

Beginning Drama



Kirsten King * kirstenking@alpinedistrict.org

Course Description

In this class we will explore many aspects of theater performance including voice, character, movement, improvisation, puppetry, and scenework. We will practice performing in front of an audience, reading and writing play texts, and working in groups. We will also discover the wonderful influence drama can have on the rest of our world.

Class Materials

1. Every student will keep a "Drama Journal." This should be a regular folder (with brads). We will use these journals to keep track of our theater discoveries throughout the semester. Please do not combine this journal with assignments for other classes. **YOU MUST LEAVE THIS JOURNAL IN THE DRAMA CLASSROOM.**
2. Something to write with every day.
3. If there is a small prop or costume piece that you feel would make your scene better, feel free to bring it to class. No props that resemble weapons in any way. If you have questions, check with me first.

Class Expectations

1. Follow instructions the first time.
2. Always be respectful when others are performing. There is zero tolerance for disrespect in this class.
3. Listen when others are speaking.
4. Cellphones are not allowed unless otherwise specified.
5. No food, gum, or drinks (other than water) in the classroom.

Grading Breakdown

Class Performances and Projects: 50%

You will rehearse and present various projects in class. Points will be given for participating in rehearsals and for completing final performance requirements. Some at-home memorization may be required. If you are ever unhappy with a performance grade, you are always welcome to take the feedback you receive and try again (as many times as you want). This class is about getting better!

Participation and Rehearsal Skills: 35%

For each project, there will be three grades in this category: rehearsal skills, audience skills, and performance skills. Each will be graded based on a rubric that students will receive in advance. These grades will reflect how well students have participated in class leading up to a performance, and how well students are participating during a performance.

Class Assignments and Homework: 10%

There isn't much homework or outside work in this class, but it has been known to happen. Any written assignment or homework assignment is to be turned in at the beginning of class the day it is due. All journal assignments will be completed in class. Some assignments given in class will be collected the same day for a grade.

Play Review: 5%

You are required to see one live play* this semester and write a review. You may see play at any appropriate venue. I will always inform you about different options and give you all of the requirements for the written review in class. Requirements are also on the website, if you'd like to turn it in early. This play review may NOT be turned in late.

***MUSIC CONCERTS, DANCE CONCERTS, MOVIES, TV SHOWS, STAND-UP COMEDY SHOWS, SKITS, FASHION SHOWS, and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLAYS do not fulfill this requirement. Make sure you are seeing a play, and that it is at your age level or above. If you have any questions or suggestions about this assignment, feel free to talk to me.**

Late Work Policy

After the due date, I will accept late written assignments for a penalty. The highest grade a student can get on a late assignment is a 2 out of 4. Students will be notified of the last day to turn in late assignments in each term. If you are absent, you are responsible to find out what you missed and make it up within ONE WEEK of your return.

Performance days may be made up only by special arrangement (during CAVEtime), and may be subject to a *penalty for being late.

Absence Policy

Participation Make-up:

Missing class, regardless of the reason, makes participating very difficult. The majority of this class is done within class time. For that reason, every absence must be made up by completing the assignment or activity that you missed. You have one week to do so.

Missing a Dedicated Rehearsal Day:

The majority of this class is spent working in groups. Most of the performances are in groups or partners. If you miss a lot of class, you make it very hard on others. If you miss a dedicated rehearsal day, leaving your group or partner to do nothing, you will have an alternate performance assignment that you will complete by yourself (with your own due date) and your group will move on without you.

***Missing a Performance Day:**

If you miss a performance day, you will have a zero on that assignment until you make it up. You may also be subject to a penalty for your project being late.

Please read carefully and initial next to each item, then sign at the bottom.

I understand that performances are 50% of my grade, and if I can't perform on the day I am assigned, the performance will be considered late.

I understand that I am required to see a play for this class. I understand that it is 5% of my overall grade and may not be turned in late for any reason.

I understand that late work can only be turned in for half credit.

I understand that if I miss a performance day, I will be responsible for making it up, and I may lose points for it being "late."

I understand that it will be up to me to find out what I missed in class and how I can make it up.

I understand that if I miss a rehearsal day, I may be given an alternate assignment that I will be required to complete on my own.

I understand that if I miss a performance day, I will have a zero until I make it up, and it may be considered late.

I understand that if I wish to raise my grade, I have the opportunity to come in and re-perform or re-work any grade that is below a 3 or 4.

Student's Name (print): _____ Class Period: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____