



8th Grade | High School Theatre
&
Thespian Troupe #6667

Instructor/Troupe Director: Allie Sundstrom

Prep Period: 3rd Period

Email: asundstrom@paparts.org

Course Description:

This is a combined theatre course serving 8th grade and high school theatre students, as well as members of PAPA's Thespian Troupe #6667. While all students meet together and collaborate on most performances and projects, coursework and expectations are differentiated by grade level and experience. This model allows for a rich, multi-level ensemble where students can learn from one another, take on mentorship roles, and contribute to a vibrant, inclusive theatre community.

Course Materials:

The following materials are recommended for this course:

- Highlighters
- Pencils
- 1x Pocket folder
- 1x 1-inch Binder (for production script)
 - Please do not exceed 1-inch sizing.
- Donations of disinfecting wipes and hand sanitizer are greatly appreciated!

Theatre Class Weighted Grading Scale:

Category	8th Grade High School Theatre	Thespian Troupe
Ensemble Work, Participation, & Preparedness	10 pts	10 pts
In-Class Performances & Projects	50 pts	50 pts
Public Performances	500 pts	500 pts
Classwork	2-10 pts	2-10 pts
Leadership & Event Participation	15 pts (Invite-Only)	15 pts (Required)
Communication	N/A	10 pts

Semester Grade Calculations:

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

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

*Weekly assignments are due at the start of class at the top of each week unless otherwise specified due to production needs.

- **Late Work:**

Per the PAPA Handbook:

Generally, students have 1 day for each **excused** day absent in order to make up missed assignments. Classwork and learning continue during student absences. It is the responsibility of students to request make-up work from their teachers. If an assignment is due the day a student is absent, the assignment is due the day the student returns.

For planned absences, students should contact the teacher to collect work prior to the absence. Out of school performing arts activity absences are approved through the front office after students turn in the form, available in the office and the Performing Arts Absence Request. Make-up work for unexcused absences, including suspension, is at the discretion of the teacher.

- Performance-based assignments are expected to be presented on the day they are due. If an individual is absent, we will try our best to accommodate late presentations, but it is up to the student to communicate with us to schedule this. Keep in mind that absences affect the entire group- please be mindful and respectful of your fellow performers by communicating before the performance when possible.
- Public performances will not be able to be rescheduled.

Participation, Ensemble Work & Preparedness: Daily engagement, collaboration, punctuality, and readiness with materials. Reflects rehearsal behavior, ensemble contribution, and personal responsibility.

In-Class Performance Projects: Monologues, scene work, improvisation, and smaller in-class presentations designed to build technique and creativity.

Public Performances: Major productions performed for a live audience — assessed on commitment, growth, execution, and professionalism.

Classwork: Includes assignments, character work, performance self-evaluations, script analysis, and production critiques to deepen artistic understanding.

Leadership & Event Participation:

- **Thespian Troupe:** Required. Involves leadership in productions, festivals, fundraising, and school/community theatre events.
- **8th Grade | High School (non-Troupe members):** Invite only. Select students may be invited to assist with/ participate in leadership or production roles outside class time as enrichment.

Communication:

- **Thespian Troupe:** Required. Weekly grade. The troupe will be using a group messaging system to communicate throughout the year. You are responsible for checking this regularly for updates and notifications, as well as acknowledging posts.

- Troupe members are expected to respond to emails from the troupe director, troupe officers, and production teams in a timely manner.
 - You are expected to communicate any scheduling conflicts in advance, to the best of your ability.
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Attendance:

Attendance and Ensemble Responsibility

Theatre is a collaborative art form—every scene depends on the full participation of the ensemble. When you are absent, it affects not only your own learning but also the progress of your classmates. Consistent attendance ensures that rehearsals run smoothly, blocking and character work stay on track, and the group can work together effectively toward our shared performance goals.

Per the PAPA Handbook:

As a performing arts school, all students are enrolled in arts classes that culminate in public performances and or technical presentations. These events are essential components of the arts curriculum, providing the primary opportunity to assess student learning, growth, and real-world application of artistic skills in an authentic setting. The collaborative, live nature of performance and production cannot be replicated through written work or make-up assignments; failure to attend without an approved excuse may result in a failing grade for the assignment or course. Students and families must plan accordingly and communicate in advance with instructors in case an unavoidable conflict arises.

- **Mandatory Attendance:** Students must attend all classes, rehearsals, and the school day on performance days. Dress/tech rehearsals are required.
- **Two-Week Rule:** No absences are allowed within two weeks of a performance unless excused by verifiable documentation (e.g., medical note, court order).
- **Consequences:** Missing class or rehearsals may lead to removal from the performance and/or a failing grade.
- **Excessive Absences:** Three or more unexcused absences in a quarter may result in removal from performances and course failure.
- **Post-Performance:** Missing school the day after a performance is considered unexcused.
- **Communication:** Families must communicate early with instructors about unavoidable conflicts.

Participation:

- Students are expected to be fully engaged during class, participate in discussions, provide feedback, and ask questions. You will be asked to contribute in class in a thoughtful and meaningful way. Your participation will affect your grade for this course.
- Students can lose points from their grade each time they disrupt class or refuse to participate in a class activity/alternate activity.
- If students do not have the necessary class materials for the day, they may lose points from their grade.
- Students who misuse the class Google Classroom may lose points from their grade.
 - Spamming the Google Classroom Stream, making inappropriate or non-class-specific comments or posts on the Stream, or posts, etc.
- 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 or talking to me so I can make sure you have everything you need. [I am here to help you.](#)

National Theatre Standards:

- Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work
- Organize and develop artistic ideas and work
- Refine and complete artistic work
- Select, analyze, and interpret artistic work for presentation
- Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation
- Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work
- Perceive and analyze artistic work
- Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work
- Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work
- Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art
- Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding

Public Performances:

All sections of this class will work together for the following public performances. Information regarding performances and ticket purchases will be made available and emailed home closer to performance dates.

S1:

Third Thursday at The Albuquerque Museum
Venue: Albuquerque Museum

Show Date: 09/18/25

*Call times and other performance information will be communicated shortly — details are being finalized with the museum.

Bam-BOO! Haunted House
Venue: PAPA
Directed by: TBD
SM: TBD

Show Date: 10/24/25

*Call times and other performance information will be communicated closer to the event.

S2:

Show: TBD
Directed by: TBD
SM: TBD

All S2 tech and performance dates are TBD and will be communicated as soon as venues are booked.

Show: Five Till Places!
Directed by: Multiple, TBD
SM: TBD

*Please expect to be called earlier than the actual show time and to stay after the show ends to strike the set. These times will be communicated closer to the performances. **Any updates to tech and performance schedules will be communicated home ASAP.

Classroom Expectations and Norms:

This classroom is a space for the safe exploration of both self and society. Mistakes are expected—they are a vital part of the learning process. What matters most is how you respond to your own mistakes and to the mistakes of others. The way you approach these moments will shape how much you grow as both an artist and a person.

Remember, the things that don't work often lead us to the discoveries that do. As instructors, we commit to bringing positivity and respect to the classroom, and we expect you to do the same. You are expected to participate fully, approach all work with curiosity, and be kind to both yourself and others.

This is your ensemble—take ownership of it.

Appearance for Production

Once casting and production design are underway, your appearance becomes part of your character's look. Please do not make major changes—such as haircuts, hair color, or other noticeable alterations—without first getting approval from the directors. This helps maintain consistency and ensures that costumes, wigs, and makeup plans remain accurate for the show.

Performing Arts Awards:

To be nominated for a Performing Arts Pin (MS) or Letter (HS) for Theatre, a student must meet the following criteria:

- Earn all As, Bs, and Cs for the year in all of your classes
 - Earn an A or B all year in Theatre
- Have an excellent/good attendance all year in the nominating class (fewer than 12 absences in Theatre)
- Participate in all performances or activities
- Receive a teacher recommendation based on the student's desire to learn:
 - Arrive on time, prepared for class
 - Taking direction with grace
 - Readiness to try anything
 - Exhibiting a positive attitude
 - Work ethic
 - Cooperation
 - Support of others



INTERNATIONAL
THESPIAN SOCIETY

TROUPE #6667

Thespian Troupe members are expected to adhere to the expectations outlined in the Thespian Troupe Handbook, Constitution, and Bylaws.

Field Trips*: (Thespian Troupe ONLY)

Information regarding field trips will be made available and emailed home closer to their respective dates.

S1:

George Nason Theatre Festival
Venue: Albuquerque High School

Dates:

11/20/25 and 11/21/25

*More information will be provided as we get closer to the event

S2:

DramaFest
Venue: Eastern New Mexico University

Dates:

02/18/25-02/21/25 (We may need to travel on the 17th)

*More information will be provided as we get closer to the event

*Troupe members will be participating in various fundraising events throughout the year to limit out-of-pocket expenses for these events.

Performing Arts Awards:

To be nominated for a Performing Arts Pin (MS) or Letter (HS) for Thespian Troupe, a student must meet the following criteria:

- Earn all As, Bs, and Cs for the year in all of your classes
 - Earn an A or B all year in Theatre
- Have an excellent/good attendance all year in the nominating class (fewer than 12 absences in Theatre)
- Participate in all performances or activities
- Receive a teacher recommendation based on the student's desire to learn:
 - Arrive on time, prepared for class
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 - Work ethic
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AND

- Student is required to be inducted into the International Thespian Society by the end of the academic year the letter is awarded (middle school interns can earn a pin as a Thespian Troupe Intern)
- Student is required to participate in all Thespian Troupe productions for the season.
- Student is required to actively participate in fundraising activities for the troupe.
- Student is required to adhere to the expectations outlined in the Thespian Troupe Handbook, Constitution, and Bylaws.

Induction Requirements: (Must be enrolled in Thespian Troupe section or by invitation only)

- Inductees must be in high school.
- Inductees are required to earn a minimum of ten points for their work on productions and Troupe events.
 - Students are responsible for tracking their own points and submitting them quarterly to be updated by the Troupe Director.
- Inductees are required to adhere to the expectations outlined in the Thespian Troupe Handbook, Constitution, and Bylaws.

8th Grade | High School Theatre and Thespian Troupe Syllabus Acknowledgement

I have read and understand the expectations for participating in the 8th Grade | High School Theatre and Thespian Troupe class.

If I am enrolled in Thespian Troupe, I also agree to adhere to the expectations outlined in the Thespian Troupe Handbook, Constitution, and Bylaws. I understand that if I am unable to meet these requirements, I may be moved into the 8th Grade or High School Theatre section of the class period.

Student Name (Printed:) _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed:) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian,

Is there anything you would like me to know about your child or any information I should know for how I can best support them in this class?