**SYLLABUS**

**Drama**

Instructor: Mrs. Jacqueline Conn Plan: 5th Hour

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**DRAMA: (1 credit, Gr. 9-12)** - Drama is designed to introduce students to or further their experience in this performing art. The class will study the basics of drama, such as movement, character, voice, and motivation, as well as the history of drama. Scene work will be extensive, as students will be expected not only to perform scenes from great playwrights of the theater, but also create, perform, and film their own pieces. Improvisational skills will be focused on throughout the year, as students develop the skills to think quickly on their feet. Drama may be taken yearly, and fulfills the fine arts credit needed by all high school students for graduation.

**Homework**: approximately 2-3 hours per week.

**Prerequisite:** None.

Competencies/Objectives:

**-001** Theater History

**-002** Elements of Pantomime

**-003** Elements of Performance

**-004** Elements of Directing

**-005** Improvisation

**Do your part!**

 Participation is critical for success in this class. As a result, participation points will be earned each day based on student’s effort as assessed by the instructor. Each day will be worth 2 points:

2= Eagerly taking part in activities, on time and prepared, considerate of other students

1= Tardy, ill-prepared, unwilling to participate

0= Only occupying space, refusing to participate

\*\*\* If there is an excused absence, you will need to make up your points. Points may be made up in any of the following ways:

* Attend a theatrical performance outside of class and write a review/critique.
* Perform a memorized monologue for the class.
* Time/assist at a Speech and Debate Tournament.
* Read a play and write a review/critique.
* Assignment made up with Mrs. Conn during lunch.
* Other, pending instructor approval.

**Assignments:**

Assignments will vary in type and in point value, but neglecting to do an assignment negatively impacts your grade. A typical classwork/homework assignment usually is worth10-20 points. These points are in addition to the participation points you can earn each day. The main objective in completing the assignments is not points, however. When you miss out on assignment, you are also missing out on the opportunity to learn/practice a skill. Types of assignments include character evaluations, drafts of scripts, peer evaluations, and vocabulary quizzes.

**Tests/Projects:**

Just as with assignments, there will a wide variety of test forms and points. Large projects, Challenges, Performances, and Tests will make up at least half of a student’s grade. Students are to be prepared for performances. There will be class time allotted to help students rehearse, but in order to deliver a quality performance, the student will have to devote time outside of class. **If a student is not ready on his/her designated day to perform, his/her grade will be docked AT LEAST one letter grade each day.**

**\*\***The semester test is 10% of the student’s grade. Note the change to the opt out policy.\*\*

**Course Timeline**

The following explains what material will be introduced at what point in the course. Once material has been introduced, it will constantly be referred to and built up on throughout the year.

1st Quarter: Elements of Performance 3rd Quarter: Elements of Directing

 Elements of Pantomime Audience Awareness

 Improvisation Ensembles

 Stage Directions Reading Classic Plays

 Movement on Stage

2nd Quarter: Dramatic Writing 4th Quarter: Film Critique

 Ensemble Work Film Creation

 Vocalization

 Character Analysis

 Theatre History

Expectations, Policies, Procedures

1. Follow all rules, guidelines, and expectations set forth in the MHS Student Handbook.

2. Follow class rules, rehearsal, and performance expectations.

3. Arrive to class on time. Students should be seated and ready to work when the bell rings. Otherwise, students will be counted tardy. The student will be notified when a tardy is recorded. Students are not to leave the room without permission.

4. Performers are to be ready on the due date of a performance, or their grades will be docked. If, for some reason, the student was unable to complete the assignment by the expected due date, it is the student’s responsibility to talk to the instructor and make arrangements. The same policy applies to projects, tests, quizzes, etc. Students with excused absences will be allowed to make up work. If you know in advance you will not be in class (ex: school activity), come get your work **BEFORE** the absence.

5. No food or drinks in class, please. In general, clean up after yourself and help take care of our facility.

6. Class discussions and participation are an important part of learning. Each person is entitled to his or her own opinion. During discussions, listen quietly while a classmate or the teacher is talking and give him or her undivided attention. Everyone is encouraged to participate, provided they do not put down or exclude classmates in an attempt to voice their own opinions.

7. Take Risks—In the learning process, one needs to take risks. If a student is worried about being judged by his/her classmates, he or she will be too preoccupied to give activities an honest try. Give every activity your full effort!

8. No electronic devices are to be in use during class. Electronic devices not placed in the ‘safe zone’ basket will be confiscated and turned into the office if seen or heard during class.

9. Members of the Drama class will participate in the Spring Play and Awards Assembly.

**PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/5 points**

 We have read and understand the Rules, Expectations, Policies, Procedures, and all information presented in this syllabus.

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Student Signature Date Parent/Guardian Signature Date