

# **PETERS TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **CORE BODY OF KNOWLEDGE**

### **THEATER ARTS I GRADES 9-12**

For each of the sections that follow, students may be required to analyze, recall, explain, interpret or apply skills.

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces students to basic elements of theater, improvisation, pantomime and character development. Our readings will include short plays, speeches and scripts, and will include visual, musical and interactive components.

Performance based projects will include presentations, skits, and other collaborative presentations.

#### **STUDY SKILLS**

- Maintain an organized folder of information
- Develop skills related to recall and memory
- Adequately prepare for quizzes and tests
- Develop memorization techniques for performance

#### **INTRODUCTION OF TERMS UNIT**

- Describe what students hope to gain from study of theater
- Defend their idea that human personality affects performance
- Describe various parts of a theater
- Describe various benefits of studying theater

#### **IMPROVIZATION UNIT**

- Describe how character is developed through Improv
- Define and describe advantages and disadvantages to Improv performance
- Develop and present Improv scene with a partner
- Describe the steps of the motivated sequence
- Analyze effective Improv performances
- Define and describe proper questions to ask about developing characters

#### **PANTOMIME AND MIME UNIT**

- Compare and contrast different types of non-verbal communication
- Describe three types of gestures mimes use in performance
- Demonstrate proper relaxation techniques mimes use before a performance
- Describe and demonstrate basic facial expressions

## **VOICE UNIT**

- Describe the components that lead to development of good voice
- Describe the difference between speaking privately and speaking in public
- Explain how the voice is produced
- Differentiate between quality and pitch of voice
- List and describe factors that an actor must consider when developing a character's voice

## **ACTING UNIT**

- List and describe stages of characterization
- Describe why questions are important when developing character
- Describe the laugh curve is important for performance
- List and describe the keys to characterization
- Describe different theater structures and why the structure is important in theater

## **STRUCTURE OF DRAMA UNIT**

- List and describe the six elements of drama
- Define atmosphere and mood in drama and explain how they're connected
- Describe the process for developing character
- Define moral and theme and explain how they're connected

## **SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES**

- "Into the Woods" DVD
- "Jekyll and Hyde" DVD
- "Sweeney Todd" DVD
- "Shrek The Musical" DVD
- "Sound of Music" DVD
- "Bye Bye Birdie" DVD
- "Sunday in the Park with George" DVD

## **TEXTBOOK**

"The Stage and School." Glenco-McGraw Hill. 8<sup>th</sup> edition.

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