of this and plan accordingly.*

**Fall Play (Dinner Theater): November 18th 2016**

**Spring Play: April 6, 7, 8, 2017**

***Quarter 1 Essential Questions*:**

* What value does improvisational theater have in dramatic performance?
* How has the history of theater influenced the theater of today?
* What conflicting viewpoints exist in the postmodern world in regards to theater and dramatic performance?
* What conclusions can we draw about God’s opinion of drama through Jesus’ life and the Bible?
* Are theater and God’s character basically in opposition?

***Quarter 2 Essential Questions:***

* What is the most important role (onstage or off) in Theater Arts?
* What value does improvisational theater have in dramatic performance?
* How are vocal and physical warm-ups useful for characterization?
* Why is the study of biology necessary to the study of theater?
* What part do vocalization and movement each play in character development?
* What is “neutral position” in reference to an actor’s movements?

***Quarter 3 Essential Questions:***

* What is difference between constructive criticism and destructive criticism?
* How do the thematic elements of the Spring Play selection agree or disagree with our biblical worldview?
* Why is every member of a production essential to its success?
* What are several characterization strategies that aid an actor in character development?
* Why is the stage manager’s job so important in theater?
* Who is in charge backstage during a show?
* What are the essential elements of backstage etiquette?
* What process does each member of the production staff have to go through before achieving a completed production?

***Quarter 4 Essential Questions:***

* What makes a theatrical performance a success?
* What criteria help us determine thematic elements of a play?
* What elements are essential to a dramatic performance? (What makes it Theater?)
* What criteria are useful in self-evaluation in Acting and Stage Crew?

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Detach the first page and return the completed form below by **Friday August 26th**

I have read this syllabus carefully with my parents, and we understand all of the policies indicated thereon. I promise to abide by these class expectations to the best of my abilities.

Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_