

## Grade 8 Drama

Ms. Turcon

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In person: Drama Portable Monday/Wednesday

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Welcome! I am very much looking forward to exploring the crazy, wonderful world of drama with you! Each day, you will be expected to arrive with a positive and encouraging attitude. One of my favourite games to play when studying improvisation is one entitled, "Yes, Let's!" In this game, a suggestion is made (the more ridiculous the better!) to which the entire class responds "Yes, let's!" and then we all do the suggested movement or action. When entering a space of theatre you are automatically entering an unspoken agreement to "willingly suspend your disbelief" (Samuel Coleridge), which creates a magical space where anything can be possible. In this classroom, I encourage you to adopt the attitude of "Yes, Let's!" and apply it to everything we do. I do not expect perfection – only a willingness to try. Much of your assessment and evaluation will be based on your attitude and ability to work as a successful team member, so make sure to check in before entering the room and bring only your best self. Welcome, and "Yes, Let's!"

### Grade 8 Course intentions:

- To encourage students to explore performance and backstage opportunities
- To develop confidence and presentation skills to be used in all subjects
- To develop appropriate audience etiquette
- To encourage and develop students' abilities to work collaboratively
- To explore and develop practical knowledge in drama
- To reflect on, appreciate and evaluate students' own work and the work of others

### Supplies needed:

- Pencil (please bring to every class)
- Drama Journal (any bound notebook with your name CLEARLY labeled)
- Appropriate comfortable clothing (must be able to move freely)

## **Mini Units**

Intro/Trust/History

Movement

Mime

Slo-mo Battle Scenes

Voice

Character Study

Intro to Improv

Final Performance

## **Expectations and Assessment:**

As much of your assessment for this class will be largely based on participation, regular attendance is necessary. If you are absent from class, please provide a note explaining your absence, and if possible, speak to me beforehand if you know you will miss a class. You will be evaluated throughout the term in the form of peer and self-evaluation, drama journals, short performances, and a final performance.

## **Rules:**

- Always enter the room ready to work with respect, authenticity, and energy
- Safety (emotional and physical) is always the first consideration
- No cell phones, etc. in class
- Help keep the room/costume areas tidy
- NO GUM!

## **Expectations:**

- Be on time
- Be prepared for class: sitting in circle, writing materials nearby, proper clothing, etc.
- At all times show respect for everyone in the class, including yourself
- Strive to help others feel comfortable and welcome
- Participate fully in all aspects of the course
- Work without distraction both on and off stage
- Written work is due on time
- No "toilet bowl" humor – aim higher than this
- Be sensitive to the nature of the dramatic material being presented and approach it appropriately and maturely. All discussions of student work will be

supportive and aimed at improving the quality of drama and theatre produced by members of the class.

### **Participation (75%)**

Participation in this class will be worth 75% of your final mark. I will be observing and evaluating you every day, giving you a daily mark out of 5. To get a 5 each day you will be positive and encouraging, taking initiative, participating, focused and working hard. Any unexplained absences will receive an automatic zero. If you are sick, please bring in a note from your parent explaining your absence as soon as you are back in order to not receive a zero. Also, if you know you will be away, please email me or come speak to me **beforehand** so that I can give you an alternate assignment.

### **Journals and written work (20%)**

Your drama journal will be worth 20% of your final mark. Each journal will be marked out of 10. You will be responsible for handing in **four** journals by the end of your drama rotation. You have the option of "telling" me two of these four journals instead of writing them down. Each journal must be at least 250 words in length. If you are unsure about length or have any other questions or concerns, please come see me with your Drama Journal.

The content of your drama journals should be about the mini unit we have just completed. I want to know what we did and how this was beneficial to you. Did you enjoy the unit? What did you like best/least? WHY? Please do not simply tell me what we did. Always ask the question "And so what?" Tell me WHY this was or was not helpful to you. Write about any connections you can make from your past or previous classes.

### **Game Presentation (5%)**

During the first two weeks of class, we will learn an assortment of games. In partners, you will be responsible for teaching the whole class a game of a similar style. Once a game has been introduced to the class, it will be considered "done" (you may not teach the same game.) You may not use any of the games I have taught you. During this game presentation, you and your partner will be responsible for:

1. outlining any safety rules

2. **clearly** explaining the game and all rules
3. explaining WHY we are playing this game in drama, at this time
4. effectively answering any questions posed by classmates

Your peers will then evaluate you based on these four criteria. I will also evaluate you at this time. Extra marks will be given to those who are able to connect their game to the mini unit we are currently exploring.

Good luck and have fun!