**Theatre Fundamentals I**

**Mr. Pareizs**

**Course Syllabus 2024-2025**

**Course Description**

Theatre Fundamentals I will give students an overview of the theatre arts. This course is designed to be a springboard for all other theatre classes a student will take in their time at Westside High School. Students will leave the course with a wealth of theatre vocabulary and the basic elements of theatre such as improvisation, performance, technical and self-confidence building are introduced to the young actors. This class is intended to be an intersection of the Georgia Theatre standards, an overview of theatre, and the students’ interests. Students will develop as scholartists (scholar + artist), as their learning and artistic practice will inform each other.

**Textbook – All provided in Class**

*Basic Drama Projects* 8th edition (textbook)

*She Kills Monsters* (Young Adventurer’s Edition)

Additional short plays and readings as necessary.

**Unit/Concept Names**

Unit 1: Introduction to Theatre & Audience Etiquette.

Unit 2: Improvisation

Unit 3: Performance

1. Movement
2. Voice
3. Psychological Realism

Unit 4: Playwrights, Playwrighting, and Script Analysis

Unit 5: Technical Theatre

Unit 6: Staging a Production

Unit 7: History & Genre!

**Major Course Projects and Instructional Activities**

Students will be expected to explore all areas of theatre in class. Projects include performing a monologue, creating a basic design concept for a show, and more. The course will culminate in the producing of a 10-minute play written by a senior Dramatic Writing student.

**Course work/Classwork**

Westside is supposed to be one of the best schools in the county, so I will be treating you as if you are the best students in the county. To have an A in the class (necessary to exempt the final), you must consistently exceed expectations. Turning in all the work and doing the bare minimum is NOT enough to get an A. That requires EXCELLENCE.

That being said, when grading creative work, I will not be grading the quality or content of your work. I will be grading your application of the standards, understanding of texts, and communication of your ideas. All creative critique will be given through a modification of the Liz Lerman technique, filtering through the artist’s intentions. For example, if there is an assignment to draw a costume sketch, you aren’t graded on the quality of your drawing but if you can communicate the ideas of your design using the drawing.

Students will receive a variety of assignments designed to enhance their learning. If a student is absent, the student is responsible for the missed assignment. All work should be original. Plagiarism is unacceptable.

Students are expected to submit work on time. Doing so exhibits pride in producing quality work and fulfilling student responsibility. This work habit is a behavior that supports academic achievement and demonstrates characteristics from our Richmond County School System Profile of a Graduate. Late work can negatively impact learning and your ability to demonstrate mastery of the standards.

Students will not use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to generate any work for them. Assignments are given to help students learn and demonstrate what they know. There will be no appropriate times for students to use AI during the learning process, and using AI to generate original work in place of the student completing the work is considered Academic Dishonesty and can be punished according to the rules outlined in the Code of Conduct.

*See RCBOE IHA-R Grading Practices*

**Late Work (Grading Policy- See RCBOE IHA-R Grading Practices)**

Students will have their scores reduced by 5% per school day for a 25% maximum reduction (five school days). ***Late work submitted after the fifth school day will only be accepted for extreme circumstances.***

**Make-Up Work (Grading Policy)**

Students are expected to make-up assignments and assessments that were missed due to absence from

school. Students are responsible for asking teachers for the make-up work upon returning to class.

Make-up work should be completed by the student within the time specified by the teacher.

For example, if in class on Monday, students completed a worksheet and Tim is absent, Tim will receive the worksheet when he returns on Tuesday and should turn it in at the beginning of class on Wednesday. Any further delay will be held to the late work policy.

**Evaluation (Grading Policy)**

* Minor Grades (Quizzes, Class work, Graded Writing Assignments, Group Work, etc.) (60%)
* Major Grades (Unit & Chapter Tests, Select Quizzes, Projects, Tasks) (40%)

**Relearn and Reassess Plan**

For any major assessments, students will have the opportunity to submit a relearning plan for parent and teacher approval. The plan will be based on textbook assignments. Upon satisfactory completion of the plan, as determined by the teacher, students will be given a minimum of **ONE** opportunity to be reassessed. Only students scoring below 70 on a major assessment can complete a relearning plan.

Reassessments may be different from the original.

The reassessment score will replace the original score (the scores will not be averaged).

Reassessments should be completed **within 7 school days** of receiving the original grade. Teachers should have discretion to extend the timeline to address extenuating circumstances.

*See teacher class page for Relearn/Reassess*

**Classroom Procedures & Expectations**

The overarching expectation in this class is to represent WAR (Wholehearted, Accountable, Respectful)

Below are the expectations for how to W.A.R. in class!

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Wholehearted** | * **Bring your full self, full artistry, and full effort to class every day.** * **Try everything! This course is like a buffet, try a taste of everything, then come back for seconds of what you love.** |
| **Accountable** | * **Bring materials to class every day.** * **Stick to deadlines to avoid hindering the ensemble.** |
| **Respectful** | * **Respect the Space, Props, and Costumes** * **Respect the Work** * **Respect the Ensemble** * **Respect Yourself** |

**Theatre Building:**

1. We are incredibly fortunate to have our luxurious state of the art theatre building. But with this privilege comes responsibility.
2. In order to account for the extra distance required to travel to the theatre building, students are allowed an extra two minutes to get to this class.
   1. All students are to wait in the lobby with Mr. Pareizs until all students arrive. Students are expected to chill in the lobby or use the bathroom, and we will walk to the classroom together.
   2. No matter how attuned you might get to when you are to leave class, Mr. Pareizs still is in charge of dismissal. Do not just get up and start packing when you think it is time. We will often be working to the very last minute.
3. If you are late coming to class, your best bet will be to message Mr. Pareizs or another classmate on Remind to let you in or knocking on the classroom window. However, we may be having class in other rooms, so do your best to arrive punctually. If a student or Mr. Pareizs has to return to the lobby to let you in (without a pass) you will be marked as tardy.
4. If you make a mess clean it up. Food, drink, and gum are currently allowed in the building, but if messes aren’t cleaned up, gum found on desks, etc., that privilege will be quickly revoked.
5. There are multiple rooms in the theatre building, and wandering is NOT permitted. We will be moving from room to room, depending on our day’s activities, and groups may be divided to rehearse in different rooms. Failure to be on task or outside of a designated location for rehearsal/class will result in detention. Repeated behavior will result in a write-up.
6. Immediate write-up will occur if a student lets in another person to the building without the express permission of Mr. Pareizs. Our building is the closest to the “real world,” so this is an EXTREME safety concern.

**Class Expectations:**

1. An ensemble must cultivate an environment of RESPECT! Each role in theatre is essential, and respect begets respect.
   1. This is especially true in a creatively collaborative class. If we are going to safely create awesome art, everyone must feel comfortable enough to contribute. As such, any surprise/secretive recording or photos during class is EXPRESSLY FORBIDDEN. There will be severe consequences. Similarly, videos used for the rehearsal process should not be shared with those outside of the class.
   2. Be mindful of how you speak to your classmates
2. Theatre etiquette must be observed during any class performance, lecture, rehearsal, or viewing. This especially includes no talking unless we are having an in-class discussion or work period.
3. Students are expected to come to class on-time and sit in their assigned seat, according to the seating chart. This is used for attendance and participation.
4. If a student needs to use the bathroom or water fountain, it should be quick, painless, and without disruption to instruction. Raise a finger to get the teacher’s attention, then aim a thumb at the door and either mouth bathroom or water. If the teacher nods, you are clear to go. A quick trip should take no longer than 3-5 minutes. Any longer may result in an investigation. Failure to respect bathroom guidelines will result in bathroom privileges being revoked.
5. Students are also expected to follow all established rules in the RCBOE Code of Conduct Handbook.

**Cell Phone Policy**

In keeping with school policy, no cell phone use will be tolerated at all. Violation of this policy will be addressed as described in the student code of conduct.

**Course Materials**

MANDATORY – College ruled COMPOSITION notebook.

- Pencil for blocking, pen for other work if preferred.

- glue sticks

- coloring materials  
 - highlighter

- folder

**After-School Commitment**

All students will be expected to participate in the after-school production “Words of Westside” performance on Friday, March 21st at 6:00. Call time will be 4:00, and students can either stay at school or go home and be back by 4:00. There will also be a rehearsal the day before from 2:15-4:00. Attendance and Participation (be it acting, tech, or front of house) is mandatory for your grade. Conflicts must be given to Mr. Pareizs far in advance, and an extensive written assignment will be given to replace the grades.

**Review Requirement**

There will be a minimum of two after-school theatre performances a semester here at Westside. Students are required to attend at least one per semester and write a thoughtful review analyzing the various aspects of the production, due within a week of the production date. If purchasing a ticket is a burden (they generally are around $5), students may volunteer in the concessions stand or as an usher to see the show for free. If a student fails to see all possible productions in a semester, they may make up the assignment by getting an outside of school theatre play or musical approved by Mr. Pareizs. This could be at another school, a touring production, or a performance from one of our many community theaters (Augusta Players, Le Chat Noir, Presidential Dinner Theatre).

**Extra Credit**

Students may receive extra credit for additional performances they review. Students who participate in after or outside of school theatre may also write thoughtful reflections on their process for extra credit. These must be submitted within a week of the theatre experience.

**My contact information:**

Email: pareiza@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us

For Updates, Reminders, and Contact, please join the class Remind. Text the code for your class to 81010 or in the app.

@theafund1

Contract

**Student Contract:** I understand that all work should be completed on time. I understand that my teacher may deduct five points per day and communicate this in my Infinite Campus gradebook. I also understand that work turned in after the learning has occurred may not be graded (no more than 5 school days from the due date). I understand that using Artificial Intelligence to complete assignments will be considered Academic Dishonesty. I understand the after-school commitment and that I am expected to bring my composition notebook and other supplies to class every day.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Contract/Guardian:** I understand that my child is expected to complete assignments on time. I will

remain in communication with my child’s teacher and monitor missing and late work as noted in Infinite Campus Parent Portal. If my child continues to submit work late, I understand that a parent-teacher conference will be needed to co-develop a plan of action. I understand that my child should not use Artificial Intelligence to complete assignments. I understand the after-school commitment and will communicate any conflicts well in advance. I understand that my student is responsible for providing a college-ruled composition notebook for classwork.

Parent Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Any additional information about your student you think I should know:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Mature Content Consent**

**The theater is used as a place of expression and entertainment. In some cases, there can be mature themes, language, or situations that are portrayed on the stage. As a Theater Fundamentals class your student may be exposed to some of these things. I commit, as the teacher of this course, to do my best to only use material that is necessary to the education of your student. Please indicate below if you give permission for your student to view/study material that may fall into the above rating categories. IF permission is not given, other arrangements will be made.**

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Any additional concerns about content or sensitive topics:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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This syllabus and contract will need to be glued or taped into the front of the student’s prompt script (college-ruled composition notebook).