

*Welcome to Theatre Arts. You are about to challenge your mind, enhance your creativity, and build your skills of communication and performance.*

## **Essential standards for Theatre Arts:**

### **Communication:**

1. Use movement, voice, and writing to communicate ideas and feelings.
2. Use performance to communicate ideas and feelings.

### **Analysis:**

1. Analyze literary texts and performances.

### **Aesthetics:**

1. Understand how to design technical theatre components, such as costumes, sets, props, makeup, lighting, and sound.

### **Culture:**

1. Analyze theatre in terms of the social, historical, and cultural contexts in which it was created.
2. Understand the traditions, roles, and conventions of theatre as an art form.

This course will provide a basic introduction to Theatre Arts, foster self-esteem and confidence in performance and in life, introduce an overview of theatre history, build vocal and movement skills, build ensemble skills and foster teamwork and collaboration, build characterization skills, and will help you understand basic performance and monologue skills.

## **Class Policies: School rules are class rules at all times.**

1. **Enter the classroom quietly, promptly, and ready to engage:** Arrive on time with all materials needed, and be in place when the tardy bell rings, working on class warm-up or journal.
2. **Respect yourself, others, and property.** Treat others how you would like to be treated. This includes respecting me by also respecting classroom and auditorium furnishings and equipment with care.
3. **Be prepared with all necessary materials.**
4. **Always try, and do your best:** Stay on task, whether during note-taking, rehearsals, or project work.
5. **No food, gum, or drink**—water is the only exception to this rule.

**If you choose to break a rule, there will be consequences.**

***First time: Visual/verbal warning.***

***Second time: Warning, Possible Detention, Parental Call***

***Third time: Detention, Parent phone call, possible referral to office.***

***Fourth time: Referral written, student sent to ISS, After school detention.***

## **Tutorial and Remediation**

If you require a tutorial or remediation due to absences, or you simply are not “getting it” in class, I am available M-F from 8:15-8:40 AM, or W, TH from 3:50-4:30. Please let me know in advance if you plan to come to work with me, as I try to give each student the individual time you need—it also allows me to let you know if I have a conference scheduled, etc and we can schedule for another day.

### **Course Requirements:**

**Supplies: Paper and writing utensil.**

**Notebook and a Composition book(for journals)**

Students are required to participate in daily classroom warm-ups, vocal exercises, movement activities and improvisation. Students will be expected to **take notes**, as well as participate in **daily journal writing**. Students will write, memorize and perform original monologues as well as participate in two-person scenes. Units will be presented in theatre history, characterization and play production and students *will be tested* on information and terminology.

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**\*\* By its very nature, Theatre requires various and frequent movement.**

**Because of this**, on all “acting” days, students are expected to come dressed to move, **in non-constricting clothing such as pants, shorts, a T-shirt that will not expose the student’s midriff, and shoes that will cover the toes.** Clothing must adhere to the school dress code.

**Failure to be prepared for movement may affect the student’s grade as a Zero for that day’s participation grade.**

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### **Grades:**

Grades will be based on a combination of participation, completion of projects, tests, rubrics, development of acting and characterization skills and performance.

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|---|-------------------|
| 1. quizzes and tests:   | <b><u>20%</u></b> |
| 2. <b><u>Daily participation</u></b> in vocal, movement, warm-ups/journals.<br>Classwork, and <u>rehearsals</u> | <b><u>40%</u></b> |
| 3. Projects and In-Class Performances (based on rubrics)  | <b><u>40%</u></b> |

### **Course Outline:**

(We may not stick strictly to this order depending on how quickly we can move through material, but this will give you an idea of what we will study)

Week one

Who am I?/What makes me unique? What am I bringing to the class for drama?

Getting to know your ensemble with drama games and activities

What is theatre? What makes up the place? What makes up the art?

Understanding stage directions.

## **Quiz: Parts of the theatre.**

Weeks 2: Where did theatre begin?

Intro to Greek theatre: reading Greek and Roman Theatre; Intro to Aristotle and his Poetics : Understanding Drama and Tragedy; Basic play analysis: Exposition, Plot, Characters and Theme Understanding the major Greek Playwrights

**Test on Greek Theatre**

Weeks 3\*\*

Script Analysis

Intro and work through analysis of a script

**I will be able to Analyze a full script**

Week 4-5

How do I write a play?

Playwriting: Constructing a 10 minute play

From ping pong dialogue to finding the action to formatting

Pawn Shop play: Write a play based on an object

**Final Grade based on Drafts and re-writes of plays**

Week 6\*\*

Intro into the actors tools

Intro to Pantomime

Building Pantomime skills: What is the difference between Mime and Pantomime?

**Performance of a Pantomime scene: Rubric grade**

Week 7

Voice work: Understanding the importance of vocal exercises and the mechanics of using the voice; Working on voice in character; Storytelling and Oral Interpretation: Storytelling as a part of theatre

Week 8

What is Oral Interp? What is its purpose?

**Finding a piece and rehearsing:** Character and voice with action.

Week 9

What is a Monologue? Write a personal monologue to tell more about you.

**Construct a collage that describes you, make a playlist, and perform your personal monologue.**

Week 10-11

Characterization and research

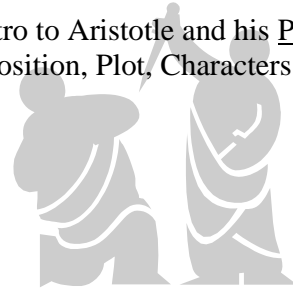
Rock Star project

Week 12-13

Putting it together: Physical+vocal+soul=Acting. Making it work for the stage.

Table Work: Script scoring and working with your partner

Acting a scene with a partner



**Final Grade of scene based on rubric**

Week 14-15

Auditioning techniques

Students will audition for their groups in the final.

Auditions of memorized monologues and cold reads of scenes

**Final Grade based on rubrics**

Week 16-18

Students will be broken into groups

They will write, block, and act a 10 minute play.

**Final Grade based on rubrics**

**Exams/Final Performance of group play and written critique and reflection.**

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### **Drama Booster Parents**

Dear Drama Parents,

In order for our Drama Department to better meet the needs and demands of our students, **parent volunteers** are needed. Please indicate if you would be willing to help. This requires a minimum amount of time and is so beneficial for our students.

**Parents**, please check appropriate areas you may be able to help out:

- ☐ Video tape performances for archival purposes.
- ☐ Help sell concessions at performances (3 per year)
- ☐ Help with fundraising
- ☐ Be available to help with set construction for productions.
- ☐ Be available to help with costumes for productions.
- ☐ Be available to help chaperone fieldtrips.
- ☐ Providing Tissue, hand sanitizer, colored copy paper, and/or wipes
- ☐ I have attached a donation for the Drama Department,
- ☐ I am unable to help at this time.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this information and the attached course outline and expectations.

**Each student is responsible for having a guardian sign and date this form indicating that the syllabus has been read and understood, regardless of whether you can participate in Drama Boosters. Please link your Harris Teeter Vic card to 1752.**

The deadline for returning this page is one week from the start of the semester.

Mr. Chris Veneris  
[veneric@gcsnc.com](mailto:veneric@gcsnc.com)  
674-4300

**Student Name printed:**

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Student signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Parent's name** (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Student email (print clearly) \_\_\_\_\_