### Introduction to Theatre *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

whiteja@scsk12.org– e-mail

**What to expect from this class:**

* An introduction to the basic components of theatre.
* A study of plays, improvisation, technical theatre, and theatre history.
* Reading/viewing of one play each nine weeks.
* Broadening your overall knowledge of Theatre.

**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. Respect each other, yourself, and me (the teacher).
3. Please keep food, gum, candy and drinks outside the classroom. (Water in a sealed container is permitted)
4. Always raise your hand to speak, and listen attentively when others are speaking.
5. Come to class prepared with required materials. (BRING YOUR BINDER EVERY DAY)
6. Come to class dressed appropriately (see student handbook for details). **Dress code is strictly enforced.**
7. Treat all classroom equipment with care. Any damage will be the responsibility of the student.
8. Be attentive, alert and PARTICIPATE!!!
9. No hall passes will be given unless there is an emergency. Once you are in the classroom you must be seated unless other instructions are given.
10. Complete all assignments on time. Points will be deducted for each day an assignment is late.
11. Come to class and other activities with an open mind, ready to participate, ready to learn and contribute!!!

DISCIPLINE POLICY

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.

#### Play Critiques

Each student will complete a total of three (3) play critiques over the course of the school year. The first play critique will be written on a play watched in class to teach students the requirements and expectations of this assignment. The remaining two critiques will be written on live theatrical productions at GHS. For each production seen, there will be a two-page play critique written. Each critique will count as a test grade (weighted twice).

Play Critique Schedule

1st 9 Weeks – Play Viewed in Class

2nd 9 Weeks – GHS Fall Play

3rd 9 Weeks – GHS Spring Musical

\*\*\*4th 9 Weeks – Extra Credit Critique\*\*\*

In the 4th 9 weeks, students may see a play at any of the local theatres in Germantown, Memphis or the surrounding areas for extra credit. Play selection is up to the student.

Suggested theatres 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 run. 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.
* Many theatres will give you free tickets for volunteering to usher. Contact theatres in advance to get more information
* 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 Extra Credit Hours**

All students have the opportunity log after-school hours with GHS’s award-winning Fine Arts Department. I will make students aware of the opportunities. Listed below are activities that will count towards Co-Curricular Extra Credit 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
* Spring Musical

Three (3) bonus points will be given for each hour worked. The maximum amount of bonus points is 36 pts/semester. 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.

**Fine Arts Department FundRaisers**

All Introduction level students are asked to participate in departmental fundraisers in order to support our award-winning Fine Arts department. Incentives will be offered for each fundraiser to encourage class participation.

**1st Semester – Entertainment Book Sales**

All students should sell 5 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.

**Introduction to Theatre**

**2017-2018**

**Syllabus**

This class deals with the elements of theatre, the history of theatre, and the practical aspects of technical theatre (general theatre safety, scenery, lighting, sound, costumes, and makeup). To know the development of theatre is to know the development of mankind. To know practical technical theatre, a beginning theatre arts student will have an overall appreciation for theatre. **Projects in bold**

1. First Quarter
   1. What is Art? Intro to the basics of Theatre
   2. **Creating Your Own Performance Art Project**
   3. How to write a play critique
   4. Group Improvisations
   5. Theatre History
   6. **Greek Mask project**
2. Second Quarter
   1. Aristotle’s Dramatic Structure and *The Miracle Worker*
   2. Group Improvisations
   3. Acting Basics
   4. Play Critique on GHS Fall play due
   5. **Play Performance Project**
3. Third Quarter
   1. Technical Theatre and Theatrical Production
   2. Playwriting
   3. Play Critique on GHS Spring Musical due
   4. **Begin Prompt Book Project**
   5. **Original 5 minute play performance and design project**
4. Fourth Quarter
   1. Theatrical Genres
   2. *Death of a Salesman* – An important American Modern Tragedy
   3. **Prompt book project due**

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

**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**

**Original Performance Art Project**

Students are required to create and perform their own performance art for the class. Each student must complete a Reflective Performance Rubric

**Greek Mask Project**

Students will choose a Greek god or character to research. Once they have completed a 2 page research paper on their character, they will create a mask of that character and then participate in a full class Greek chorus performance using their mask.

**2nd Quarter**

**One-Act Play Performance Project**

Students will be divided into two different groups and will have to stage and perform a short one-act play. They will be required to wear a costume of their character for the final performance and bring props to use in the final performance. Students will not be required to memorize lines but can for extra credit.

**3rd Quarter**

**Original 5 Minute Play Performance and Design Project**

Students will write their own five-minute play. I will then select several plays to be performed and designed by the students. Students will have the opportunity to either direct, design sets, props, and costumes, or act in the project.

**3rd and 4th Quarter**

**Prompt Book**

Each student will create a director’s prompt book on a play of their choice. This project will consist of weekly assignments to be completed over the entire 2nd semester. All assignments will be compiled and turned in as the 2nd semester project.

\*\*\*This project will require a ½” notebook or 3 prong folder that is separate from the student’s binder for the class. The total cost for this project will be approximately $5.00 due to the required materials.

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**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 below.

I am looking forward to a great year and am confident that it will be if we all work together!

Sincerely,

Jeff White

755-7775 (school)

whiteja@scsk12.org

Please complete, detach and return to Mr. White no later than **Friday, August 11, 2017.**

**This information will be a homework grade.**

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 Introduction To Theatre.**

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

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