

# Welcome to Drama!



**Mrs. Flint**

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**Purpose:** Argonaut Drama gives students knowledge and understanding of the ancient art of theatre through reading, analysis, discussion, rehearsal, stagecraft, and performance. Beginning Drama focuses on the fundamentals of acting through improvisation, scene work, and the practicum of performance. Advanced Drama builds on these skills, adding the components of classical acting and festival competition.

## **Learning Goals:**

Speak the language of the theatre. (1.1-1.2)

Develop theatrical skills. (2.1-2.3)

Appreciate historical and cultural context. (3.1-3.3)

Critically assess performance. (4.1-4.2)

Understand practical applications. (5.1-5.3)

## **Bring to Every Class:**

- Drama binder (see below)
- Highlighter, pencil/eraser/sharpener
- Appropriate clothing (see below)
- Creativity
- Positive attitude

### **Save the Dates**

**October 2:** Duo Acting Showcase

**November 21:** Solo Acting Showcase

**December 20:** Holiday Radio Play on 1340AM

**January 9, 10:** Improvs at the Junior Highs

**February 8:** Lenaea Theatre Festival

**April 16:** One-Act + Winning Scenes

**April 17-18:** Motherlode Drama Festival

**May 14-16:** William Shakespeare's *Love's Labor's Lost*, 1980s style

*Dates/productions are subject to change with notice.*

**Appropriate Clothing:** As classroom exercises will be physical, students should wear clothing that allows for freedom of movement. ***Inappropriate attire is not an acceptable excuse for non-participation.***

**Drama Binder:** The Drama Binder must be solely dedicated to drama. It should contain 5 tabs with the following titles: CALENDAR; NOTES; SCRIPTS; ANALYSIS; and CRITIQUES. Include lined binder paper in the NOTES section. The Drama Binder must be brought to each class, up-to-date and complete. **The binder is subject to random checks. It comprises 20% of the final grade. Late work/missing binders receive no credit.**

**Participation:** 50% of the student's grade is based on participation. Students must be on time and ready to work. A positive attitude is essential to the collaborative nature of drama. Students who exhibit negative and/or disruptive behaviors will be asked to leave.

**Participation Points:**

10 points ~ maximum effort (on time, volunteering for activities, prepared with scripts, lines memorized, positive attitude, acting as a leader and example for the class, etc.)

8-9 points ~ good / very good effort

7 points ~ satisfactory effort

5-6 points ~ unsatisfactory effort; negative actions and/or non-participatory

**Automatic Deductions (Participation and Performance):**

excused tardy ~ maximum 90%

unexcused tardy ~ maximum 70%

excused absence ~ maximum 50%

unexcused absence (or being asked to leave) ~ 0%

*Participation points are awarded for daily contribution and involvement. Performance is the theatrical endgame. Both are necessary to the creation of drama, and both happen "in the moment," so they may not be "made up," except at the discretion of the teacher, and only under extreme circumstances, not as a matter of course. The class is participatory (active and collaborative) by nature, and students must be present to participate!*

**After-School Rehearsals/Performances:** Since Drama is a co-curricular course, some rehearsals and performances will be held outside of regularly scheduled class hours. Participation in production satisfies Visual and Performing Arts Content Standards in Theatre 2.1 (Creative Expression), 3.3 (Historical and Cultural Context), and 5.3 (Applications). Performance/production is 30% of a student's grade in Drama. Students who do not perform in onstage roles are expected to support the production in a backstage capacity. **Not participating in production will negatively impact the student's final grade by up to 30%.** Please check the "Save the Date" Box on the first page. **Attendance at all performances is MANDATORY for those concerned.**

**Class Rules:** School rules apply. All electronics, including cell phones, must be turned off and out of sight. In-class performances/rehearsals should not be filmed, except by consent of the performer, and with permission of the teacher. No food or drinks are allowed, excepting water.

**Assessment:** Grades are based on participation in class exercises; rehearsal in and out of class; analysis and reflections; stagecraft and performance, including participating in productions held outside normal class hours. Breakdown: 50% Participation; 30% Performance; 20% Drama Binder. **Note, barring excused absences, this class has a "no late work" policy.**

**Mature Content:** Artistic material may occasionally feature mature language and/or content. Please contact the teacher with any concerns.

**Publicity:** This class takes photos of students for educational purposes, publication to our website, social media, and press releases. Please make a note on the following page if you have any questions or concerns, or would prefer that your child not be photographed.

*Please sign the following page to confirm you have read and understood this syllabus. Put this sheet in your Drama Binder under the section "HANDOUTS." Return the attached sheet to me by \_\_\_\_\_, for 25 points. I look forward to a rewarding year!*

*Sincerely,*

*Mrs. Dale Lisa Flint*

Dear Mrs. Flint,

I have carefully read the class syllabus for Drama, and I understand the expectations therein. Students, please answer a few questions for me. Parents, if you wish, please include a note at the bottom of this sheet.



|  |                           |                       |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| _____  | _____                     | _____                 |
| Student Name (print)   | Student Signature         | Date                  |
| _____  | _____                     | _____                 |
| Parent/Guardian Name (print)   | Parent/Guardian Signature | Date                  |
| _____  | _____                     | _____                 |
| Relationship to Student  | Parent/Guardian Email     | Parent/Guardian Phone |
| *Optional - Student Cell # (useful for after school rehearsals): _____ |                           |                       |

**Why are you taking Drama? What are your goals for the year? Do you like to perform? Besides being onstage, what else interests you about theatre (set design, costumes, make-up, set construction, publicity/marketing, props, stage managing, directing, etc.)?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Describe any past performance experience (acting, singing, dancing, etc.):**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**If you were stranded on a desert island, what one thing would you most like to have?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Favorite movie:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Draw a picture here (yes, any picture):**

~~~~~  
**PARENT/GUARDIAN SECTION**

*Is there anything you want me to know about your child? Attach a separate sheet if needed.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**If you are interested in volunteering for Drama, which area best suits your skills and interests?**

|                                 |                             |                         |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| ___ publicity                   | ___ sewing / mending        | ___ organizing / set-up |
| ___ fundraising                 | ___ building sets           | ___ chaperoning         |
| ___ box office / front of house | ___ prop making / gathering | ___ driving             |
| ___ other: _____                |                             |                         |

**best method to contact you:** \_\_\_\_\_