



# Drama Syllabus



Instructor: Tami Price  
Swope MS Office: 775-333-5330  
E-mail: [tprice@washoeschools.net](mailto:tprice@washoeschools.net)  
Web Site: <https://www.washoeschools.net/tprice>  
Room: S-17

Welcome to the incredible world of drama! This guide to success is designed to answer any questions you might have about what will be expected this semester. It is important that you keep this handy and share with your parents!

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Students will be introduced to the basic concepts of theatre arts. It is designed to accommodate students who have no experience or may have previously been involved in theatre. Students will use various creative drama techniques to build confidence and trust, stimulate imagination, movement, and role-play. Through theatre games and activities, students will learn to lose inhibitions and will gain trust in themselves as well as others in their groups. Students will learn and use drama and theatre vocabulary in class discussions and the activities will specifically address the promotion and reinforcement of students' literacy skills, including reading, writing, listening and speaking. Students will exhibit and reinforce their skills through individual and group presentations, performances, movement and voice, character building, and script and journal writing.

## UNITS OF STUDY:

- General Theatre, Movement, Voice
- Acting/Theatre Games
- Script Analysis, Playwriting, Monologues
- One or more of the following: Pantomime; Greek, Shakespeare, Japanese Theatre; Improvisation, Commedia Dell'Arte; Tech; Scenic Design; Front of House

## REQUIRED MATERIALS (BROUGHT TO CLASS DAILY):

- Drama Notebook (provided by teacher)
- Pens and/or Pencils
- Panther Planner
- A Positive, Can-Do Attitude!

## OPTIONAL SUPPLIES:

- Tissues
- Paper Towels
- Clean Clothing for Costumes (i.e. smaller men's suit coats, shirts, dresses, shawls, summer hats, and etc. Your children will be wearing these items, so please make sure they're clean and in decent shape...)
- Hand Sanitizer
- Disinfecting Wipes

## COURSE WORK:

- **Homework/Classwork** – There will not be daily homework. Most assignments will be assigned and completed in class, however, a student may need to practice/memorize/study for a performance or unit assessment on their own time. Rubrics will be provided for bigger assignments. If a student is absent, it is the student's responsibility to check with a peer to see what notes they may have missed and get a Make-Up Form from the teacher. Most classwork is completed in small groups, so most classwork cannot be made up.

Students will be expected to complete the daily board work as a part of their weekly classwork/participation grade. When appropriate, students will use complete sentences when writing. Student's work must always be clear and easy to read.

Only high quality work is accepted. The purpose of every assignment is to help the student learn the art of theatre. Not every assignment will be collected or graded as some assignments are meant solely for the purpose of practice. However, it is in every student's best interest to complete every assignment on time to insure in class activities are meaningful. If a student is having difficulties, it is imperative they let the teacher know sooner than later.

- **Performances** – All students will be required to perform in front of their peers and possibly a general audience. Students will be graded on performances based on how they prepare, how they perform, and how they behave as an audience member.

\*This document is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

## COURSE WORK, CONTINUED:

- **Assessments** – Students may be given a performance and written assessment for each unit of study, as well as a semester final. The semester final will be composed of a performance and written assessment. Grade will be based on character analyses, performance presentation, self-reflection, and audience etiquette.
- **Audience Etiquette/Participation** – Students will be expected to behave appropriately during all class performances. Participation points will be given for audience etiquette, as well as for how students participate during the week. Deductions may also be made in the areas of Behavior and Work Ethic in Infinite Campus. Participation points cannot be made up.

## CLASSROOM PROCEDURES:

- Students must be in their seat when the bell rings. Unexcused tardies will be enforced according to school policy.
- Daily board work will be completed, in the Drama Notebook, within 5 minutes of the tardy bell. Drama Notebooks are to be stored in the appropriate box and remain in the classroom.
- All assignments and projects will be turned in with student's first AND last name, date, and period. No-name papers will be available for students to peruse, if necessary. It is STUDENT's responsibility to ask the teacher about no-name papers. After finding their paper, students may add their name and turn it in for a percentage of the original points offered.
- As per school policy, all electronic devices must be turned off and out of sight from 7:30a.m.-2:00p.m. If a device is out, the teacher will confiscate the item and it will be locked in the SAC until the student can pick it up at the end of the school day. **Every** time an electronic device is confiscated, it will be documented in Infinite Campus as a Technology Violation.
- Students must get permission from the teacher to leave class for any reason. Any student in the hallway is required to have their Panther Planner signed by their teacher or a written pass from their teacher.
- If a student is absent, it is the student's responsibility to conference with the teacher. A Make-Up Form will be available and may be turned in within one week of absence, or longer, depending on length of absence.
- Food, gum, and beverages (other than clear water) are prohibited in the drama classroom.
- Students need to be in proper dress code every day. Not being in proper dress may result in a Dress Code Violation documented in Infinite Campus.

## GRADING POLICY:

- Grades will be calculated from student's assessments, projects, presentations, class work and participation. Grades are based on cumulative points and calculated into a percentage.
- Rubrics are used to guide students toward success for all long-term assignments. Late assignments will be accepted, however, the final grade may be lowered one full grade, for each day it is late.
- Students will receive weekly citizenship grades for behavior and work ethic, based on Behavioral and Academic Expectations (see below). Grades and assignments can be reviewed on Infinite Campus (IC) at any time.

## BEHAVIORAL AND ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS:

In order to create a positive and safe learning environment for all students, it is imperative that every student be prepared and work to the best of his/her ability, EVERY day. Expectations are in place to make sure that every child's right to learn and enjoy school is maintained. Citizenship grades are based on behavior and work ethic. School expectations and consequences are as follows:

### **Daily Classroom Expectations**

1. Keep Hands, Feet and Objects to Yourself
2. Respect Classmates, Teacher and Environment
3. Practice Active Listening
4. Follow Directions the First Time
5. Pursue Excellence

### **Potential Consequences**

1. Verbal Warning
2. Opportunity for Reflection/Think Time
3. Alternative Assignment/Change of Environment
4. Deduction in Behavior and/or Work Ethic Weekly Grades
5. Letter, Email, and/or Phone Call Home to Parents
6. Administration Referral



\*This document is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

# Syllabus Acknowledgement

PLEASE RETURN THIS PAGE BY THE DUE DATE, \_\_\_\_\_, TO RECEIVE FULL CREDIT.

Our classroom will reflect the high standards of the WCSD and each student will be expected to work to the best of his/her ability. In turn, I will do my best to ensure the learning process is fun and exciting. Each child brings different experiences, strengths and needs to our classroom and I intend to employ a variety of methods and strategies to meet the needs of each individual child in our class. We will also work together to foster a strong sense of community, one that emphasizes our commonalities as people and values our individual uniqueness and diversity. We will create a warm, safe, caring environment while we meet our academic challenges and promote 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills. If you have any areas of encouragement or information you would like to share with me about your child, please feel free to contact me at any time throughout the school year at 775-333-5330 or [tprice@washoeschools.net](mailto:tprice@washoeschools.net).

**Movie Clip/Broadway Musical Acknowledgement and In-Class Recording:** In this class, we may watch clips (2-3 minutes each) from movies with PG and/or PG-13 ratings to help students better understand a character or theatrical concept. These clips will be used sparingly and only for educational purposes. The clips are appropriately chosen for the middle school audience. We may also watch Broadway musicals/movies that are rated PG or NR at various times throughout the semester. By signing below, I give my permission for my child to watch movie clips and musicals and understand that I may request, in writing, that my child not participate at any time, for any reason.

In-class performances may be recorded for classroom viewing and reflection. Recordings will never be posted to social media of any kind. Students may not have recording devices, of any kind, and I understand that if my student has their device out during performances, their device will be given to the SAC and a Technology Violation will be documented in Infinite Campus. By signing below, I give my permission for my child to be recorded for classroom viewing and reflection and understand that I may request, in writing, that my child not participate at any time, for any reason.

My child and I have read the syllabus (classroom policies, expectations and procedures) and understand the information on this and the previous pages. We also agree to follow all WCSD rules and procedures, as well as the Swope MS Handbook.

Student's Class Period (Circle One):    1    2    3    4    5    6    7

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Student's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Parent/Guardian's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Signature

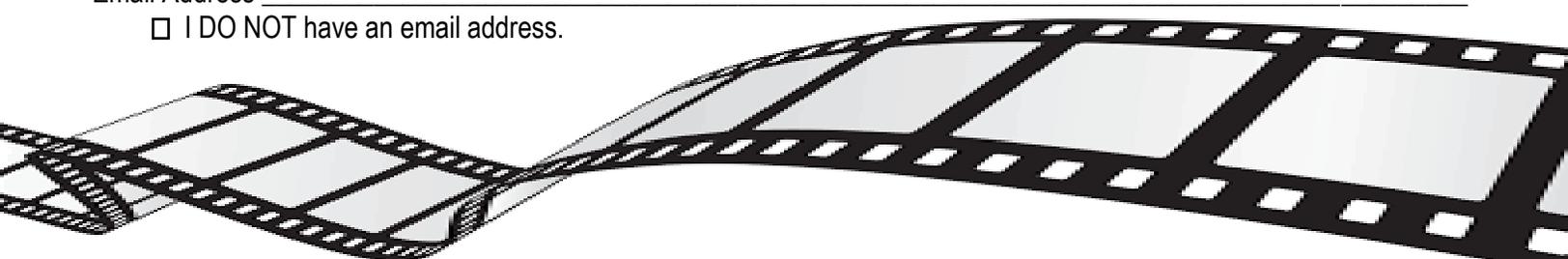
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I DO NOT have a home phone #.

I DO NOT have a mobile phone #.

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

I DO NOT have an email address.



\*This document is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.