

PETERS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

COURSE SYLLABUS: THEATER ARTS 1

Course Overview and Essential Skills:

This course will examine the fundamentals of theater, both from a historic perspective as well as a contemporary application of skills for acting. Students will learn what acting is, along with the different styles and techniques. This is an entry-level introductory course exposing students to different methods utilized in developing character; the course will focus on building improvisation skills, developing pantomime talent, utilizing voice and diction to develop character, and learning methods of effective characterization.

Course Textbook and Required Materials

- *The Stage and the School*, Glencoe/McGraw-Hill
- Teacher-Issued Handouts

Course Outline of Material Covered:

| Unit or Topic | Concepts/Skills/Resources | Timeframe |
|---------------------------|---|-----------|
| Improvisation | <p>The students will list and describe keys to improvisation; the students will learn terminology associated with Improv performances; the students will practice and present an Improv scene with a partner</p> <p><i>Film Options: The Wiz, The Sound of Music</i></p> | 4 weeks |
| Pantomime and Mime | <p>The students will list and describe keys to pantomime; the students will learn terminology associated with pantomime performances; the students will practice and present a pantomime scene with a group</p> <p><i>Film Options: PBS' Sweeney Todd, Jekyll and Hyde, Shrek the Musical</i></p> | 4 weeks |
| Voice and Diction | <p>The students will list and describe keys to developing good voice; the students will learn terminology associated with good voice and diction; the students will describe the way voice is produced and list ways to ensure good vocal health.</p> <p><i>Film Options: Into the Woods, Forever Plaid</i></p> | 4 weeks |
| Acting | <p>The students will list and describe keys to acting; the students will define and describe 16 keys to characterization; the students will describe techniques to building good character; the students</p> | 4 weeks |

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| | <p>will collaborate to present a scene with well-developed characters</p> <p><i>Film Options: Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat</i></p> | |
| The Structure of Drama | <p>The students will identify and distinguish major time periods in the history of theater; the students will compare and contrast different theatrical conventions; the students will analyze the core components of a script</p> | 2 weeks |

**Depending on the needs of the class or changes in the school year, the course outline is subject to change.*