
PETERS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

COURSE SYLLABUS: THEATER ARTS 1

Course Overview and Essential Skills:

This course will examine the fundamentals of theater, both from a historic perspective as well as a contemporary application of skills for acting. Students will learn what acting is, along with the different styles and techniques. This is an entry-level introductory course exposing students to different methods utilized in developing character; the course will focus on building improvisation skills, developing pantomime talent, utilizing voice and diction to develop character, and learning methods of effective characterization.

Course Textbook and Required Materials

- *The Stage and the School*, Glencoe/McGraw-Hill
- Teacher-Issued Handouts

Course Outline of Material Covered:

Unit or Topic	Concepts/Skills/Resources	Timeframe
Improvization	The students will list and describe keys to improvization; the students will learn terminology associated with Improv performances; the students will practice and present an Improv scene with a partner <i>Film Options: The Wiz, The Sound of Music</i>	4 weeks
Pantomime and Mime	The students will list and describe keys to pantomime; the students will learn terminology associated with pantomime performances; the students will practice and present a pantomime scene with a group <i>Film Options: PBS' Sweeney Todd, Jekyll and Hyde, Shrek the Musical</i>	4 weeks
Voice and Diction	The students will list and describe keys to developing good voice; the students will learn terminology associated with good voice and diction; the students will describe the way voice is produced and list ways to ensure good vocal health. <i>Film Options: Into the Woods, Forever Plaid</i>	4 weeks
Acting	The students will list and describe keys to acting; the students will define and describe 16 keys to characterization; the students will describe techniques to building good character; the students	4 weeks

	will collaborate to present a scene with well-developed characters <i>Film Options: Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat</i>	
The Structure of Drama	The students will identify and distinguish major time periods in the history of theater; the students will compare and contrast different theatrical conventions; the students will analyze the core components of a script	2 weeks

**Depending on the needs of the class or changes in the school year, the course outline is subject to change.*