

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Row \_\_\_\_\_

Column \_\_\_\_\_

## **DRAMA SYLLABUS**

Welcome to Mr. Friedman's Drama One/Advanced Drama class. Please keep this sheet in your binder at all times since it contains important information about the class. Below you will find all the rules of the class and a proposed syllabus of what you can expect us to cover over the course of the next eighteen weeks.

The purpose of Drama One is to give you a chance to become better performers, theatre scholars and critics. Advanced Drama students have the opportunity to deepen their acting skills, as well as take a leadership role as improvisation team leaders and scene directors. Our curriculum is aligned to the state and district standards for theatre in which you will be expected to demonstrate proficiency in order to pass the class.

### **WEEKS 1 - 6: SCENE AND IMPROV WORK**

We will play a variety of games and exercises. These games serve two purposes: first, to get comfortable with working together and playing in front of each other and second, to explore the components that make up every good scene. Then, you will perform a two-character scene. Everyone will be assigned one of three different scenes. In this way, you will have other students to work with in terms of line analysis and memorization. The Advanced Drama students will lead improvisation groups (and be team leaders when we have contests); they will also perform a scene.

### **WEEKS 7 - 12: A FULL-LENGTH PLAY**

Actors usually get the chance to learn about their characters and the idea of a play by reading and performing in a full-length work. This semester we will all read a play together called *The Dining Room*, by A.R. Gurney. It's a play that shows how the family has changed throughout modern history by examining the way we eat together. First we will read the play aloud in class. And then you will each be assigned a scene to memorize, rehearse and perform. The scenes will be directed by Advanced Drama students.

### **WEEKS 13 - 18: THE BEGINNING OF THEATRE/GREEK TRAGEDY**

After a couple of sessions pondering how it began, drama-wise, we'll dig right in with an exploration of ANCIENT GREECE, where tragedy and comedy really began. We'll start appropriately enough by reenacting a Dionysian orgy. Then, through a variety of exercises and games, we'll try and get a feeling of how Greek actors performed. Finally, you will write and perform, in an approximation of ancient Greek acting styles, a short original tragedy ripped from the headlines or out of your own imagination. Since the Advanced Drama students did not work on this project last year, you will take part in it with the Drama 1 students.

## **PLAY REVIEWS**

You are required to see two live drama performances each semester and write a typewritten critique for each of these performances based on information I will give you. I urge you to use high school plays as your resource since they are relatively inexpensive and nearby. I expect that SMHS' production will be one of your choices. Dance and music performances, while commendable, do not count toward these performances. I also encourage you to go to plays and movies as we will begin each week with an informal discussion of the latest films.

## **RULES**

1. Be in class, on time everyday. You can fail this class if you're late often enough. You face serious consequences from the school for both tardies and trancies. If you miss a performance due to this, I may not allow you to make up your work. Tardies, trancies and missed work due to them will result in a lowering of your grade and possible failure of the class.
2. Participate fully in every in-class activity. Lines must be memorized by the date I assign, all students should participate fully in all activities in a timely manner, and everyone must be a positive audience member when she/he is not performing and others are.
3. Bring necessary materials to class. These include scripts, music, pencils and a bottle of water. You may **NOT** bring food, sodas, coffee, make-up or gum.
4. Dress appropriately for class. You will not be excused from any activity because of how you are dressed. If you are dressed inappropriately, it will make it harder for you to participate.
5. Above all, show respect to every member of the class, both adults and fellow students, by listening when they are talking and honoring their opinions and contributions. Put downs and slurs of any kind will not be tolerated. You will be asked to leave the class if you engage in this kind of behavior.

## **AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM**

The after-school drama program is separate from classes and is voluntary. I hope that all of you will take part in this program, either as an actor, a crew member, a musician or an all-important audience member. Remember: if you audition, all monologues or songs must be memorized. You must also be available for all required rehearsals and performances. For both musicals this year, I am looking for a traditional Broadway song that showcases your range and ability. To audition for ENCHANTED APRIL, a short dramatic monologue is needed from a modern play (NO Shakespeare or other classical monologues!)

### **Here are some important dates to remember:**

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|-------------------|---|
| Aug. 23:          | Auditions for SPELLING BEE in the PAC at 3:15.        |
| Nov. 4 - 7:       | Performances of SPELLING BEE.                         |
| Nov. 8/9:         | Auditions for THE WEDDING SINGER in the PAC at 3:15.  |
| Feb. 4 - 13:      | Performances of THE WEDDING SINGER (two weekends).    |
| March 1:          | Auditions for ENCHANTED APRIL at 3:15 (location TBA.) |
| April 28 – May 1: | Performances of ENCHANTED APRIL in the PAC.           |

## DRAMA ONE CONTRACT

Please share this with your parent/guardian, fill out the information on the bottom and both sign. Return this form to me by Friday, August 18.

I understand that in order to pass this class and get a good grade, I must do the following:

1. Be in class, on time everyday. Tardies and truancies will badly affect my grade.
2. Participate fully in every in-class activity. Memorize my lines by the assigned date. Be a supportive audience member when I am not performing and others are.
3. I must bring necessary materials to class. I may **NOT** bring food, sodas, coffee, make-up or gum.
4. Dress appropriately for class. I will not be excused from any activity because of how I am dressed.
5. Show respect to every member of the class, including the teacher, by listening when they are talking and honoring their opinions and contributions. I will be asked to leave the class for put downs, slurs or other aggressive behavior.

I agree to abide by this behavior and to accept the consequences (class or school detentions, parent conference, involvement by dean, counselor or administration, lowering of grade, removal from class and/or failing grade) if I do not.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Number \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone (where can I best reach you?) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_