



VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CHARTING THE COURSE

Department of Teaching & Learning
Parent/Student Course Information

Studio Theatre
(LA 1453)
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 advanced theatre course offers student's opportunities to refine skills acquired in previous theatre arts courses. Both performers and technicians collaborate on performances and bring their skills into the final arena of development – sharing their art with an audience. Emphasis is placed on performance, skills development, and script interpretation. Designing, acting, directing, and playwriting are the main areas studied. Students also develop skills for entering career in theatre, such as drama therapy, recreational theatre and in professional staff positions. School rehearsals and performances are required of all students.

Students study and respond to a variety of theatrical experiences that refine their collaborative, analytical, interpretive, and problem-solving skills. They continue to cultivate and refine their artistic abilities and appreciation of theatre arts.

PREREQUISITE

Introduction to Theatre Arts and teacher's approval

OPTIONS FOR NEXT COURSE

Topics in Technical Theatre

REQUIRED STUDENT TEXTBOOK

Understanding Plays, Third Edition

The Actor in You, Second Edition

The Book of cuttings for Acting and Directing

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

PERFORMANCE AND PRODUCTION

- TIV.1 The student will work independently and collaboratively as an actor to create formal and informal presentations, including
1. Depicting multidimensional characters;
 2. Depicting given circumstances; and
 3. Living truthfully in the moment.
- TIV.2 The student will create a personal acting technique by
1. Investigating both external and internal acting approaches;
 2. Applying different acting approaches to different pieces (e.g., improvisations, monologues, scenes, plays);
 3. Writing character analyses that include prior action, cultural background, objective, tactics, subtext, and consequences of actions; and
 4. Writing script analyses that include the historical context, cultural context, through line, and playwright's intent.
- TIV.3 The student will demonstrate vocal performance skills—breathe control, articulation, projection, volume, pitch, tone, vocal placement, rhythm, and dialect.
- TIV.4 The student will apply movement skills in characterization—posture, gait, gesture, leading center, balance, poise, timing, and facial expression.
- TIV.5 The student will prepare for academic and/or professional auditions by
1. Choosing and preparing contrasting one-minute and two-minute audition pieces from published works;
 2. Preparing and presenting written and oral critiques of personal and peer audition pieces;
 3. Developing a résumé of performance and production experience; and
 4. Using established audition techniques and following audition notice guidelines.
- TIV.7 The student will direct a two-character scene, a multi-character scene, and a one-act play for performance, including
1. Selecting scripts from published and/or original works;
 2. Researching the history, culture, and concept of each script;
 3. Devising prompt books;
 4. Establishing rehearsal and production schedules;
 5. Applying established audition techniques in casting;
 6. Modeling professional discipline in rehearsal and performance;
 7. Conceiving and communicating a cohesive, artistic vision;
 8. Creating a collaborative working relationship among cast and crew;
 9. Creating and/or collaborating on designs for all production components;
 10. Employing staging (blocking) to achieve focus and communicate meaning;
 11. Working with actors to develop and ensure effective characterizations;
 12. Overseeing technical and design responsibilities and solving related problems;
 13. Meeting deadlines; and
 14. Adhering to copyright and royalty requirements.

THEATRE HISTORY AND CULTURAL CONTEXT

- TIV.8 The student will research the development of the role of the director as a unifying force in a production.
- TIV.9 The student will use cultural and historical research to justify choices in directing and acting projects.

ANALYSIS, EVALUATION, AND CRITIQUE

- TIV.10 The student will analyze and interpret meaning in personal theatre projects.
- TIV.11 The student will compare a variety of published criticisms of a play and evaluate findings.
- TIV.12 The student will critique performances, focusing on the acting or directing.
- 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.14 The student will analyze the intentions and choices of peer directors and designers.

AESTHETICS

- TIV.16 The student will explain how personal aesthetic criteria are applied to personal performance and direction.
- TIV.17 The student will justify personal perceptions of a playwright's intent, as filtered through the director's vision.
- TIV.18 The student will research current aesthetic issues in theatre (e.g., ethics, sensationalism, propaganda).

ADDITIONAL TOPICS OF STUDY

- 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.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.
- TIH.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.6 The student will demonstrate the application of theatre design by
1. Following safety procedures;
 2. Rendering lighting plots, sound plots, properties, makeup, and/or costume plates for a stage or contemporary media production;
 3. Making a two-dimensional drawing of a three-dimensional object, using scale drawings, perspective drawings, blueprints, or computer renderings to design scenery, costumes, and/or properties;
 4. Building a scale model of a setting for a stage or contemporary media production;
 5. Implementing solutions to technical problems; and
 6. Analyzing and justifying design choices.
- 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.15 The student will justify personal choices regarding characterizations within the acting process.
- VBO 3 The student will know how theatre skills transfer to life-long skills and other careers.
- VBO 5 The student must know how to follow safety guidelines and demonstrate appropriate safety practices.

Dr. Aaron C. Spence, Superintendent
Virginia Beach City Public Schools
2512 George Mason Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23456-0038

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For further information please call (757) 263-1070.

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