

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Block \_\_\_\_\_

Course: Theatre Arts I  
Textbook: *The Stage and the School*  
Teacher: Mr. Butcher  
Email: mbutcher@spsmail.org

## THEATRE ARTS I: SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### **GRADING**

Grades for the course are weighted and will be determined by assessment in the following areas:

1. Performance projects will equal 40% of a student's overall grade.
2. Daily participation will equal 30% (25% during 2nd quarter) of the student's grade. Must be in attendance and participating without being disruptive to earn these points. Quality and effort will be significant contributors for establishing a grade. Students will only earn participation points when they are in class participating in the daily activities.
3. Homework assignments will equal 30% (25% during 2nd quarter) of a student's grade.
4. Final Exam will equal 10% of a student's grade.
5. When a student is absent from my class, other than another school related activity, they will lose their daily participation points for that absence. If a student is tardy, the student will receive a point deduction for the time that they missed by being late.
6. Students may attend local play productions for extra-credit participation points. (2 points each\*; no other extra-credit will be offered.)

Quality and effort will be significant contributors for establishing a grade. Students will only earn participation points when they are in class participating in the daily activities.

A percentage will then be used to determine the student's grade using the following scale:

A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	0-59

### **Quizzes and Reading**

Quizzes must be taken each week over the weekly reading assignments. Students will have until Monday night at midnight each week to complete the reading and take the quiz. Quizzes are timed, but can be taken twice. If the quiz is taken twice, the highest score will be the recorded score. Students must take the quiz online through **Canvas**. If a student does not have a computer or the internet at home, a student can take the quiz before or after school in my room or in the library, or a student can take the quiz during their Chief Time. If a student has not logged in to **Canvas** before, **their login ID number is the same as their student ID number and the password is "student"**. Once in Canvas a student can change their password.

### **Assignments**

Late work will only be accepted in the case of an excused absence on the day that an assignment is due. Quizzes will not be accepted after the due date has expired. Performances must be given at the time that they were assigned, or a student will receive a zero.

## **Cell Phones**

Cell phones are a disruption to the classroom and should not be out during class. If a student has their phone out without permission, the student will have the option of giving me their cell phone to hold for them until class is over, or the student may put away their cell phone and receive a disciplinary referral to the office. If a student continues to have their cell phone out on a repetitive basis, I will attempt to make contact with home.

If you have any concerns please feel free to contact me: [mbutcher@spsmail.org](mailto:mbutcher@spsmail.org) or 417-523-8755.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Theatre Arts I is an introductory study of theatre. Students will study voice and diction, improvisation, pantomime, acting, structure of drama, evaluation of drama, theatre history, play production, stage scenery, stage lighting, costuming, make-up, and oral interpretation/performance studies.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the course, the student will:

- \*Develop and apply skills to communicate ideas through theatrical performances.
- \*Select and apply theatrical elements to communicate ideas through the creation of theatre.
- \*Develop and apply skills to explain perceptions about and evaluations of theatre and theatrical performance.
- \*Develop and apply skills necessary to make connections between theatre and other arts.
- \*Develop and apply skills necessary to understand the role of theatre in past and present cultures throughout the world.
- \*Develop and apply skills necessary to understand cultural diversity and heritage as they relate to theatre.

## **ACTIVITIES**

The student will:

- \* Prepare and perform monologues and a duet scene.
- \* Read appropriate sections of the textbook and discuss material from the text.
- \* Read play excerpts.
- \* Write a character analyses.
- \* Practice proper rehearsal technique.
- \* Develop self-discipline demanded by concentration and focus of characterization.
- \* Read and discuss material from text and technical resources.
- \* Observe and review productions and performances.
- \* Evaluate production choices in live or video example.
- \* Complete diagrams and charts showing technical theatre information.
- \* Take part in some aspect of the play production process: publicity, sales, house management, etc.
- \* Observe community, school, or other local performance.
- \* Evaluate production choices of observed performances.

## **MID-QUARTER GRADE CHECKS**

**(Note to Parents/guardians - Please ask your student for these.)**

Grade checks will be sent home approximately every third week of each quarter to inform parents/guardians of their student's progress. Students and their parents/guardians should review and sign the grade check. Each student is responsible for returning the signed grade check to class.

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Students are expected to use complete sentences, proper grammar, and correct spelling in every written performance.

Homework - The student should expect to have performance and activity homework assignments from this class.

Final - The final will be a significant part of the student's grade. The final exam will be 10% of the student's grade. The final will be given during the final exam time at the end of the course in accordance with the school district policy.

Performances - Throughout the course, students will be required to present performances at the assigned times. If a student chooses not to perform at the assigned time he/she will receive a zero for the performance. Any departure from this policy is unfair to the other students that are prepared. Except for illness, extreme emergencies, or any other excused absence, no excuse should be allowed and no time for make-up will be provided. If a student is absent, and the absence is excused, the day of a performance, the student must perform the day that he/she returns to class or he/she will receive a zero.

Late Work - Late work will only be accepted in cases of excused absences in accordance with the district's policy.

In addition the following stipulations are made and every student is expected to abide by them:

1. Students are expected to treat other students and the teacher with respect.
2. The student is expected to be in his/her seat when the bell rings.
3. Talking while others are performing is inconsiderate and is not to be done.
4. Do not give a performance with candy or gum in your mouth. Points will be deducted from a performance when a speaker has gum or candy in his/her mouth.
5. Students should not use profanity, obscene language, obscene gestures or make remarks that might be considered suggestive or crude by others in the class or by the teacher.
6. Make-up Work - Students are responsible for obtaining and completing make-up work. Assignments given to the student prior to their absence must be turned in or completed the DAY THE STUDENT RETURNS TO CLASS.
7. Students may not have gum, snacks, or beverages in this class. This is a performance class and it is difficult to have food or drink and it distracts from performances. Water in clear bottles is acceptable.
8. Students are not to have food or drinks in the auditorium, this includes water.
9. Passes are a disruption to the learning process. Permission must be obtained from the teacher if the student needs to leave the classroom for any reason. The teacher will determine if the reason is valid. The teacher will also determine if a student leaves class when requested by a pass from the office or another teacher.
10. Personal Learning Time occurs once a week in this class. It is my responsibility as the teacher to ensure that every student has the opportunity during this time to work quietly and independently on what they need to do. If a student needs to go to another teacher during PLT, the student should consult with the teacher in advance and acquire a pass for PLT.

## **ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

The rules in all Springfield Public Schools regarding electronic devices read as follows:

*"The possession of laser pointers and other unsafe electronic items are prohibited in the school building. All other electronic devices, such as, but not limited to, cell phones, pagers, PDA's, head phones, IPODs/MP3 players may be in the student's possession as long as they are not disruptive of the educational process or in violation of site use procedures. The school district will not be responsible for lost or stolen items."*

### **Cellular Phones**

Students are not allowed to use or display cell phones during the class time. If they choose to disregard this rule, they will be disciplined according to site scope and sequence.

If a parent has a need to reach a student during the school day, he or she should call the office and we will make every attempt to deliver the message. If parents have a need to call on a student's cell phone to leave a message during the day they are free to do so. However, students cannot check for messages during class time.

If a student is in class or in the hallway during class time and remembers that the cell phone is turned on, the student should approach the teacher and ask permission from the teacher to turn it off. Providing the student has followed the appropriate procedure, the teacher should allow the student to turn off the phone without penalty.

If a student forgets to turn off a cell phone and it rings or vibrates during class, the student should ask the teacher's permission to turn it off. The student may also be subject to the teacher's classroom discipline procedures.

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT**

Academic honesty is expected in all classes at KHS. Cheating will not be tolerated. Violations of academic honesty include, but are not limited to, copying, allowing someone to copy your paper, using cheat sheets, using technology to transmit or receive information with the intent to commit academic dishonesty, not grading correctly, plagiarizing, and self plagiarizing. Plagiarism is the theft of ideas, writings, or words of another person and passing this information off as one's own. Self plagiarism is completing an original paper for one class assignment, then turning in that same paper to another teacher for another class assignment without permission. Papers may be checked by the teacher using plagiarism detection software. Any student cheating will be subject to academic and/or disciplinary penalties. Consequences may include: reduction in grade on assignment, repeat assignment, no grade (zero) on assignment or others as deemed appropriate. Academic dishonesty will be reported to a school counselor and a parent will be notified.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

1. Truancy - an elective absence which was not approved in advance by parents or by school officials. Work missed because of a truancy should be completed but will not be counted for credit. Truancy is a violation of state statues as well as school regulations and will result in disciplinary action.
2. Suspension - an absence required by school authorities as disciplinary action for inappropriate student behavior. Work missed because of a suspension may not be completed for credit. Students will not be excluded from final examinations because of suspensions. Special arrangements may be necessary.
3. School Activities - students represent their schools in a variety of athletic and academic activities. When a student serves as an authorized representative of his/her school, the student is not considered

absent. Students who choose to participate in extra-curricular activities resulting in classes missed are to make up all assignments missed.

4. All other absences - all absences, including those approved in advance by parents or school officials, except those for school sponsored activities, will count against a student's days absent. The student should be careful in the use of absences because excessive absences may affect a student's class participation grade.

5. Make-up Work - If a student is absent from class, it will be his/her responsibility to obtain assignments, notes, etc. to keep up with the rest of the class. Tests that are missed must be made up within five days of the student's return to school or an "F" grade will be recorded. Make-up tests will be given only before or after school. The make-up test will not be the same as the original test. Should the student choose not to contact the teacher within five days to make arrangements for work missed an "F" grade will be recorded for assignments missed during the absence.

6. Class Participation - A student's grade in this class is mostly determined by class participation. Class participation in Drama I includes such factors as attendance, punctuality, student preparation and contributions to the class learning environment and a cooperative attitude. There are some assignments that cannot be made up, as they are performance oriented, or are assigned and completed within one class period of time. Students who miss such assignments will need to investigate possible extra credit to fill in those points missed.

### **TARDY POLICY**

Students should find their seats at the conclusion of the tardy bell and remain in their seats during the taking of attendance. A student that is tardy to class will lose half of their daily participation points for that day. What constitutes a tardy to class is the same as the school-wide policy. In order to be present, a student must be in the classroom before the last tardy bell rings. **This policy will be strictly enforced.**

### **ATTENDANCE INCENTIVES**

**100% Attendance** – If a student has 100% attendance in a class for the entire term, 10% will be added to his/her final exam grade

**95-99% Attendance** – If a student has 95-99% attendance in a class for the entire term, 5% will be added to his/her final exam grade

Eighth semester seniors may opt out of any final if they have an "A" or "A-" in the course prior to the final examinations.

### **INTERNATIONAL THESPIANS**

International Thespians is an honorary group of students who have exemplified themselves to be worthy of the title of THESPIAN. Students chosen to be Thespians are the leaders of the department and help administer the theatre season. Students gain entrance to this international society through work on productions and by competition in acting festivals. Students must be members of DRAMA CLUB. After a student has acquired 10 points through 100 hours of excellent work, the student will be invited for initiateship. After the student works through the initiation process, then Thespian status is awarded at the end of the year. Thespians have a variety of social and theatre activities apart from those offered by the Drama Club.

## **KHS THEATRE**

KHS Theatre holds auditions for all productions open to any student of Kickapoo High School. Membership in Drama Club or enrollment in a drama class is not required for the fall musical. Students who are Drama Club members and/or drama class members will have first priority on any production staff position available throughout the year.

## **SEALS OF EXCELLENCE**

Seals of Excellence are awarded to those seniors who meet the following criteria:

1. have a 4.0 grade point average in drama
2. have completed at least Drama I and II
3. have participated in at least 3 theatre productions
4. is a member in good standing in Thespians

## **VIDEOS**

It is Board Policy that “instructional materials are to enrich and support the curriculum.”

The policy further states:

“If a video with a rating of PG or PG-13 is used, parents will be notified and asked to provide permission in order for their child to view the video.”

With this in mind I am providing you with a list of videos that I may use in Drama.

I assure you that any of these videos that I use are in support of the course’s curriculum.

*The Actor’s Studio*

*The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)*

*Cyran De Bergerac*

*Hamlet*

*Into the Woods*

*Much Ado About Nothing*

*Oklahoma!*

*The Phantom of the Opera*

*Whose Line is it Anyway*

**Student's Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

**AGREEMENT OF TERMS OF SYLLABUS**

I have read and understood the policies and principles set forth in the syllabus for the Theatre Arts I class. I agree to follow the directions set forth as they guide my participation in this class.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

To better facilitate communication between us, could you please supply me with the following information:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Name(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail

**VIDEO PERMISSION**

I give my child permission to view any of the videos listed in Mr. Butcher's class syllabus.

\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_ No