

# Harris County Carver Middle School

## Advanced Drama Syllabus

WELCOME! The Advanced Drama program is designed to allow students to improve communication skills, both verbal and non-verbal, stimulate clear thinking, creativity, imagination, social awareness, and co-operation. To promote and develop healthy self-concept, knowledge of self, and to develop and promote empathy, sympathy, and acceptance of others. It should encourage fun and emotional and physical release. These goals are achieved by allowing and encouraging students the opportunity to explore situations, places, and even their own thoughts feelings and ideals through their imaginations. Since imagination is the spark that sets off creative people, effective use of our imaginations can only help in all problem solving or creative areas in their lives. EVERYONE has imagination, and EVERYONE is creative. It is the goal of this class to teach students to access and utilize those parts of themselves that are imaginative and creative.

Advanced Students will participate in team building/trust activities, identify the key members of a production staff and their responsibilities, students will identify what items are included in a master production schedule checklist, students will understand how to prepare a budget, make a promptbook, conduct and participate in an audition, understand the purposes of scenery in a play, the effects of scenery in a play, types of sets, some of the basic principles and considerations of set design, how to construct and erect a set, how to paint and build scenery, how to shift and set scenery, and demonstrate an understanding of backstage safety, understand how lighting affects a play, the basic equipment that needs to be available for a performance, how lighting plans and cue sheets are prepared, the basic sound equipment needed for the theater, and how sound effects are made, understand why effective costuming is important to a good production, color coding, important considerations in period costuming, the key to believable costuming, how to measure bodies for costumes, understand why stage makeup is used, the items that belong in a makeup kit, how to create highlights and shadows, students will define improvisation, identify the important factors in creating a successful improvisation, understand the narrative essentials of a written play, demonstrate an understanding of the influences Aristotle had on drama, compare and contrast modern drama to traditional drama, identify and demonstrate the ability to graph the structure of a play and how a plot is divided into parts, understand how playwrights create characters, identify the theme of a play, and recognize that playwrights use dialogue, action, and situation to create a play, identify the basic principles of pantomime, will identify the keys to a good speaking voice, demonstrate and understand the importance of breath control, and develop a rich, strong and interesting stage voice, understand the differences between tragedy and comedy, students will identify the types of comedy, students will demonstrate an understanding of the dramatic styles that have influenced theater in the twentieth century, understand and identify the types of musical theater, the special concerns in planning and directing a musical play, techniques that work well for performers in a musical play, and the special staging requirements for a musical play, understand and use acting terminology, students will identify the different types of roles, students will demonstrate an understanding of how to create a believable character on stage, and understand what it means to act, demonstrate an understanding of how drama has evolved since it's inception around the globe, students will understand how scenic design developed from ancient Greece through modern times, and Students will work in teams to complete the Georgia arts and the artists trivia contest.

**My curriculum, homework assignments, Websites for research, and general student and parent information can be found at my Website:** ([hccmsonline.org](http://hccmsonline.org), ->then connections, ->fine arts, ->Merrill Cheyne)

### Materials and Preparation for class

Students will need one a 1" binder for this class. They will also need 5 dividers. (Dividers can be student-made, they do not need to be the purchased variety) Students will need a thumb drive. Students will need to bring the folder and thumb drive to class with them EVERY DAY. The students will also need to come to class armed with a pencil, and their willing imaginations.

Students will be asked to use their folder to hold;

1. syllabus
2. Warm Up
3. Scripts
4. New Vocabulary & Class Notes
5. Worksheets

Their folder must be divided into sections corresponding to the categories just listed. Folder check will be part of their final grade. Students must bring their drama folders to class every day as drama is process oriented and many times activities will build from one day to the next.

### Audience Etiquette

All will be expected to follow Audience Etiquette. Your failure to abide by these guidelines will result in your receiving a zero (0) on your performance. If you receive a zero for not following AE, you will have one chance to make up that grade at the teacher's convenience. However, the highest grade you will be allowed to earn for a **perfect** performance is the score of **80 percent**.

- Pay attention to all performances; watch and listen.
- Stay quiet; absolutely no talking.
- Never make fun of another person's performance.
- Refrain from shouting comments to or intentionally distracting the actor during his presentation.
- Avoid practicing your scene during other performances.
- Applaud every presentation.
- Never get out of your seat, move around the room, or distract the teacher during a performance.
- The teacher-director is the one to offer suggestions or critiques after final performances. During the rehearsal process you will often provide peer evaluations to enhance the final presentation. Please refrain from making **negative** remarks to your classmates after they have completed a final performance.

In case you need to contact me, my planning time is 10:30 - 12:30, the school phone number is 628-4951, my school e-mail [cheyne-m@harris.k12.ga.us](mailto:cheyne-m@harris.k12.ga.us) , or through the HCCMS Website.

### Grades

Each student will receive a weekly participation grade.

- ❖ Classwork and Participation will count for 30% of their final grade for this course.

### Class Participation Rubric

**Your behavior daily will culminate in a weekly participation grade!**

100 points: **The student is consistently engaged with all aspects of the class**

90 points: **the student is usually engaged with all aspects of the class**

80 points: **usually engaged with most aspects of the class**

70 points: **sometimes engaged with most aspects of the class**

60 points: **rarely engaged with most aspects of the class**

50 points: **usually disengaged or disruptive to the class**

- ❖ Class work and homework, tests and quizzes will be weighted accordingly and equal 25 %
- ❖ Projects and Performances will be worth 30% of their grade
- ❖ 9 weeks exam will equal 15 % of their grade

**Class Rules**

**1. Class begins when Mrs. Cheyne begins it. Always wait outside the classroom in an ORDERLY, SILENT, LINE until you are invited inside.**

Mr. Cheyne will do her best never to keep a class waiting too long outside the classroom.

**2. Class ends when Mrs. Cheyne ends it. It does not end when the clock or bell says it is time.**

Mrs. Cheyne will try never to make you late for another class or for dismissal from school.

**3. Always listen carefully to the rules of any game or activity. Drama class is lots of fun, but it is structured fun. (also referred to as organized chaos) Some rules are negotiable, but all must be followed until they are changed. (Just as Baseball is more fun if everyone follows the rules, Drama class is more fun if we follow the rules.)** Mrs. Cheyne will listen to any reasonable concern about the rules of a game, and will do her best to make changes when they will improve the game.

**4. Always raise your hand, and wait to be recognized before speaking (except when the game or activity involves spontaneous speech). Use your common sense. Even adults, when they try to work together in a group, have to take turns speaking, or chaos results.**

Mrs. Cheyne will try to give everyone a chance to speak-maybe not every time, but frequently.

**5. Try to go to the bathroom before class. Obviously emergencies will occasionally happen, but it is important that everyone be here to participate in the work of the group.** Mrs. Cheyne will try to give everyone a chance to relax or change gears when necessary.

**6. NEVER, EVER intentionally hurt someone else. This means no hitting, pushing, etc., but it also means no name-calling or teasing. Drama class can only work if everyone feels safe.**

Mrs. Cheyne will respect every student as his own person, and try never to belittle or insult anyone. She will work hard to create a safe environment for us to work in.

**7. Everyone is responsible for his own actions. Just because someone else does something wrong does not give you permission to make things worse by doing the same thing. "He did it, too," is never an excuse.**

Mrs. Cheyne will try always to put a stop to individual behaviors that are harmful to other students.

**8. Someone else's point of view-whether or not you agree with him-is important and must be respected. When someone else is speaking, whether it is Mrs. Cheyne or another student, listen respectfully.** Mrs. Cheyne will always try to respect everyone's point of view-even though she will often have to make choices about which approaches to take.

**9. Use your common sense. There are many ways in which we know what is expected of us. We have classroom rules, we have the HCCMS handbook and school-wide expectations, and we have the accepted norms of our society. Most of the time we know whether our behavior is appropriate or not. Always strive to be a good citizen in the classroom.** Mrs. Cheyne will try to be reasonable and consistent in her discipline and her expectations.

**How excited I am to have your child in my drama class this term!**

This year I decided to utilize the Internet to communicate with parents and students. You will find on my web page (hccmsonline.org) I would also like to use students' images but not the students' names. I will try to update the page with images as often as possible.

Feel free to email me anytime, with any questions or concerns at cheyne-m@harris.k12.ga.us

Before I can use your child's image on the page I must have your approval. Please sign and return this form to indicate having given permission or not giving permission.

In the various grade levels I show films. (7<sup>th</sup> grade **Into the Woods and Les Miserables** ) Please note below if you give permission for your child to watch these films.

I have read and understand the policies and requirements for Drama class at HCCMS.

Student Name Printed \_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Name Printed \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Numbers; Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, give my permission for Mrs. Cheyne to use my child, \_\_\_\_\_'s image on the drama and school's website.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, DO NOT give permission for Mrs. Cheyne to use my child \_\_\_\_\_'s image on the drama and school's website.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, give my permission for my child, \_\_\_\_\_ to watch **Into the Woods and Les Miserables**.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, DO NOT give my permission for my child, \_\_\_\_\_ to watch **Into the Woods and Les Miserables**.

At HCCMS to encourage healthy eating habits, during the 2016 – 2017 school year, a parent's permission will be needed for any food items to be eaten in the classroom setting. Food items are sometimes used to reward students for good work. Food activities are also occasionally used as a segment of a class project.

My child, \_\_\_\_\_

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, my child has my permission to participate in activities that include food items.
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, my child has permission to participate in activities that include food items but understands that he/she can or cannot eat certain items.
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_ No, my child cannot participate in activities that include food items.

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_