

# BEGINNING THEATER

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*TREAT EVERYDAY AS IF IT WERE AN AUDITION; BE YOUR BEST SELF!*

**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.

## **Students will examine the following elements of theater throughout the semester:**

- The Stage and basic theatre terminology
- Pantomime
- Script Adaptation
- Audience and Character Analysis
- Monologues
- Ensemble Theater
- One Act plays
- Evaluation of self-performance and those of fellow classmates
- History of Drama
- Evaluation of live theatre
- Makeup Application
- Student Directing
- Musical Theater

## **Each student will:**

- Attend class daily and be prompt
- Be prepared Follow directions first time given
- Ask questions!
- Work cooperatively in a group Learn from other students as well as the teacher
- Contribute in a positive manner
- Complete Assignments on time.
- Demonstrate respect for classmates, the teacher and surroundings at all times
- Demonstrate good taste in performances.

## **Classroom Policies:**

- **TARDIES:** If you are not in your seat when the bell rings, please go down to the attendance office to obtain a tardy slip.
- **RESTROOM USE:** You will be given FOUR bathroom passes to use during the semester. IF you still have any of your passes at the end of the semester, extra credit points will be awarded to your final grade. However, once they are gone, they are gone.
- **PHONES:** If you deem it necessary to bring your phone to class, it needs to be silenced and in your backpack, or in my "phone cauldron". On occasion, you may have to use it as a research tool, or to access scripts and performance music; however, instruction will be given if that is the case. This is a time to be connecting with people, not technology. In my experience, phones in the theater classroom are a distraction to learning. If there is a special situation, that needs to be communicated to me. Otherwise, phones should be **OFF THEIR PERSON.**
- You are dismissed by the teacher, not the bell - DO NOT LINE UP BY THE DOOR.

## **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 Idaho Visual and performing Arts Standards. Summative assessments also include major projects and/or performances.

### **1. PARTICIPATION 40%**

Attendance is crucial to being successful in theater. This class is interactive. The more each student puts into the class, the more we will all get out of it. Absences and tardiness affect progress.

#### **PARTICIPATION GRADING RUBRIC (BASED ON THE 5 POINT GRADING SCALE):**

A = Exceedingly high quality and original work. Takes initiative and contributes beyond what is required.

B = Consistently good and interesting. Participates often in class.

C = Satisfactory and complete. Shows interest in class.

D = Minimum. Seldom responds in class.

F = Unacceptable work. Examples discussed in class (exceedingly disruptive, inappropriate, disrespectful etc.)

### **2. Assignments/Performances 60%**

Written work is graded on the clarity of the work (ex: blocking in a script); format, grammar, spelling, etc.

Tests and quizzes are occasionally given to evaluate the student's understanding of Theater Vocabulary.

Students are never graded on "talent". A performance rubric is used to grade performances.