

# RIDGE VALLEY MONTESSORI SCHOOL 2009/2010

## *Advanced Drama*

Instructor: Mrs. Schluntz  
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Voice Mail: 479-7789

### **Course Requirements and Class Policies**

**CLASS GOAL:** To discover and enrich student talent, to practice communication, to experience self expression, and to support and develop understanding of others.

**CLASS OVERVIEW:** Students will be involved in producing a play for public performance. After the performance, we will spend the rest of the semester working on our acting skills through classroom activities and performances.

#### **CLASS REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Students must keep an Advanced Drama binder with pockets for scripts, notebook paper for assignments, a highlighter, and a pencil or pen.
2. Students will be asked to participate in a variety of acting centered activities during class time. They are required to be involved in all of them. Failure to complete an activity or project will negatively affect your grade.
3. Students are required to assist in the school production. This will require after school rehearsals. I will announce the dates of these rehearsals as soon as possible. **Please use your Binder Reminder to keep yourself on schedule!**
4. Advanced Drama students are also expected to be more independent when completing class projects. Be prepared to expand your creativity by enjoying more self-directed projects!

#### **CLASS RULES:**

1. Wear comfortable and sensible clothing to class. (Ex: jeans, shorts, sweatshirts, T-shirts, tennis shoes, etc.) We will often begin class with physical and vocal warm ups. Be prepared to move!
2. Come to class on time and be ready to work. Students must be in their seats when the bell rings to be considered on time. Tardies disrupt the flow of the class and will not be tolerated. The consequences for unexcused tardies are as follows:

1st tardy	Verbal warning
2nd tardy	Second warning
3rd tardy	Litter pick up and a call home
4th tardy	Referral to the an administrator and a call home

In addition to these consequences, two points are deducted from the daily participation points for each tardy. If the problem continues, a second referral will be issued and the assistant principal will assign additional consequences.

3. Group work involves cooperation and compromise. Students must not always expect to work with their close friends, but must be prepared to work with everyone in the class.
4. Students must not interfere with the cooperation of others by distracting them in any way.
5. The main tool used in Advanced Drama class is the voice. Therefore, no food or drink is allowed in class. This includes gum! I will be very strict on this one. I reserve the right to refer anyone to an administrator that I find continually breaking this rule. Water bottles are recommended.
6. No one in creative drama just watches. Since Advanced Drama is intended to overcome the fear many people feel in performing in front of an audience, uninvolved watchers will defeat the purpose of the class. Bottom line: jump

in and get involved!

7. During discussions and feed-back sessions, all criticisms of the work of others must be constructive. **NO PUT DOWNS!**
8. During feed-back sessions I will invoke the rule of No Defense to Criticism. Actors are required to listen in SILENCE while others explain what they read or understood in the scene and their constructive criticism. As the whole point of the presentation is to improve with the help of the class, constructive criticism must be listened to and accepted.
9. Combat and violence in improvisations and scenes must be kept under control for the sake of safety. If your scene requires any physical contact of a violent nature, even if it is just a slap, you must first clear it with me. In all other cases there is a "NO CONTACT" rule.
10. I will not allow the unnecessary use of offensive or overly suggestive ideas in improvisations. When appropriateness is in question, ask yourself, Is this going to offend or embarrass my audience? Also, I reserve the right to veto any script I find offensive and inappropriate for middle schoolers. This veto can happen while a scene is being performed, resulting in a zero grade for a project. When in doubt, allow me to read the script before you begin rehearsing.
11. Work together, learn together, and always strive to do your best.

### **GRADING:**

Your grade will be based on the following:

1. Attendance: each class will be worth 5 participation points. If you are not in class, you do not receive the points. These points can only be made up in cases of legal absences by writing a one-page critique of a movie. These are due by the Friday before the end of each quarter. You are allowed 3 days for each day legally absent to make up work. Cuts and illegal absences can not be made up and work due on the missed day will not be accepted. Drama class requires actors. It is a hindrance to the class and your partners if you do not come to class.
2. The 2 Points Rule: I reserve the right to take away 2 of the participation points for misbehavior, tardies, trips to the bathroom, and lack of participation. It is possible to lose all of the attendance points for the day in cases of repeated problems.
3. Participation: effort is the main requirement for this course. I don't expect you to rehearse for 45 minutes straight, but you should be working on your projects throughout the period. If I feel that you are not using your time wisely, I will deduct points from the daily total. There will also be a productivity component in your project grades. **Missing after school rehearsals will also negatively affect your grade.** Participation in performances of the school production is required for a passing grade in this class.
4. Projects: projects will be graded in terms of effort, personal growth, improvement and meeting the requirements.
5. Assignments and Tests: there will be assignments and tests that will be graded for understanding and completeness.
6. I will endeavor to update grades through schoolloop.com at least every two weeks so you can keep track of your grade.
7. Grades are determined on a semester basis using the following scale:

97 – 100% A+	87 – 89% B+	77 – 79% C+	67 – 69% D+	59% and below F
93 – 96% A	83 – 86% B	73 – 76% C	63 – 66% D	
90 – 92% A-	80 – 82% B-	70 – 72% C-	60 – 62% D-	

I'm looking forward to another great year of Pine Valley

Advanced Drama!

**Please sign and return to Mrs. Schluntz**

We have read the class policies and understand what is expected in Mrs. Schluntz's Advanced Drama Class.

Student:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please print name

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

Parent/Guardian:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please print name

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

My parent/guardian can be reached in the following ways:

Daytime phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Evening phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_