**THEATRE ARTS**

2020 – 2021

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Theatre Arts

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**ABOUT THE CURRICULUM**

All Frederick County Middle School Theatre Arts courses

have adopted the four essential discipline topics:

1. Aesthetics
2. Creative Expression
3. Criticism
4. Historical, Social, and Cultural

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**CLASS DESCRIPTION**

Theatre Arts is an elective, full-year course that allows students to experience independent and challenging topics surrounding theatre. We will concentrate on theatrical terms and apply them to skills to create, critique and perform. Originality, effective communications, problem solving, critical thinking, social cooperation, self-discipline, and community/environmental issues will be involved in the lessons. If a student is electing theatre for the second or third year, he/she will be encouraged to produce higher level and more in-depth art projects according to his/her abilities. Students will be graded on design and performance projects, class preparation and participation, tests and assessments, spiral and journal entries, and a binder.

##### MAJOR UNITS OF STUDY

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 6TH Grade | 7TH Grade | 8th Grade |
| Term 1 | An Inviting Climate for TheatreThe Language of the Stage | An Inviting Climate for Theatre The Language of the Stage | An Inviting Climate for Theatre The Language of the Stage |
| Term 2 | Voice and Diction Skills Theatre As A Vocation | Improvisation Mime, Pantomime, and Clowning | Improvisation Storytelling  The Production Experience |
| Term 3 | Improvisation Communication Through The Arts and Literature | Communication Through Movement American Musical Theatre | A Timeline of Theatre History Learning to Love Shakespeare |
| Term 4 | Puppetry Building on Acting and Production Skills | Speech and Communication Building on Acting and Production Skills | Comedy in Theatre  Building on Acting and Production Skills |

##### CLASS EXPECTATIONS

Be responsible

Be fair

Be caring

Be respectful

Be a good citizen

**SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS**

Success

Ownership

Attitude

Respect

**GRADING POLICY**

As middle schools begin to transition their grading policies to provide more specific feedback to students and parents, we have adopted common language and practices for the use of the zero in a 100 point scale. For the 2020--21 school year, all middle school teachers will utilize the following practices relative to the use of the zero.

* A  50% will be entered into the gradebook to communicate that an assignment has ***not been completed***.  In addition, the teacher will add the following comment: “This assignment has not yet been submitted for a grade. I am still willing to accept this work. Please contact me to discuss your options.”
* A 55% will be entered into the gradebook to communicate that an ***assignment was completed, but earned a score that was lower than a 55%***. In addition, the teacher will add the following comment: “This assignment falls below mastery of the standard that was assessed.  You have the opportunity to re-do this assignment. Please contact me to discuss your options.”

It is our hope that the consistent use of these percentages and comments will provide students and parents with a better understanding of the assignments that have been submitted (but do not demonstrate mastery) and those that have not been submitted.

**TUTORING DURING OFFICE HOURS**

Office hours are available for students on Wednesdays. Please see Schoology for the schedule.

**LATE WORK AND ABSENCE POLICY**

Although schools are very flexible during virtual learning, students should be prepared to turn in assignments on time and up to specifications. Courses will still have **due dates,** but **deadlines** are flexible. If students are absent from class, they are responsible for work covered during class.

**EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS IN A VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENT**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| PREPARATION FOR LEARNING | ENGAGEMENT IN LEARNING | OWNERSHIP OF LEARNING |
| * Establish a daily routine for learning. * Gather and organize materials and resources for learning. * Check Schoology frequently to receive announcements, assignments, and feedback. | * Carefully review all learning materials and expectations for assignments. * Follow your daily schedule provided by your school in order to attend synchronous sessions. * Complete assignments and activities according to the timeline given by your teachers. * Read and apply feedback from teachers and ask for clarification as needed. | * Complete assignments with integrity and academic honesty. * Show positive and appropriate interactions with others in the learning environment. * Demonstrate good digital citizenship skills. * Work independently when appropriate and ask for help as needed. * Communicate with your school counselor, teacher, and caregivers if you lack the resources to engage in distance learning and/or if you are feeling overwhelmed. |

**PARENTS: PLEASE ACCESS SCHOOLOGY TRAINING AND EMAILS TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATIONS OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES!**