### Acting *Shelby County Schools offers educational*

Room C-141 *opportunities without regard to race, color,*

August 2017 - May 2018 *national origin, religion, sex or disability.*

Instructor: Jeff White

755-7775 – school

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**What to expect from this class:**

* An introduction to the basic acting theories/approaches.
* A study of character development, scene work, movement, and improvisation.
* Broadening your overall knowledge of Theatre.
* Preparation for IB Theatre/Production Workshop

**What to expect from me, your instructor:**

* Fairness toward you as a student and respect toward you as an individual.
* A comfortable educational atmosphere in which creativity and ideas are appreciated and encouraged, and disrespect and discrimination are not tolerated
* The direction, motivation and information you need to succeed in this class!

**What I expect from you:**

* A respectful attitude toward your instructor, your classmates and the material we are exploring
* Punctuality, preparedness and participation
* Success!

# Supplies

You will need a binder for this class. This binder must be only for this class and cannot have other classes material’s inside of it. This binder is your textbook for this class and you must bring it with you EVERY DAY you come to this class. Your binder will be checked and graded randomly, and each semester your binder will be collected for a major test grade.

**Your binder must be a 1” hard bound binder with pockets. It must have THREE dividers. The dividers must be labeled as follows:**

1. **Self Expression**
2. **Notes**
3. **Graded Material**

Failure to not have all items required for the binder will result in a loss of points every binder check and major binder grade.

ALWAYS bring your binder and something to write with to class.

**CLASSROOM POLICIES AND RULES**

1. Be on time to all classes and other scheduled activities. **This means be in your seat when the bell rings or a tardy will be given.**
2. No gum, liquid, or food will be permitted in any student’s mouth!!!
3. Always raise your hand to speak, and listen attentively when others are speaking.
4. Come to class prepared with required materials.
5. Complete all graded assignments on a computer/word processor or in blue/black ink. All assignments should have the student’s name, class period, date and assignment name in the top right hand corner of the page.
6. Come to class dressed appropriately (see student handbook for details). **Dress code is strictly enforced.**
7. Participate! Participate! Participate!
8. Treat all classroom and studio equipment with care. Any damage will be the responsibility of the student.
9. Be attentive and alert and always PARTICIPATE POSITIVELY!!
10. No passes will be given unless there is an emergency. Once you are in the classroom you must be seated unless other instructions are given.
11. Complete all assignments on time. Points will be deducted for each day an assignment is late.
12. Come to class and other activities with an open mind…ready to learn and contribute!!!

TEACHER DISCIPLINE PLEDGE AND POLICIES

I pledge to treat all students equally to the best of my ability. I pledge to give each student fair and equal opportunities, favoring no one student. I promise to treat each student courteously. I will strive to recognize the uniqueness of each student in my classroom. I will endeavor to make my classes highly informative, entertaining and creative. Above all, I pledge to instruct students in the most positive, dynamic manner possible.

I pledge to give any student a chance to speak for him/herself in an appropriate setting. If a behavior is clearly in violation of a school or county rule, I reserve the right to take appropriate disciplinary action immediately. If the rule infraction presents danger to the teacher, another student or the student him/herself, I will refer the student directly to the assistant principal in charge of the student’s grade level.

I pledge to meet with an offending student individually if an infraction is less severe. If this continues to be a problem, I will request a conference with both the student and his/her parent(s). If the discipline problem still persists, I will then seek the guidance and discretion of a school administrator and take appropriate action.

I pledge to run a disciplined, orderly classroom that is an effective learning environment for all students

# GRADING POLICIES

I use a total point grade system. All assignments will be given a certain amount of points. Most homework is 10 points. Class work is 50 points, class participation is 100 points, and tests/quizzes are 100 points. All unit tests and major projects will be weighted twice. For example, if you make a 95 on a unit test or project, you’ve made a 95 twice.

Grades will be posted online. It is the students’ responsibility to check grades regularly.

# Class participation explanation

1. Each day is worth 20 points (a typical week is worth 100 points).
2. Reductions in class participation grade occur when
   1. a student is absent, excused or unexcused [**students may make up class participation points for excused absences by completing the make-up assignment given by the teacher**]
   2. a student fails to complete daily assignments satisfactorily
   3. a student repeatedly breaks class rules

* **Make Up Work**

It is the student’s responsibility to follow the make up work procedure. I will not remind the student to make up work. You must check with me for what you missed, pick up your assignment and complete it. [One day to make up work is allowed for each day of excused absence. UNEXCUSED AND OSS absences may not be made up – NO EXCEPTIONS. Please follow the procedure for make up work gone over in class. **PLEASE SEE ME FOR AN ASSIGNMENT TO MAKE UP YOUR 2O PARTICIPATION POINTS FOR THE DAYS YOU ARE ABSENT. YOU CANNOT EARN THE PARTICIPATION POINTS WITHOUT THE ASSIGNMENT**.

* **DO NOT CHEAT** on tests or quizzes. Any person who gives or receives information during a test/quiz or uses a “cheat sheet” or any other material during a test/quiz will receive a ZERO for that test/quiz and a U in conduct for the current grading period. Plagiarism is unacceptable. Never turn in a paper that isn’t your own. Just say no to copy and paste.
* All homework assignments, tests and special projects will be assigned letter grades in accordance with the Shelby County Schools grading scale.
* Test grades and play critiques will be weighted twice when averaging the student’s nine week grade.

**Movement Days**

As physicality and movement are an integral part to any acting education, we will have movement days every other Friday unless otherwise scheduled. We will cover basic warm-up skills, body isolations, basic theatrical dance, physical character development, and physical aspects of acting theories. On these days, students are required to dress appropriately for movement. NO JEANS, SKIRTS, DRESSES, HEELS, OR SANDALS WILL BE PERMITTED ON MOVEMENT DAYS. Students will be allowed time to dress-out at the beginning of class. Appropriate attire includes the following: t-shirts, sweat pants, athletic shorts, socks, tennis shoes, character shoes, dance shoes, etc**. ALL CLOTHING MUST COMPLY WITH GHS DRESS CODE.** Students will receive a participation grade on movement days. Students not appropriately dressed for movement days will not be allowed to participate and lack of participation will result in a zero. Due to the nature of this participation grade, you will not be able to make-up a missed movement day.

#### Play Critiques

Each student will complete a total of four (4) play critiques over the course of the school year. The critiques will be written on live theatrical productions. For each production seen, there will be a two-page play critique written. Each critique will count as a test grade (weighted twice). Students may see the plays at any of the local theatres in Germantown, Memphis or the surrounding areas. Play selection is up to the student. Therefore, **parents/guardians may wish to supervise their children in this selection process.**

\*\*\*Students are required to attend the fall play and the spring musical at Germantown High School in the appropriate 9 weeks period.

Suggestions on where you can find performances to attend

Germantown Community Theatre germantowncommunitytheatre.org

Harrell Theatre harrelltheatre.org

Hattiloo Theatre hattilootheatre.org

The Orpheum Orpheum-memphis.com

Playhouse On the Square (Circuit Playhouse) playhouseonthesquare.org

Rhodes College rhodes.edu/theatre/

Theatre Memphis theatrememphis.org

University of Memphis memphis.edu/theatre

Voices of the South voicesofthesouth.org

All High School Theatre Departments

Discount Ticket Information

* Playhouse On The Square offers a “Pay What You Can” night on the first Thursday of every show. Also, occasionally they will run a Saturday Matinee Children’s Series with “Pay What You Can” tickets.
* The Orpheum offers a student rush on the first Wednesday of each show. Students may receive 2 tickets at $20 each. Tickets go on sale at 7:00 pm the night of the show. You must show a student ID (report card, library internet card, etc.) to receive the student rush price. Tickets are sold on a first come first serve basis.
* I will make students aware of any other discounted ticket deals as they become available, but it is the student’s responsibility to secure a ticket and attend a performance with ample time to complete the critique.

**Co-Curricular Fine Arts Hours**

All students must log after-school hours with GHS’s award-winning Fine Arts Department. These hours will be counted as a test grade in the appropriate 9 weeks. The hours must be completed according to the following schedule:

1st 9 weeks – 1 Germantown Festival Shift

2nd 9 weeks – 1 Fall Play Shift

3rd 9 weeks – 1 Spring Musical Shift

4th 9 weeks – 1 GHS Spring Fine Arts Event

I will make students aware of the opportunities and make clear which activities will or will not count towards this requirement. It is the student’s responsibility to log any hours worked in the designated notebook located on the classroom shelf. Listed below are activities that will count towards Co-Curricular Hours. Activities may be added as the year progresses

* Germantown Festival
* Fall Play Auditions
* Fall Play
* Ushering for theatre events
* Thespian Conference
* Spring Musical Auditions
* GHS-TV Auction
* Spring Musical
* Children’s Play Auditions
* Children’s Play
* Ushering for theatre events

Students can also receive EXTRA CREDIT for working more than the required hours. Three (3) bonus points will be given for each additional hour worked. The maximum amount of bonus points is 36 pts/quarter. These extra credit points will be added on to the student’s lowest grade. Any extra credit will be applied in the nine-weeks during which the work was completed. HOURS DO NOT ROLL OVER TO THE NEXT NINE WEEKS.

**Acting**

**2017-2018**

**Syllabus**

This class is designed to help instruct the beginning actor through theatre warm-up exercises, improvisational acting and role-playing, solo acting, duet acting, critiquing four live performances from Memphis area theatres, stage terminology, mask work, playwriting and one-act play performance. **Projects in Bold**

1. First Quarter
   1. My story performance
   2. Stage Terminology
   3. Different approaches to Acting
   4. **Monologue Performance**
   5. Play Critique
   6. Improvisation Scenes
2. Second Quarter
   1. Begin playwriting for our 10 Minute Play Festival
   2. Acting Technique Exercises
   3. Improvisation Scenes
   4. Play Critique
   5. **Research Project**
   6. **Duet Scene performances**
3. Third Quarter
   1. Finish 10 Minute Plays
   2. Auditioning
   3. Play Critique
   4. Voice and Movement
   5. **Audition Package Presentation**
4. Fourth Quarter
   1. Play Critique
   2. Improvisation Scenes
   3. **10 Minute Play Festival**
   4. Final Group Acting Project

\*\*\*Subject to change at teacher’s discretion

**Fine Arts Department FundRaisers**

All students enrolled in a fine arts class are asked to participate in departmental fundraisers in order to support our award-winning fine arts department. Major incentives will be offered for each fundraiser to encourage class participation.

**1st Semester – Entertainment Book Sales**

All students should sell 10 coupon books. We will discuss as a class how theatrical techniques can be used in sales, and how they can be utilized in real-world situations.

**2nd Semester – Advertising Sales**

Students will set individual class goals for ad sales. We will study the business of theatre production and how advertising is a major component.

**Major Projects**

The following assignments are major components of this course. It is crucial that all students and parents are aware of these assignments. As each project approaches, more detailed instructions will be sent home with students to be approved by parents.

**1st Quarter**

**Monologue Performances**

Students will memorize, analyze, rehearse and perform a 2-3 minute monologue from a published play

**2nd Quarter**

**Duet Scene Performances**

Students will memorize, analyze, rehearse and perform a 3-5 minute duet scene from a published play.

**Research Project**

Each student will complete a research project on an acting theory, playwright, or style of drama. IB students are encouraged to choose an international theatre topic.

**3rd Quarter**

**Audition Package Presentation**

Students will create an audition package that includes two contrasting monologues, a song, and headshot and resume. This package will be a culmination of the work you have completed in this course.

**4th Quarter**

**10 Minute Play Festival**

Each student will participate in writing and performing in our original 10 Minute Play Festival. We will be working on the writing of the plays throughout the year and will culminate our work at the end of the year with a public performance. You must attend two afterschool rehearsals and the final performance.

**A word to your parents or guardians…**

I look forward to meeting each and every one of you and encourage you to address any questions or concerns about this class or your child’s involvement in it directly to me. Please don’t hesitate to contact me at any time.

Throughout the school year, I will contact you about your student’s progress/behavior. I will send home a progress report at the mid point of each nine weeks grading period.

If I need to talk to you more in-depth about your child I will be in contact. Please provide your phone number and email address.

I am looking forward to a great year and am confident that it will be if we all work together! In order to buy supplies for this class, there is a $20 classroom fee. Please include that when returning the attachment below.

Sincerely,

Jeff White

755-7775 (school)

whiteja@scsk12.org

Please complete, detach and return to Mr. White no later than **Friday, August 11.**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Please Print)

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Please Print)

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*The student’s/parent’s signature signifies an understanding and acceptance of the requirements and expectations for Acting.**

Parent’s Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_