

BOOKER MIDDLE SCHOOL HOME OF THE TORNADOES

VPA DRAMA CLASS FACT SHEET (ALL LEVELS)

Instructor: Ms. Mills

Room 407 (BMS Black Box Theatre)

941-359-5824 ext. 60949

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MAJOR CONCEPTS/CONTENT

Students will examine the various dimensions of characters through analysis, discussion, and classroom performance. They learn to break down a scene from a character's point of view, and also to sustain a character and build the relationship between actor and audience. Students will be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside of the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

The student will be able to define and apply common acting terms, use his/her voice and body to communicate ideas/feelings, demonstrate appreciation and evaluation of performance skills, and work cooperatively with other class members.

AS YOUR TEACHER, I WILL...

- ... Provide a safe and secure classroom
- ... Challenge your creativity
- ... Strengthen your acting skills
- ... Make plans for theatre experiences both in and out of school

AS A CLASS WE WILL...

- ... Entertain a wide variety of audiences
- ... Explore a wide variety of dramatic literature
- ... Engage all our "actor's tools"

TOGETHER, YOU WILL...

- ... Share feedback about each other's work
- ... Perform on a regular basis
- ... Tackle challenging material

ON YOUR OWN, YOU WILL...

- ... Develop your personal talents
- ... Deepen your understanding of yourself and others
- ... Set personal artistic goals

GRADING

All project documents will be posted on Blackboard Learn (Bb) and can be accessed through a student's MySCS account. This course is graded by the following methods:

1. Participation in class/rehearsals/performances
2. Cooperation in class/rehearsals/performances
3. Performances, projects, quizzes/tests, and assignments

4. Make-up work (including quarantined students): Students are encouraged to work on class projects while they are absent from school if they are able. Students with excused absences will be given additional time to finish projects/assignments once they return to school, not to exceed the number of days the student was absent.

SUPPLIES NEEDED

All students will need to have the following in class each day:

1. Agenda book
2. A hard cover composition notebook (NOT SPIRAL) and a plastic pocket folder (any color)
3. Personal headphones
4. Pencils and pens
5. Scripts (when given) & project supplies (which can include costumes, props, etc.)

The following items should be available when needed throughout the year:

1. A set of “blacks” which consists of solid black long pants (no jeans), a solid black shirt (either long or short sleeves and appropriately cut), and solid black flat soled shoes. We will wear our “blacks” throughout the year for performances both on and off campus.
2. A BMS VPA Drama t-shirt (provided for each student through the enrichment fee)

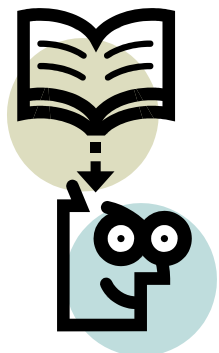
NO HATS, HOODS, GUM, FOOD, OR DRINKS IN CLASSROOM AREAS.

FIELD TRIPS

Part of a complete drama class experience is seeing live theatre. There may be field trip excursions or in school performances planned during the school year. Information will be distributed to students in a timely manner for each individual trip. Students are expected to return paperwork and any field trip fees by the designated due date. Failure to do so may result in the student not participating in the field trip.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING CELL PHONES AND ELECTONIC DEVICES...

CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE TO BE TURNED OFF AND PUT AWAY for the entire school day unless being used for an approved class activity. In keeping with Sarasota County Schools policy, any student not adhering to this guideline will have the device confiscated and delivered to the main office where a parent or guardian must pick it up.



One final note – in order to be successful in Drama...

BE FEARLESS!!!

BMS VPA Drama Performance/Event Calendar 2021-2022

(all events will take place at Booker Middle School, unless otherwise noted)

JR. THESPIANS SHOWCASE (All Levels).....Thursday, Nov. 18th, 7:00PM

**SOLOSYNERGY PERFORMANCE (Intermediate VPA).....
.....January 2022 (time/date TBD)**

**IMPROV FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION INFORMANCE (Advanced VPA).....
.....January 2022 (time/date TBD)**

**SPRING DRAMA FESTIVAL (All Levels).....Wednesday, March 9th, 7:00PM
& Thursday, March 10th, 7:00PM**

*Afterschool Rehearsals.....Tues. – Thu. Mar. 1st – 3rd, 2:30 – 4:30PM
Mon & Tues., Mar. 7th & 8th, 2:30 – 4:30PM*

OTHER EVENTS FOR ALL LEVELS

- Junior Thespians District Festival (Tampa, FL).....Sat., Nov. 20th (All day event)
- FST Write a Play Program.....Submission Deadline January 2022
- Junior Thespians State Festival (Orlando, FL).....Thu. – Sat., Jan. 13-15th, 2022
Orange County Convention Center
- INSPIRE SARASOTA.....TBD (all day event, we *may* perform at this event)

There will also be other projects/performances throughout the year in the community – stay tuned for dates and details.

All rehearsals and performances are MANDATORY for VPA Drama students. Unexcused absences from rehearsals and/or performances will result in the lowering of the student’s overall letter grade and/or dismissal from the course. If a student misses a performance/rehearsal unexpectedly due to illness, emergency, etc, a separate note explaining the situation should be sent to the teacher and signed by the parent. A courtesy phone call to Ms. Mills is also expected on the day of the missed rehearsal/performance. Each situation will be evaluated on an individual basis.

*****Please put these dates on your calendar now in order to avoid conflicts in the future!*****

Each student will be responsible for a \$40 enrichment fee which will go towards royalties, costumes, make-up, sets, and props for our productions. Please return this to Ms. Mills no later than Friday, September 17th. The fee will include the purchase of a BMS VPA drama t-shirt which will serve as our “uniform” any time we go off-campus as a group. *(Please make checks out to “Booker Middle School” with “VPA Drama enrichment fee” in the memo line. You can also pay with cash or pay online. Visit Ms. Mills’ Blackboard course for online payment details).*

Theatre Etiquette

Our VPA drama classes are made up of performers of all abilities and backgrounds, but not everyone comes with a strong familiarity of the process of putting on a production. Below are some of the do's and don'ts on how to interact with your fellow cast members and crew, and how to behave in and around the stage. **Remember, in theatre and in life, your reputation is built more on your professionalism and work ethic than it is on your skills and talents.**

Rehearsals

As a performer:

- DO come to all rehearsals with your pencil and script for notes
- DON'T talk when the director is talking. EVER!
- DO accept all notes from the director with grace and say, "thank you"
- DON'T give other actors notes and don't accept them from other actors, crew, parents, etc.
- DO wear appropriate rehearsal shoes. If you don't know what that means, ask the Director
- DO give the crew the respect they deserve, especially during tech week!
- DO always pay attention to the Director
- DO let the Director know if a piece of scenery/prop./etc. is unsafe
- DON'T miss a rehearsal. If you're going to be late or are sick, call the director as soon as possible.
- DO call for your line if you can't remember it. Simply say "line" and you will be prompted. This saves time and keeps the rehearsals moving along
- DO always give your best!
- DO always be respectful and courteous of everyone working with and around you.

As a parent/guardian:

- DO feel free to attend rehearsals, but understand that all artistic decisions (i.e. casting, costumes, choice of shows, etc.) have been made with careful consideration for the production and the program itself and will not be changed due to an individual's personal preferences.
- DON'T give acting/singing/dancing notes of any kind to your child. This is the job of the Director. The concern is that if the child receives conflicting notes from a parent and the Director, the child may be conflicted trying to please both.
- DO help your child with diction, pronunciation, and memorizing lines. This sometimes makes the difference between an average and an excellent show!
- DO drop off and pick up your child promptly. You can count on rehearsals ending at the posted time so please be respectful of the Director's time and other commitments/responsibilities.
- DO share any questions or concerns you may have with the Director

(Theatre Etiquette cont.)

Performances

As a performer:

- DO walk quietly backstage. No talking or whispering off stage.
- DO keep off the stage once the house (audience area) is open; stay in the backstage area.
- DON'T miss an entrance. Be a professional and pay attention to the progress of the show all the time!
- DON'T add to/remove from/alter your costume AT ALL! Let the Director know if there is a problem with your costume.
- DON'T hang out in the wings to watch the show unless you have an entrance coming up.
- DO keep the dressing rooms neat and clean (i.e. throw out trash, hang up clothes, etc.)
- DO make sure you can't be seen by the audience when waiting in the wings. The rule is, if you can see them, they can see you!
- DON'T brush against the scenery, backdrops, or curtains as you make an entrance or an exit.
- DON'T touch someone else's prop. EVER!
- DO always check your props before the house opens.
- DON'T eat or drink while you are wearing your costume.
- DO let the Director know immediately after a performance if a prop breaks, becomes unsafe, or needs to be replenished or replaced.
- DO treat props with respect and put them back in their place so they are ready for the next performance.
- DON'T ad-lib, unless you have been specifically told to improvise. The authors and playwrights wrote the lines that way for a reason; if you want to mess around with the script, write your own play. ☺

As a parent/guardian of a performer:

- DO respect the boundaries of the dressing rooms and backstage areas. These areas are often maze-like and full of materials for the show, making them difficult to navigate for those unfamiliar with the space. Your child will meet you in the house or lobby when they have changed out of their costume.
- DON'T be a director, voice coach, or anything other than an audience member when watching your child perform in a show. Trying to communicate with them when you are in the audience and they are onstage is disruptive, distracting, and potentially dangerous for the performers.
- DO enjoy the performance through your eyes rather than a camera, phone, or video recorder. We record and photograph our performances (when copyright laws and royalty agreements allow) and make them available for performers and their families for a nominal fee. Theatre is meant to be witnessed "live", not through the lens of a device.

Adapted from Venice Theatre's "Theatre Etiquette"