



**VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
CHARTING THE COURSE

*Department of Teaching & Learning*  
*Parent/Student Course Information*

*Theatre Appreciation*  
*(LA 1454)*  
*One-Half Credit, One Semester*  
*Grades 9-12*

*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**

Theatre Appreciation provides students with an introduction to the theatre. The course uses video performances in conjunction with scripts and analytical materials so that students may view, experience, analyze, and critique theatrical forms including comedy, drama, and musical and contemporary theatre.

The standards for Theatre Arts I enable students to survey theatre arts, experience and appreciate theatrical works and performances, and participate in the creative processes of producing and performing theatre. The course emphasizes foundational concepts and provides theatrical opportunities for students to determine areas of personal interest.

**PREREQUISITE**

None

**OPTIONS FOR NEXT COURSE**

Introduction to Theatre Arts, Studio Theatre, Performance Theatre, Technical Theatre and Cinema Studies

**REQUIRED STUDENT TEXTBOOK**

Everything About Theatre: The Guidebook of Theatre Fundamentals

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

**PERFORMANCE AND PRODUCTION**

- TI.1 The student will explore theatre as an ensemble art through group interaction by
1. Developing communication strategies;
  2. Proposing and selecting alternatives to solve problems while building consensus;
  3. Collaborating to implement personal artistic choices; and
  4. Respecting the ideas and viewpoints of others.
- TI.4 The student will apply the creative process in storytelling, playwriting, and acting by
1. Creating and writing a monologue and/or scene;
  2. Analyzing the physical, emotional, and social dimensions of characters;
  3. Employing voice, body, and imagination in role playing;
  4. Presenting a memorized monologue and/or scene from a published work; and
  5. Investigating and applying audition techniques.
- TI.6 The student will apply principles of technical theatre by
1. Differentiating among the components of technical theatre;
  2. Identifying the responsibilities of designers and technicians;
  3. Demonstrating theatre safety practices; and
  4. Practicing ethical use of available technology and other resources (e.g., music, visuals, media materials).

**THEATRE HISTORY AND CULTURAL CONTEXT**

- TI.8 The student will identify how theatre, television, film, and/or contemporary media reflect the culture in which they are created.
- TI.9 The student will make connections between theatre and other fields of knowledge.
- TI.10 The student will explore theatre in various historical times and various cultures by
1. Researching historical and cultural information about theatre in other times and places;
  2. Examining non-western traditions in drama; and
  3. Identifying theatrical activity in the community and the commonwealth.

**ANALYSIS, EVALUATION, AND CRITIQUE**

- TI.11 The student will give, receive, and utilize constructive criticism by
1. Making observations about theatrical performances, projects, and plans, using theatre arts vocabulary; and
  2. Applying evaluative criteria to these observations.
- TI.12 The student will analyze selected works of dramatic literature by
1. Identifying the elements of character, conflict, setting, plot, theme, and dialogue;
  2. Examining the purpose and meaning of each element; and
  3. Developing and applying evaluative criteria.
- TI.13 The student will analyze live performances by
1. Identifying the elements of production—acting, directing, and design; and
  2. Describing, analyzing, and evaluating artistic choices.

## **AESTHETICS**

- TI.15 The student will define *theatre* and support that definition, using theatre arts vocabulary.
- TI.16 The student will describe how theatrical presentations can entertain, inform, and interpret the human experience.
- TI.17 The student will describe a personal response to a theatrical experience, using theatre arts vocabulary.
- TI.18 The student will explain how personal experience, culture, and current events shape personal aesthetic opinions and criteria.

## **ADDITIONAL TOPICS OF STUDY**

- 6.9 The student will describe physical performance spaces and stage positions.
- 6.10 The student will identify different types of performance spaces and productions.
- 6.14 The student will describe aspects of theatre design (e.g., lighting, sound, costumes, scenery).
- 7.6 The student will practice theatre etiquette and analyze the role of the audience as integral to the performance experience.
- 7.10 The student will identify the functions and responsibilities of the creative team and production staff.
- 7.18 The student will compare and contrast theatre with other literary genres and forms of performance.
- 8.22 The student will write a critique of a live or recorded dramatic performance, using designated criteria and theatre arts vocabulary.
- 8.24 The student will define *aesthetics* and describe how it relates to theatre as a reflection of life.
- 8.25 The student will explain personal responses to theatrical productions based on experience and aesthetic criteria.
- 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.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.
- TT.1 The student will summarize how the fundamental aspects of scene design, lighting, sound, costumes, properties, and makeup are applied in individual and collaborative theatre projects.
- TT.3 The student will describe the different types of theatre spaces (e.g., proscenium, thrust, area), suggesting specific design considerations for each.
- TT.4 The student will identify the components of the theatre facility.

- TT.13 The student will identify the responsibilities of the stage manager, house manager, and business manager.
- VBO 5 The student must know how to follow safety guidelines and demonstrate appropriate safety techniques.

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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