

Musical Theatre Production: 8th Period, Room 19, SP1, Choir/Orchestra Building

Teachers:	Josh Heard Peter Bennett Ed Torrez	Emails:	jheard@paparts.org pbennett@paparts.org etorrez@paparts.org
Prep Periods:	Heard, 6th Bennett, Torrez,	Google Classroom:	dt476m

Classroom Materials

- **1 Spiral Bound Notebook (250+ pages)** for coursework exploration/reflection
- **1 Pocketed Folder or Three Ring Binder** to keep track of assignments and projects
- **1 Reusable Water Bottle with a Lid**
- **Pencils and Pens** (pencil required for all script work; pen optional for all other assignments)

Course Description, Goals, and Objectives

Theatre Production and Musical Theatre Dance students will work together to create theatrical productions throughout the school year.

In the process, students can expect to learn the fundamentals of Acting, Dance, and Music that theatre professionals use in the real world. Students are expected to exhibit professionalism as they pursue deeper knowledge in each of the content areas, whether in the classroom or performing on stage in front of an audience.

By the end of the year, students should have a good understanding of the production process that moves them from actor preparation and technique study, to the audition process, to the rehearsal hall, to technical rehearsal, to performance, to strike, and finally post-mortem.

Students will also work to produce their own work at the end of the year in a small showcase.

Teaching Style

Students will learn by doing. While some classes will involve lecture and discussions, most of the time students will be on their feet doing the work. This class isn't about "getting it right." While students will be required to meet certain technical demands (such as actors knowing their lines, knowing choreography, memorizing their songs), we will invest much more in "employing bravery" and "risking failure." It is in the attempt to reach beyond what we believe to be possible that we begin to experience the potential and purpose of theatre. In fact, we will redefine failure as a necessary step toward success. This does not mean students need not apply effort—quite the opposite. All students will work toward challenging themselves beyond what is expected of them, developing life-long tools that extend well beyond the theatre and into their lives.

Google Classroom

code to join - **dt476m**

A Google Classroom page has been created to help students and parents keep track of classroom assignments and activities throughout the year. Students may also use Google Classroom to access tests and quizzes, online assignments, PowerPoint presentations, and other coursework documents. It is our first year attempting to utilize Google Classroom as a team of teachers, and we will endeavor to keep it up to date to the best of our ability, but ultimately, any information the student requires can be gathered directly from the teacher in the classroom or through email.

Bloom's Taxonomy and Webb's Depth of Knowledge (Graphic Attached)

Theatre skills do not exist in a vacuum. True theatre artists must behave as scientists and detectives of their craft if they expect to unleash the full extent of their creativity.

To this end, students will be expected to apply every aspect of Bloom's Taxonomy as they approach a script. For instance, students will practice **Analyzing** scripts in order to develop a deeper **Understanding** of their characters; then, **Applying** this knowledge to rehearsals and scene work, students will begin **Evaluating** their own work, the work of others, and the needs of the scene with the ultimate goal of serving the audience; **Remembering** all that they have discovered, students will begin **Creating** valuable works of art. No single piece of Bloom's pyramid can exist without the other when approaching this art form.

Similarly, theatre is a physical manifestation of critical thinking, reflection, informed application and experimentation; critical thinking, reflection, informed application and experimentation; critical thinking, reflection, informed application and... you see where this is going? Therefore, students can expect to become experts in all four areas of Webb's Depth of Knowledge chart.

Course Outline

The first semester is focused on building skills in Acting, Dance, and Music; Audition Technique; and participating in the rehearsal process. Students will rotate between three, two-week workshops with Mr. Heard (Acting), Mr. Bennett (Dance), and Mr. Torrez (Music). In October students will Audition for parts in the spring musical and then begin the rehearsal process, which will carry through to the end of the first semester.

The second semester will continue rehearsals for the musical. Some classes may also be devoted to set construction.

At the end of the spring semester after the musical closes students will work on projects in Acting, Dance, and Music to be presented in an evening variety show.

Performances

Students are *required* to participate in PAPA theatre events. However, the ability to perform is both a privilege and a responsibility. Regular class attendance is required and crucial to the success of a performance. A passing grade in the class is also required. Students who are absent in the two weeks prior to a PAPA theatre event may not be able to perform and may be given an alternate make-up assignment. Please see the PAPA student handbook for specific details on the PAPA attendance policy.

Please mark you calendar's with these MANDATORY dates: April 8 - 13, 2018

Students will have tech and dress rehearsals, April 8-10.

Performances will be April 11-13.

Call Times TBA.

Be aware that students and parents will be required to sign a performance contract for the musical with more specific information on expectations, important dates, and times.

Grading

Daily Participation and Attendance - 30% of Total Grade

Assignments - 25% of Total Grade

Projects and Quizzes - 25% of Total Grade

Semester Final Evaluations - 20% of Total Grade

Students will earn class points for participation, journal work, homework and assignments, in-class activities and in-class performances, quizzes, independent and group projects, dress rehearsals, tech rehearsals, public and competitive performances, and by following the rules and procedures of theatre.

Final Evaluations: Students will earn Final Evaluation points once a semester. These evaluations may include a performance, a written reflection, multiple choice questions, and/or a short answer component based on theatre vocabulary, technique and etiquette.

Late Work: Homework, Assignments, and Projects will have 5 points deducted from the final grade for each day past the due date. **A Reminder to Students: ANY GRADE IS BETTER THAN A ZERO**

How Performance Grades are Determined: Largely participation based, students will also have to meet specific guidelines clearly defined by the teacher when the assignment is given.

Sample Daily Participation Point Breakdown

1 pt. The student is **Present**

1 pt. The student was **On Time**

1 pt. The student is **Prepared** (ex. has course materials, assignments, etc.)

2 pt. The student **Seeks Out Opportunities to Participate** (doesn't have to be prompted)

5 Points TOTAL Possible

**Students with Excused Absences that meet the Student Handbook Guidelines for Attendance will not be penalized.*

Classroom Expectations

Dress appropriately.

In addition to following the Dress Code found in the Student Handbook, students must wear clothing that allows them to move freely and comfortably. For example, do not wear clothing that inhibits the student's ability to participate in activities like yoga. Do not wear clothing that constantly requires the student's attention (examples: pants or shirts that must always be pulled up or down after physical activity). This does not mean students need to wear exercise clothes; jeans and a t-shirt are just as appropriate so long as the student has full range of motion. **Skirts and dresses are not appropriate unless the student wears shorts underneath.**

Attendance is absolutely necessary.

Students may be penalized in more ways than one for absences. Here's why:

1. This course relies on cumulative knowledge—meaning, what a student learns during the previous class is essential to successfully participating in the current day's curriculum. Missing classes will significantly increase the difficulty of the course for the student.
2. Students frequently work within groups, and absences will be a detriment to the entire group and project, not just the absent individual.
3. As a performing arts school, production rehearsals happen during class time. An absent student will significantly harm the rehearsal process for all involved in the production, and may result in terminating the absent student's privilege to participate.

Participation is more than showing up.

Students are expected to come to class prepared, with all necessary tools and assignments, and a willingness to complete all assigned tasks in the day's curriculum. Further, students will be expected to seek out challenges and confront related personal fears in order to unleash their full creative potential.

Support everyone. Period.

The work we do requires the entire class to participate in the creation and maintenance of a safe space to explore our creativity. Artistic exploration requires a level of vulnerability that demands unconditional support from our peers. Any behavior that is of detriment to fellow students will not be tolerated. Students are expected to behave as listeners, mentors, and compassionate allies.

No food. No gum. No drinks (except water).

Mints are welcome during roll call.

No electronic distractions.

Student cellphones and electronics must be on silent and stowed in the student's bag before class begins. **Electronic devices out without permission will be confiscated, turned in to the office, and returned to the student with parent/guardian involvement.**

Leave the space in better condition than how you found it.

Clean up after yourself and then go the extra mile to leave the space in even better condition for the people you share it with.

Consequences.

Students who repeatedly disregard the Classroom Expectations may experience loss of participation points, loss of privileges, contact/conference with parent/guardian, referral, removal from performances, behavior contract and/or academic consequences.

What we do in class will be challenging. If you are struggling or need assistance, please tell us. I am your allies.

Student Contract

Please Fill Out and Return Page 5 with a Parent/Guardian for an Assignment Grade

Name of Student: _____

Name of Parent(s)/Guardian(s): _____

Person to Contact and Phone Number: _____

Guardian Email address (Optional): _____

Please Read the following statements and initial below as instructed. By initialing I am confirming my knowledge of and commitment to fulfilling the following statements:

Student Initial | Parent Initial

____ | ____ I confirm that I have read through the Syllabus and attached documents.

____ | ____ I will attain Classroom Materials for an assignment grade, due by 8/21/17

____ | ____ I understand that performances are both a privilege and a responsibility, and that my attendance and participation are essential to participating.

____ | ____ I acknowledge and have recorded the provided dates and times for performances and competitions. (dates/times may change)
Spring Musical:
Students will have tech and dress rehearsals, April 8-10.
Performances will be April 11-13. Call Times TBA.

____ | ____ I have read and agree to follow the rules set out in our Classroom Expectations to the very best of my ability.

____ | ____ I understand that it is my responsibility to communicate any need for assistance to my instructor, and commit to doing so if I am struggling.

I have read and agree to the terms of the syllabus:

Student Name Printed

Parent/Guardian Name Printed

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Help make PAPA Theatre even better! The theatre department may be in need of parent/guardian volunteers who can help us with our productions. If you can help in a certain area of need, please put a check next to category below and list who to contact.

____ Costuming: mending, alterations, sewing, etc.

____ Set construction: building set pieces, painting, etc.

____ Supervision: backstage supervision, ushering, taking tickets, box office, etc.

Name of Guardian(s) interested: _____