

RIDGE VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL 2009/2010

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 experience the following areas of theatre: improvisation, pantomime, monologue, dialogue, history of drama, and the steps necessary to bring a play to the stage.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS:

1. Students must keep a 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. Although this is an elective class, there will be homework and long term projects. **You must use your Binder**
Reminder to keep yourself on schedule!

CLASS RULES:

1. Wear comfortable and sensible clothing to class. (Ex: jeans, shorts, sweatshirts, T-shirts, tennis shoes, etc.) 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 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 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 an administrator that I find continually breaking this rule.
6. No one in creative drama just watches. Since 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.
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 on 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-	

GET READY TO HAVE FUN!

Please sign and return to Mrs. Schluntz

We have read the class policies and understand what is expected in Mrs. Schluntz's 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: _____