

Drama - 7th/8th Grade - Mr. Jason Oncay



Course Description:

Welcome! The 7th/8th Grade Drama elective is a one-semester course that builds skills and knowledge related to the art of theater. Students will learn the vocabulary of theater and some of the history while also developing their poise and confidence when speaking publicly. Most importantly, the class will help students to know themselves well enough to practice becoming a character. In plain speak, Mr. Oncay will ask his students to "get over themselves."

Students can expect improv games, learning how to write and interpret scripts, the practice of memorization, performing for each other, attending a live theater production (when possible), and using skills to eventually participate in a larger production for friends and family.

Resources

I will be collecting or producing many of the resources this year. Resources (like scripts, informational articles, etc.) will be handed out in class or listed on my website.

✓ Non-fiction materials, journal articles, and texts will be included as occasion arises.

Funding: In order to maintain a high quality experience, I seek out materials and resources that sometimes require funding. I search for grants and other sources, but I also hope for donations of funds. A separate request will be sent out soon.

[Purchased each quarter: paint, lumber for sets, hardware for sets, electrical materials, light bulbs, sound effect files, costume materials, scripts, royalty fees, custom t-shirts, pizza for performance nights, and so on]

My Philosophy:

Some students are worried about doing something "wrong." Taking a chance is a critical skill in the process of learning, so I plan to teach students that remaining intensely conservative will only stall their progress. We learn together, so participating in lively discussions and getting feedback from the teacher is key, even if the feedback is not always positive. This is the learning process and part of maturing. Therefore, I hope that students will become both collaborative and independent learners, and through these skills, they can succeed with a happy outlook. Quality is "caring about what you are doing." -Robert Pirsig

Contact Information:

School Phone:

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My Room Number: 1

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Website:

<http://mroncay.com>

Email is the best method for contacting me.

Please visit my website! It's a new version this year, so it's still under construction, but it will grow. I plan to have a great deal of information about my classes as well as downloadable worksheets and resources online.

Classroom Policies: The Basics

Integrity: I promote integrity as my most important quality. I insist that students are honest, respectful, hard-working, organized, and positive at all times. In a class where students take risks daily, I expect all students to respect each other without exception.

Responsibility: Students must be responsible for their work. This course will ask students to do a great deal of memorization and planning in collaboration with other students. If one student fails to do his/her work, the other student's time will be impacted.

Consistency: I enforce the same rules, the same way, every day. I ask that students give the same effort and respect the classroom policies the same way, every day, regardless of special schedules or events.

Some particular rules in my classroom:

No hats or hoods are to be worn at any time.

Phones must be "off" and stored in backpacks. If they are visible in any way, even sticking out of a student's pocket, they are confiscated until the end of the day.

No sharpening of pencils during lessons. I don't even have a sharpener.

No food or drink other than water bottles.

Laughing at my bad jokes does not earn extra credit.

Assessment:

The grades for this course will be done based upon the following areas:

- **Use movement, facial expression, and voice expressively** (characterization, personal awareness)
- **Develop an understanding and appreciation of the Theatre** (history, vocabulary, critique)
- **Develop interaction and collaboration skills and demonstrate commitment to a team.** (main production)
- **Recognize and create elements of drama in script form.** (scriptwriting)

The impact of any particular assignment on a student's grade is determined by the points attached to that assignment. For example, "improv game" might be 10 points, and a "theater timeline quiz" might be 20 points, so this quiz would be twice as "impactful" as the improv game.

- Late work: Due to the nature of the class, absences are seriously problematic at certain times of the course. Some assignments can not be made up.
 - A. Late paperwork is accepted with a 5% per day deduction (except in cases of illness).
 - **B. Missing a performance date, especially when a team is counting on all members to be present, is a big problem. Students should email the teacher about any days they will miss and try to work out issues with teammates. Students can expect at least six evening rehearsals after school in May. Date to be determined.**
- Extra Credit: I never, ever give extra credit for anything. Please don't ask.

Keep an eye on my website. I occasionally update with answers to common questions and random thoughts. I look forward to a great year!