



PERFORMING ARTS: IMPROVISATION

Syllabus



Discovery Middle School
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Course Description: This course trains students in the art of improvisation. Improvisation is a form of live theatre in which the plot, characters, and dialogue of a game, scene, or story are created in the moment. Students will engage in a variety of these activities to gain and enhance their higher order thinking skills, creativity, and self-confidence.

Students conclude the 9-weeks course with a devised theatre presentation.

Anchor Standard TH-CR 1 & 2: Conceptualize and develop dramatic work.

Anchor Standard TH-PR 6: Convey meaning through the presentation of theatre/drama.

Anchor Standard TH-CO 10: Synthesize knowledge and personal experiences to make art.

Anchor Standard TH-RE 7: Apply criteria to evaluate artistic works.

Course Objectives:

- Build self-confidence through creation and performance.
- Improve communication and collaboration skills.
- Establish a general knowledge and understanding of theatre, especially improv.
- Foster a love of the performing arts.

Classroom Expectations:

Classroom Rules and Procedures:

1. Students will show respect and support for their peers at all times during this course, especially during presentations and performances.
 - a. This includes being attentive and not interrupting others as well as offering feedback in a positive and constructive way.
2. Students will follow directions and do as they are asked the first time they are asked.
3. Students will arrive to class on time and ready to participate in classwork and activities. Students should go to the restroom or their lockers BEFORE class begins.
4. Absolutely no horseplay or rough-housing during class. Aside from the students not being on task, this is a safety concern with our multi-level classroom.
5. Electronic devices (and other distracting items) used without permission will be confiscated.
6. No food, gum, or beverages are allowed in the classroom EXCEPT a bottle of water.

Accommodations:

Requests for accommodations for this course or any school event are welcomed from students and parents. See me personally, call or e-mail me, or let a counselor know.

Concerning Device Utilization:

1. Student devices should not be hard wired to the network or have print capabilities.
2. Use of discs, flash drives, jump drives, or other USB devices will not be allowed on Madison City computers.
3. Neither the teacher, nor the school is responsible for broken, stolen, or lost devices.
4. All devices will be used at the individual discretion of the teacher.

Grading Policy:

Test and project grades will account for 60% of the 9-weeks grade, with the remaining 40% being determined by quiz/daily grades. The grading scale is as follows: A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (65-69), and F (below 65). Grades will be a reflection of mastery of the standards. Make sure all absences are excused as class work can be made up and graded for excused absences only.

Tests will be given on Tuesdays or Thursdays for this course. This is also when major projects and presentations will be due.

Make-up Test & Late Work Policies:

Missed tests, quizzes, or presentations should be made up on the day a student returns to school provided the test was announced prior to the student's absence. Absence the day before a test will not be an excuse to delay at test that was previously announced.

Late work will be accepted for a 10% point deduction per school day after the assignment was due, unless otherwise arranged with the teacher. If a student is absent on the due date for an assignment, it should be turned in the day of the student's return or it will be graded as late.

Materials and Supplies Needed:

- Pencils with erasers (no pens, please!)
- Composition or spiral-bound notebook
- Highlighters (multiple colors recommended)
- Optional/Helpful – small Post-It notes or Post-It tabs
- Optional/Helpful – clipboard

Course Outline:

Students will learn the basics of improvisation performance – creating characters, stories, speeches, and movements without a script. They will also refine acting skills such as stage presence, volume, and collaboration.

Major topics to be covered include The Five Ws, "Yes And" philosophy, Physicalization, Vocalization, and the History of Improv.

The final two weeks of the course will focus on preparation for the course's final devised theatre performance.