

Middle School Elements of Theatre Syllabus – Grade 8

Mrs. Ahuna – Middle School Speech & Drama
Kekelakekeuokalani Room 1110
Phone: 982-0483
Email: leahuna@ksbe.edu

The objective of Elements of Theatre is to become familiar with production elements and delve deeper into the world of theatre and performance. Although we touch on all performance skills, the focus for grade 8 is solo performance and improvisation. We will use individual, paired and large group projects to build experience and self-confidence, as well as collaborations that allow students to be part of something greater than themselves. My goal is for your child to experience a learning process that enhances Middle School and develops skills used in the world beyond.

In addition to becoming more comfortable in front of an audience, theatre work contributes to the development of 21st Century Learning Skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, communication and collaboration as well as many other life skills that will serve your keiki well in school and beyond.

Focus - Learning to concentrate on a task.

Observation - As an audience or performer, being attentive to detail, sensitive to multiple points of view and using observations to think analytically.

Organization - Creating and meeting scheduled commitments and deadlines.

Presentation - Learning to present oneself clearly and with a purpose.

Self-Discipline - Taking responsibility for oneself by setting goals, participating, being punctual, showing initiative and following through.

Learner Expectations






- Participate fully in all individual and team exercises
- Practice and utilize new skills and techniques
- Complete all class assignments on time for each unit.
- Complete assignments not finished in class before the beginning of next class.
- Understand that rehearsals are a mandatory summative assessment of our classroom work
- Participate in the annual high school fall musical
- Participate in annual spring play with kula waena grade 7 and 8 theatre classes
- Analyze and write a critique of that performance
- Participate in classroom productions
- Actively work as a team member to design, create, or collect props, costumes, make-up, sets and publicity for all productions
- Attend O`ahu huaka`i in April to explore opportunities in performing arts

Course Materials and Text

Although we do not use a text in the formal sense, many of our notes and exercises will come from the following:

- *Theatre Arts II* by Engelsman and Engelsman
- *Introduction to Theatre Arts II* by Zimmerman
- *theatrefolk.com* online learning

National Arts Standards

				
<p>What Are The Standards?</p>	<p>Creating</p>	<p>Performing/ Presenting/ Producing</p>	<p>Responding</p>	<p>Connecting</p>
<p>A process that guides educators in providing a unified quality arts education for students in Pre-K through high school.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Anchor Standard #1. Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work. ■ Anchor Standard #2. Organize and develop artistic ideas and work. ■ Anchor Standard #3. Refine and complete artistic work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Anchor Standard #4. Analyze, interpret, and select artistic work for presentation. ■ Anchor Standard #5. Develop and refine artistic work for presentation. ■ Anchor Standard #6. Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Anchor Standard #7. Perceive and analyze artistic work. ■ Anchor Standard #8. Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work. ■ Anchor Standard #9. Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Anchor Standard #10. Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art. ■ Anchor Standard #11. Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding.

KS Hawai'i Transfer Goals

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| 1. Develop and refine performances/presentations for various purposes and contexts that demonstrates craftsmanship, and exhibits originality. |
| 2. Perform expressively, with appropriate interpretation and technical accuracy, and in a manner appropriate to the audience and context. |
| 3. Demonstrate professionalism through exhibiting attentiveness, growing from feedback, refining performances, continuing to make a good impression, and adhering to industry standards. |
| 4. Evaluate musical works/performances based on analysis, interpretation using established criteria. |
| 5. Find value in a variety of works, performances and presentations. |
| 6. Relate knowledge and personal experiences to a performance in order to deepen understanding. |
| 7. Collaboration is essential to a successful performance. |

Grading Weights

Grades are based upon the following:

- 80 % Summative Assessments including tests, Rehearsals, performances & evaluations
- 20 % Formative Assessments including participation, homework and class work

Grading Scale

As stated in the Student and Parent handbook

Student Behavioral Expectations

Students are expected to follow the expectations outlined in the *Commitment to Appropriate Conduct* section of the student handbook. In addition, our drama class expectations are listed below:

1. Respect everyone
2. Everyone Participates
3. Creative Solutions to Problems
4. School Rules Apply
5. Have Fun

Grade 8 Elements of Theatre Areas of Study

Unit 1	Orientation to Drama - Expectations and Learner Outcomes
Unit 2	Performance Skills - Basic Techniques; Theatre Games; Role-Playing; Improvisation; Voice and Movement, Ensemble, Blocking, Stage Focus
Unit 3	High School Musical <i>Into the Woods</i> November 17-19, 2016
Unit 4	Monologue – Individual stage interpretations
Unit 5	Scene Selection - Scene Interpretation; Requirement Analysis
Unit 6	Producing a Formal Play – Grade 7 & 8 spring play March 2, 2017 Application of theatre and production elements
Unit 7	Opportunities in Performing Arts – O`ahu huaka`i tentatively scheduled for April 20-22, 2017
Unit 8	Living History Monologue – Research-based scriptwriting and performance based on Hawaiian monarchy

- Rehearsals for *Into the Woods* will be determined by the high school performing arts department.
 - Expect afterschool rehearsals daily November 13th – 16th and additional rehearsals in the weeks prior.
- Rehearsals for the MS spring play will run from 3:30-5:40 as follows:
 - January 11, 18, 25, 31
 - February 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 27, 28 (if needed)
 - March 1
- Students will remain on campus with supervision on early release days until rehearsal.
- Activity bus is available for students who hold a regular bus pass.

Mutual communication is at the core of our commitment to your child and their success:

Email: leahuna@ksbe.edu - I check my email frequently and this is my preferred method of communication to update parents and share information.

Phone: 982-0483 – Best time to reach me is from 7:30-7:45am and 2:50-3:30pm.

During class time, I will answer the phone if I am able to, but may not be able to interrupt instruction.

Remind.com – a texting service – I will also be using remind.com for text updates regarding rehearsals, assignments and other deadlines. This is not required, but if texting is a good communication method for your `ohana, feel free to sign up using the instructions below.

- Text @geeb2 to the number 81010
- You will receive a welcome text from remind.com and will be added to Grade 8 Elements of Theatre class