

## **Musical Theatre:** 2nd Period, Choir Building

Teachers: Peter Bennett, Allie Sundstrom, and Ed Torrez

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Google Classroom Code- cgwt6nq

## Classroom Materials

**Three Ring Binder** to hold your copy of your script and any notes or assignments for class • **Pencils** (pencil required for all script work; pen optional for all other assignments) **Highlighter**

## Course Description, Goals and Objectives

Musical Theatre students can expect to learn the fundamentals of Acting, Dance, and Music that 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.

## Teaching Style

Musical Theatre class is an experiential learning style: students learn by doing. While some classes will involve lecture and discussions, most of the time students will be on their feet rehearsing a scene, learning choreography or harmonies for one of the production numbers. . 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 stage and into their lives.

## Google Classroom code to join - cgwt6nq

A Google Classroom page has been created to help students and parents keep track of classroom assignments and activities throughout the year. Students will also use Google Classroom to access tests and quizzes, online assignments, PowerPoint presentations, and other coursework documents such as scripts and musical scores. .

## Bloom's Taxonomy and Webb's Depth of Knowledge (Explained Below)

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.

## Course Outline

The beginning of the semester starts with audition preparation: monologue study, music study, and choreography study. Auditions for the musical will be held toward the end of quarter 1. Rehearsals for the musical will begin the following Monday and will be held in class (2nd period). During rehearsals students who are not on their feet during rehearsal can expect to work on assignments related to the production.

The second semester will continue rehearsals for the musical. After school rehearsals will begin in January. Students will be required to stay after 8th period until 6:30pm

At the end of the spring semester after the musical closes students will work on projects in Acting, Dance, and Music. Students may also participate in workshops to help instructors determine the musical for the following school year.

## Performances

All musical theatre students are *required* to participate in PAPA musical theatre performances and events and will receive a grade on their performance and professionalism. 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.

Performances will take place in February of 2023 (we are still waiting to hear back on dates). Students will have technical and dress rehearsals at the theatre during school hours the Tuesday and Wednesday before the show, and will have performances on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday that week.

The show will most likely take place at the African American Performing Arts Center (AAPAC) on the State Fair Grounds in February 2023. Students must have their own transportation for travel to and from the theatre. Students are expected to be picked up promptly after each performance.

## Grading

**Rehearsal Grade- 100 point a week**

**Quiz- Performance Check Ins 50 points each**

**In Class Projects - 10 Points each assignment**

**Test-Performances, Mid-Terms, and Final Evaluations - 200 points of Total Grade**

### Rehearsal Grade Explained

**Rehearsal Grade:** At least once a week students will receive a rehearsal grade. This grade is based on their promptness, being prepared to work, having a positive attitude and ready to take risk in their work, and their ability to work well with their classmates and teachers.

**Quiz/Performance Check In:** Sporadically, during rehearsal we will have performance check ins, these are scenes, songs, or dances that we have already staged. The check-in's purpose is to see if students are working on their music, memorizing lines, or practicing the choreography on their own.

**In Class Projects-** Throughout the year we will have in class projects such as: A, B, scene studies, group choreography assignments, or learning to sing a solo or duet. Students are expected to work during class to bring these projects to live and will be graded on rubric specific to each project.

**Tests- Performances, Mid-Terms, and Finals-** These include performances and summative assessments at the end of each semester.

*If a student loses all participation points for the day because of behavioral issues they may be sent to the office for discipline, and an email will be sent to the student's parent/guardian. Students who repeatedly disrupt class in this way will be given alternative assignments that remove them from the group activities they are disrupting.*

**Finals:** 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.

## Classroom Expectations

### *Prepared, Seated, and Quiet at the Beginning of Class*

Students should be seated quietly with all rehearsal materials out as soon as the tardy bell rings. Students who do not accomplish this will be counted as late, unless they have a note. Students who are repeatedly late will not be considered responsible enough to hold speaking roles, or featured rolls. Repeated disregard for this expectation may result in removal from this class.

### *Dress appropriately.*

Students must wear clothing that allows them to move freely and comfortably. Musical Theatre involves a lot of physicality and dancing. Students will be expected to wear dance appropriate apparel each class period. Students who are not dressed appropriately may lose participation points for the day. **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. 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 be rehearsing outside of class time. If you aren't improving every class, you aren't working enough outside of class, and that is unacceptable.

*Work the ENTIRE period. No exceptions.*

This is not a social hour. This is not time for you to hang out with your friends. This isn't nap time or cuddle time or makeup time or play with hair time. We are here to work. You have two choices during class, work on the play or work quietly on a paper-based assignment for another class (if you've completed all work for the play). No computers. No cell phones. If you have "nothing to work on," you're wrong.

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

Mints are welcome during roll call, but otherwise there shouldn't be anything in your mouth that isn't a part of your body.

*No electronic distractions.*

Student cellphones and electronics must be on silent and stowed in the student's bag before class begins, or in the electronics class bin at the beginning of class. **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. We are your allies.**

## Student Contract

*Please Fill Out and student contract 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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 9/6/22.

\_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_ I understand that performances are both a privilege and a responsibility, and that my attendance and participation are essential, and I will be present for all tech/dress rehearsals and performances.

\_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_ I acknowledge and have recorded the mandatory dates and times for \_\_\_\_\_ performances and competitions. (dates/times may change)

\_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_ 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: \_\_\_\_\_