

Musical Theater

Instructor: Megan Helwig

EMAIL: megan.helwig@springfield.k12.or.us

Office Hours: 3:05- 3:30

Website: www.thurstonhsdrama.weebly.com

This course is designed as an introductory course into musical theater and musical theater performance. Students will learn history of musical theater, musical structure, mechanics of performing, and choreography. Work culminates into two after school performance recitals, a midterm and final. All grade levels are accepted into this course with no pre-requisite. **Warning: some material may approach difficult topics as chosen by the artist.** Material for performances are chosen by students and approved through instructor.

Throughout our term, we will be focusing on such topics as:

- Musical Theater Performance: Group and Solo
- Musical Theater History
- Acting the Lyrics
- Singing Objectives
- Reading and understanding music
- Working with an accompanist
- Matching Pitch and Tone
- Types of Musical Theater



Here are the general rules:

1. Please keep all food, drinks, and gum out of the theater. However, water is permitted. Your mouth must be clear of all items during the class period.
2. Please keep hands, arms, and feet inside your seat at all times. No feet on the seats.
3. The light booth, sets, props and office are not part of your playground. Be respectful of areas that aren't yours.
4. Be where you are supposed to be at all times. We play a lot of games here, but "Hide and Seek" is never one of them.
5. You will need a pen/pencil, paper, notebooks and oftentimes your script. Please be prepared each day.
6. PHONES MUST NEVER BE SEEN! If I see a phone, I will confiscate it. If I can stay off my phone for a class period, so can you. Let's do it together!

7. If you are absent, it is your job to look up the assignments on the website, or ask another student for the work you missed. If you want, I can baby-sit you... but my going rate is \$50 an hour.

Here are some “cheat codes” on how to succeed in theater class:

1. Realize as quickly as possible that you will have to work. It’s a different kind of work from what you’re used to but it needs to be done well and done on time.

2. Be prepared to take risks. Theater asks you to go where you aren’t always comfortable- be ready to accept the challenge and forgive yourself when you struggle.

3. Work for the group. Support, Encourage and Accept. If this is difficult for you, get used to it. You will hear this over and over again.

4. Nobody gets left behind. Having a bad day? Feeling embarrassed? Not prepared? As a class, we will support and wait for you. “Sitting out” will never happen.

When turning things in electronically:

They must be sent as an attachment so formatting is visible. The time on the e-mail will be accepted as the time the paper was turned in. If you anticipate turning things in electronically it would be a good idea to send a test e mail soon in case you encounter problems with the district filter.

Send to: megan.helwig@springfield.k12.or.us

Rehearsal Points

Students receive points each day to represent the work each day in rehearsal. Each day a student is tardy, absent, or unfocused in rehearsal that day’s points are lost.

Performance Work

Everyone performs on time, even students who are unprepared, have lost their voice, are feeling ill, are not memorized....etc.

Play Attendance – Required!

You must go to see a full length live performance. If you can breathe the same air as the actors, it counts as live. No filmed versions of staged productions. Students can attend the final dress rehearsal at all high school for a discount. Other plays are available but will involve a larger ticket cost. Plan ahead to take advantage of cheap tickets.

Once you see your live performance you will write a critique of the show. Don’t put them off. **This is the one written assignment that is not accepted late.** No exceptions for late play reports including being absent on that day. When you have weeks to do them, any mishap that happens to you is a risk you take when waiting until the last moment.

* Fall Term Due Date is the Friday prior to Christmas Break.

* Spring Term Due date is the Friday prior to Memorial Day.