



Department of Teaching & Learning
Parent/Student Course Information

Performance Theatre
(LA 1419)
One Credit, One Year
Grades 10-12

Counselors are available to assist parents and students with course selections and career planning. Parents may arrange to meet with the counselor by calling the school's guidance department.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to help students interested in performance theatre integrate and build upon concepts and skills acquired in Introduction to Theatre Arts. The course affords students in-depth experience in elements of performance through actor training and application. Students will investigate dramatic literature, theatrical styles, historical periods, modes of expression and performance. Students will study, analyze and respond to a variety of theatre experiences that will refine their communicative, collaborative, analytical, interpretive, and problem-solving skills. Performance theatre will focus on the process and development of performances from the actor's perspective and, as a result, will expand their artistic abilities and appreciation of theatrical arts. Students develop skills that may lead to careers involving public performances. Content in this course changes annually; therefore, this course may be repeated. After-school rehearsals and performances may be required of all students.

Through various modes of expression and performance, students investigate dramatic literature, theatrical styles, and historical periods. They study and respond to a variety of theatrical experiences that refine their communicative, collaborative, analytical, interpretive, and problem-solving skills. Students expand their artistic abilities and appreciation of theatre arts.

PREREQUISITE

Introduction to Theatre Arts and/or Teacher's approval

OPTIONS FOR NEXT COURSE

Technical Theatre, Studio Theatre and Cinema Studies

REQUIRED STUDENT TEXTBOOK

Acting and Directing, Third Edition

Drama for Reading and Performance-Collection II

**VIRGINIA BEACH STANDARDS AND OBJECTIVES
FOR THEATRE ARTS**

PERFORMANCE AND PRODUCTION

- TII.1 The student will create theatre projects and productions through collaboration by
1. Assuming shared responsibility for group work;
 2. Practicing courtesy and respecting the ideas and points of view of others; and
 3. Engaging all members of the group.
- TII.2 The student will create and strengthen trust through participation in theatre games and improvisations that
1. Demonstrate characterization and justify motivations;
 2. Develop a narrative that expresses dramatic conflict;
 3. Incorporate dialogue and listening skills to express character relationships;
 4. Integrate personal experience into the exercises; and
 5. Refine concentration, observation, imagination, and sensory memory.
- TII.3 The student will exhibit rehearsal discipline and maintain stage properties, costumes, equipment, and facilities according to established standards.
- TII.4 The student will demonstrate acting skills and techniques in solo and group performances by
1. Using movement, staging (blocking), pacing, and stage business;
 2. Refining vocal projection and diction;
 3. Choosing vocal and physical expressions that enhance characterization, conflict, and production style;
 4. Refining research skills and audition techniques for characterization and script/text interpretation;
 5. Incorporating psychological, historical, and social dynamics derived from information suggested by the script;
 6. Incorporating suggestions from the director; and
 7. Performing a fully rehearsed and memorized role.
- TII.5 The student will apply principles of directing by
1. Selecting scenes and participating in script analysis, casting, staging, and rehearsing;
 2. Communicating directorial choices, including pacing, mood, concept, and style; and
 3. Employing ethical standards in script selection, revision/adaptation, and presentation.
- TII.6 The student will demonstrate skills and principles of technical theatre by
1. Applying safety procedures;
 2. Utilizing the elements of technical theatre, such as lighting, scenery, costumes, makeup, properties, and sound;
 3. Making a three-dimensional model from design drawings;
 4. Offering solutions to technical theatre problems;
 5. Interpreting, preparing, and presenting elements of technical theatre to enhance a scene; and
 6. Evaluating technical choices made in formal and informal presentations.
- TII.9 The student will participate in a variety of theatrical experiences by
1. Attending live theatre performances (amateur and/or professional); and
 2. Fulfilling various roles and responsibilities in class presentations and performances.

THEATRE HISTORY AND CULTURAL CONTEXT

- TII.10 The student will compare and contrast the purposes of theatre in selected historical periods.
- TII.11 The student will identify major theatrical styles, including classical, Renaissance, modern, contemporary, and non-Western, including
1. Identifying universal characters, situations, themes, and ideas in theatre;
 2. Identifying the use of symbolism and cultural and historical clues in dramatic texts; and
 3. Describing historical production designs, techniques, and performance practices.
- TII.12 The student will research current theatrical productions in the commonwealth and the nation.
- TII.13 The student will explain the impact of theatre, television, film, and/or contemporary media on the culture in which they exist.

ANALYSIS, EVALUATION, AND CRITIQUE

- TII.15 The student will give, receive, and utilize constructive criticism by
1. Critiquing theatrical performances, projects, plans, and ideas objectively;
 2. Evaluating the artistic choices made in informal and formal productions;
 3. Evaluating reviews and critiques of dramatic works; and
 4. Critiquing theatrical performances outside of the school environment.
- TII.16 The student will analyze selected works of dramatic literature by
1. Summarizing the playwright's intentions and message;
 2. Identifying the elements of genre, style, structure, mood, language, and symbolism;
 3. Demonstrating responses visually, orally, kinesthetically, or in writing, using theatre arts vocabulary; and
 4. Relating dramatic themes to personal experience or current events.
- TII.17 The student will analyze how theatre is similar to and different from other literary genres and other art forms by
1. Comparing theatre to film, video, novels, short stories, poetry, dance arts, music, and the visual arts;
 2. Comparing how common themes are expressed in the other literary genres and art forms;
 3. Comparing the interpretive and emotional nature of other literary genres and art forms in specific cultures and/or periods; and
 4. Describing ways in which dance, music, and the visual arts enhance theatrical presentations.

AESTHETICS

- TII.19 The student will define *aesthetics* in the context of theatre arts.
- TII.20 The student will support personal aesthetic opinions and criteria, using theatre arts vocabulary.
- TII.21 The student will describe, refine, and organize personal ideas about the aesthetic qualities of a theatrical work.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS OF STUDY

- THI.1 The student will apply rehearsal discipline and maintain stage properties, costumes, equipment, and facilities according to established standards.
- THI.2 The student will exhibit independence, self-discipline, and commitment to the theatre process through work on assigned projects and productions.

- TIII.3 The student will integrate acting skills and techniques involving voice, movement, and analysis into the rehearsal process and performance by
1. Initiating artistic choices to enhance performance;
 2. Listening to other actors and responding internally as well as externally;
 3. Creating and sustaining multidimensional characters;
 4. Enhancing characterizations, dialogue, and action;
 5. Demonstrating self-confidence and self-expression; and
 6. Making artistic decisions to achieve an ensemble.
- TIII.4 The student will demonstrate the audition process by
1. Researching and selecting contrasting monologues by established playwrights;
 2. Developing an understanding, interpretation, and portrayal of a character; and
 3. Presenting memorized selections for critique.
- TIII.5 The student will demonstrate playwriting by
1. Conceiving a theme to convey a message;
 2. Constructing a dramatic plot structure;
 3. Developing a central conflict;
 4. Developing an idea through action; and
 5. Portraying unique, multidimensional characters.
- TIII.8 The student will research acting styles from a variety of historical periods by comparing and contrasting decorum, environments, manners, and portrayals of characters and situations.
- TIII.12 The student will critique acting styles by
1. Assessing projects, plans, or ideas;
 2. Incorporating personal artistic choices into informal and formal productions; and
 3. Critiquing acting styles of professional theatrical productions, using theatre arts vocabulary.
- TIII.13 The student will apply a critical methodology to playwriting by
1. Comparing the components of the works of established playwrights to those found in student works;
 2. Revising original student scripts; and
 3. Explaining why there will be a variety of responses by audience members.
- TIII.16 The student will compare and contrast the aesthetic ideals of two or more playwrights.
- TIII.17 The student will justify personal aesthetic criteria in response to theatrical and contemporary media performances.
- TIII.18 The student will develop personal aesthetic criteria in response to theatre design.
- TIII.19 The student will justify multiple points of view regarding the interpretation of theatrical works.
- TIV.6 The student will work independently and collaboratively as a director to create formal and informal presentations, including
1. Depicting multidimensional characters;
 2. Following the playwright's intent;
 3. Depicting given circumstances; and
 4. Realizing directorial concepts.
- TIV.13 The student will evaluate the qualities of a theatrical production that elicit an audience response, including the director's interpretation, the production elements, and the actors' abilities to sustain and project believable characterizations.

- TIV.17 The student will justify personal perceptions of a playwright's intent, as filtered through the director's vision.
- TIV.16 The student will explain how personal aesthetic criteria are applied to personal performance and direction.
- VBO 1 The student must know how to follow safety guidelines and demonstrate appropriate safety practices.

Dr. Aaron C. Spence, Superintendent
Virginia Beach City Public Schools
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For further information please call (757) 263-1070.

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CHARTING THE COURSE

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