

WLHS THEATRE ARTS
STEVEN BECKINGHAM
beckings@wlwv.k12.or.us
(503) 673-7815 ext. 4953

OFFICE HOURS: 8.30-9.30
After-school by appointment

CHILDREN'S THEATRE
(Theatre for Youth and Young Audiences)
COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE OBJECTIVES: During this course, students will gain insight into the philosophies, purposes, and processes of developing theatre for youth and young audiences. The course will explore teaching drama to youth, devising and adapting stories, acting styles and techniques, and production design and management. The class will culminate in a fully realized production, produced and performed by the students, for visiting elementary and middle school populations.

COURSE TOPICS AND GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- I. **Ensemble Building:** How do we define *ensemble*? Why does teamwork matter?
- II. **Philosophy and Purpose:** What is theatre for youth and young audiences? Is it to educate, entertain, or both?
- III. **Play:** How do children use *play* to interact, learn, and develop?
- IV. **Introducing Children to Theatre:** How might we teach youth about the theatrical experience?
- V. **Characterization, Improv, and Storytelling:** How might we engage a young audience as performers?
- VI. **Critique a Production:** What can we take away from being the audience to a children's production?
- VII. **Devise, Adapt, Design:** What are the initial ingredients for putting on a show aimed at young audiences?
- VIII. **Produce, Publicize, Perform:** What are the elements of putting on a production for young audiences?

TEXTS: (supplied by instructor) Various story scripts, articles and handouts.

EXPECTATIONS:

Students are expected to attend all class sessions, arrive on time, participate in class activities, and treat all members of the class community with respect, compassion, and kindness.

CELL PHONES WILL BE COLLECTED BEFORE EACH CLASS!

GRADING: 100%-90% A 89%-80% B 79%-70% C 69%-60% D

- Participation/Collaboration 25%
- Assignments/Projects 15%
- Reading Reflections 15%
- Friday Journals (Moodle) 20%
- Final
 - Production/Performance 15%
 - Final Reflection (Poem) 10%

MANDATORY PERFORMANCE DATES (in the Black Box):

Student matinees (during school) – Days/Times TBD

Public evening performances on Dec 11 & 12 @ 7pm

Public matinee performances on Dec 13 @ 11am & 2pm

RESOURCES:

WLHS Theatre Arts Blog: <http://www.wlhstheatre.org>

Class Information and Documents: <http://www.wlhs.wlsv.k12.or.us/Page/3344>

Grades: <http://www2.wlhs.wlsv.k12.or.us/SMStuff/>

“Let it Live”