



Teacher: Allie Sundstrom

Prep Period: 2nd Period

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## Course Description:

Middle School Acting is an introduction to theatre arts geared towards understanding “the basics” of theatre, following the National Core Arts Standards for Theatre. We will cover many core components of the theatre machine: acting, directing, and playwriting. By understanding the workings of these concepts and practices, we will also expand our knowledge of theatre history and ensemble building. Artists will also be introduced to the nuances of performance production and a tool kit of improvisational exercises, games, and acting techniques. This course will provide a strong foundation to continue a pursuit of the arts while enhancing other non-arts skills such as public speaking, the ability to collaborate with others, and how to critique works.

## Course Materials:

While working in a virtual setting, course materials will be provided and available on Google Classroom. You will be participating in weekly Zoom meetings and recording performances via Zoom and/or Flipgrid, so you will need to have a computer that is capable of recording your video with sound on these platforms. If this is a concern, please email me so that we can make sure you have everything you need.

If/when we move to a hybrid or in-person setting, the following materials are required:

- Highlighters
- Pencils
- Loose-leaf paper
- Pocket Folder or Pocket Divider in Shared Classes
- Binder to hold loose assignments
- Clipboard (optional)

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## Weekly Schedule:

**Monday:** Zoom Meeting: Review and Preview

**Tuesday:** Attendance Check-In Form/Online Assignment(s)

**Wednesday:** Attendance Check-In Form/Online Assignment(s)

**Thursday:** Zoom Meeting: Check for Understanding/  
Google Form Exit Ticket

**Friday:** Attendance Check-In Form/Quiz or Test/ Zoom  
office hours (optional)

## Units of Study:

**1** Ensemble Building & Class Norms

**2** Theatrical Elements

**3** Voice, Movement, and Performance Values

**4** Character Development and Realization

**5** Writing for the Stage

**6** Production & Performance

\*All units will include the study of elements of theatre history.

\*Weekly assignments and assessments are due by 11:59 PM each Saturday.

\*\*Weekly schedules may vary for weeks leading up to performances. Any changes will be reflected in the weekly schedule posted on Google Classroom.

## Virtual Bell Schedule:

**Period 1: 8 am–8:54 am**

**Period 5: 12:24 pm–1:22 pm**

**Period 2: 9 am–9:54 am**

**Period 6: 1:26 pm–2:20 pm**

**Period 3: 10 am–10:54 am**

**Period 7: 2:24 pm–3:18 pm**

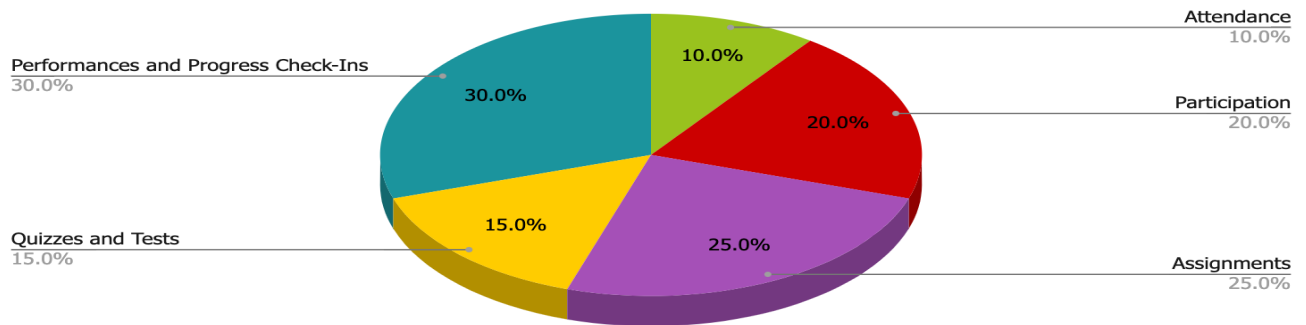
**Period 4: 11 am–11:54 am**

**Period 8: 3:22 pm–4:16 pm**

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## Course Grades:

For this course, your grade will be determined by five elements: Attendance, Participation, Assignments, Quizzes and Tests, and Performances and Progress Check-Ins.



**Attendance:** Attendance will be taken daily, via Zoom meetings and completion of an attendance check-in Google Form, for non-meeting days. Each day is worth 10 points, making most weeks worth 50 points.

- **Excused Absences:** Even in a virtual setting, you are expected to attend class. If you are absent due to illness or any other reason, please be sure to contact the Front Office so that any excused absences can be entered for you. Excused absences will not count against your daily attendance points.
- **Unexcused Absences:** Any unexcused absences will result in 0 points earned for the day.
- **Excused Tardies:** If you have a Zoom meeting for another class that runs into your class period, please have that teacher send me an email so that I can excuse your tardy.
- **Unexcused Tardies:**
  - **Zoom Meeting Days:** If you arrive more than 5 minutes late to one of our Zoom meetings, you will lose 5 points from your daily attendance. If you are having technical difficulties, please contact me as soon as you can so we can troubleshoot any issues you are having.
  - **Non-Zoom Meeting Days:** You will have a Google Form to complete for your attendance check-in. Since this is a short form that you will need to fill out, you will be counted as "on-time" if it is submitted within the first 10 minutes of class. If you complete If you are having technical difficulties, please contact me as soon as you can so we can troubleshoot any issues you are having.

\*In the event that we move to hybrid or in-person instruction, you will receive an amended course syllabus.

**Participation:** You will have the opportunity to earn 20 points per day for participation, with a total of 100 points in a typical week.

- Students can lose 5 points from their Daily Participation grade each time they disrupt class or refuse to participate in a class activity.
- If a student does not have the necessary class materials for the day they may lose 5 points from their Daily Participation.
- Participation looks different for everyone.
  - IEPs and 504 Plans will be accommodated in classes.
  - If ANY student feels that they are having a hard time with the material, keeping up with the assignments, or otherwise needs help in class, please be sure to advocate for yourself by sending me an email so we can make sure you have everything you need. I am here to help you.

**Assignments:** Weekly schedules and assignments will be posted on Google Classroom each week. It is recommended that you begin working on them the day they are assigned. However, since some students may need a bit longer to complete the work to the best of their ability and in an attempt to keep students from feeling overwhelmed, ALL assignments will be officially due by Saturday at 11:59 PM. Work may be submitted before this time.

- **Late Work:** Late work will be accepted up to the date of the Unit Test OR end of a grading period, for  $\frac{1}{2}$  earned credit.

**Quizzes and Tests:** You will take either a quiz or test each Friday. Weeks that have Friday off due to holiday or teacher in-service will not have a quiz or test assigned.

- **Quizzes:** Worth 50 points. Each unit will include multiple quizzes, before the unit test.
  - Quizzes are open-resource. Please use the materials that you have worked on in class.
  - You are welcome to retake quizzes as many times as you would like before 11:59 PM the Saturday that it is due. The highest score is what will be recorded in the grade book.
- **Tests:** Worth 100 points. There will be one test at the end of each unit.
  - Tests are open-resource, please use the materials that you have worked on in class.
  - Tests can only be taken once.
  - If you score below 60% on a unit test, you will have the opportunity to complete a reflection assignment to bring your score up to 60%. You must request the reflection assignment, as each will be tailored to the material with which you need more practice.

**Performances and Progress Check-Ins:** Performances and Progress Check-Ins will be graded using rubrics that will be provided when each production is introduced to the class.

- Students will have multiple Progress Check-Ins for each Production.
- Students will be graded for their final performance.
- Both Performances and Progress Check-Ins will be largely based on participation, preparedness, and professionalism (these criteria will look different for each student, based on their own growth and work.)

## **Semester Grade Calculations:**

**S1:** Q1 (40%) Q2 (40%) Midterm (20%)

**S2:** Q3 (40%) Q4 (40%) Final (20%)

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## Performances:

For the safety of all performers, their families, and our audience members, all productions for the 2020-2021 school year will be virtual. The end of each semester will have a performance that will be pre recorded and available via hyperlink.

**S1:** PANDAmonium: A Night of Improv

Date: TBD, updates will be emailed.

**S2:** Devised Theatre Showcase (in collaboration with the ELA department.)

Date: TBD, updates will be emailed.

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## Classroom Expectations and Norms:

This classroom is a space for safe exploration of self and society. It is expected that mistakes will be made- it is how you handle not only your mistakes but the mistakes of others, that will dictate how much you will learn and grow as an artist. As the instructor I will always strive to bring an attitude of positivity and respect to the classroom- I expect the same of you.

This is your class, own it.

### Class Rules:

- D:** Develop ideas collaboratively.
  - R:** Respect yourself, others, and space you are in.
  - A:** Always try your very best.
  - M:** Maintain concentration and professionalism.
  - A:** Always model appropriate audience etiquette.
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## Office Hours:

Zoom office hours will be held on Fridays (a recurring link is posted under "Resources" on Google Classroom,) and set by appointment for other days of the week. If you are in need of additional assistance or run into any issues while working that you need help resolving, please email me to troubleshoot or set up a 1-1 Zoom meeting, or pop into my office hours on Friday.

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